

# Phuket Gazette

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## Burmese held for death-truck tragedy

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Phuket police have arrested a Burmese man suspected of organizing the human smuggling ring that led to the death of 54 Burmese migrant workers on April 9.

He is also suspected of involvement in the execution of former Kathu Police sergeant, dismissed for involvement in human trafficking and blacklisted as a threat to society, who was shot dead in the early hours of June 11 outside his home in Patong.

Speaking after the Governor Meets the Press conference at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 16, Phuket Police Commander Maj Gen Apirak Hongthong revealed the arrest of a Burmese man identified only as "Wan", who is currently in detention at Kathu Police Station.

The suspect, in his 40s, is thought to have lived in Phuket for 14 years and has an outstanding arrest warrant issued against him in 2005 by the Phuket Provincial Court for the alleged sale of *ya bah* (methamphetamine). That warrant was issued at the request of the Tah Chat Chai Police, Gen Apirak said.

"Wan" tops a list of three Burmese suspects wanted by Burmese police in connection with their investigation into the April 9 deaths of 54 unregistered migrant workers who suffocated in a cold-storage truck in Ranong, he said. The truck was en route to Phuket.

"We still have outstanding arrest warrants for two other Burmese nationals and two Thais involved in the illegal transport of migrant laborers," he added.

Gen Apirak, who was head of the Ranong Provincial Police when the incident occurred, said,



## TSUNAMI DRILL

Medical officers evacuate an 'injured' man as part of the tsunami evacuation drill at Bang Tao Beach on June 17. The drill was organized by the provincial government to help locals prepare for the possibility of another tsunami. Full story on page 3.

"We have already caught six people in Ranong who were involved in the deaths of the 54 Burmese. We believe Wan is also involved in the murder of Sia Decho [former Kathu Police Sgt Decho Kaewnabon], who died last week."

After the death of the 54 Burmese, police focused on Sia Decho as a key witness in their efforts to uncover more "agents" in the smuggling rings used to bring unregistered Burmese workers to Phuket, he said.

The nature and timing of Sia Decho's death seem to indicate the murder was a silence killing, he said.

However, at least two Thai-language news sources have reported that Sia Decho was among those named on a provincial government blacklist of "influential figures". Similar lists were drawn up before the Thaksin

government's 2003 War on Drugs, during which there was a surge in the rate of unsolved murders across the country.

Many of the victims were thought to have been killed by people high up in the drug trade, government officers said at the time.

"We already know who killed Sia Decho and we are hunting for him now. There are still many Thai agents working in the illegal transport of foreign workers to Phuket. We need to stamp out this trade, but it is going to take time," Gen Apirak said.

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak told the *Gazette* that K. Decho had been a sergeant at Kathu Police Station but was dismissed five years ago after being caught and charged for involvement with the illegal trafficking of alien workers.

## OrBorJor aims for B80m in room tax

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Organization Administration (*OrBorJor*) has set a target of 80 million baht to collect from hotels in room tax by the end of the current fiscal year, which ends September 30.

The announcement was made by *OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising, who admitted that some hotel operators still refuse to pay the tax, which is levied at 1% of the room rate for each day a room is occupied by a guest.

To counter this, K. Paiboon said the *OrBorJor* now aims to collect the tax from all hotels on the island by launching a campaign to inform hoteliers of what the tax will be spent on. "We will hold a conference to explain the tax will be spent on supporting and promoting tourism to Phuket," K. Paiboon said.

"The tourism promotion will include the co-operation of tourism organizations, such as the Thai Hotels Association and the Phuket Tourism Business Association, with which the *OrBorJor* will launch promotional campaigns and have officers working on each project committee," he said.

Between October 1, 2007 and May, the *OrBorJor* collected more than 55 million baht in room tax.

During the fiscal year 2006 to 2007, the *OrBorJor*, under ex-President Anchalee Vanich Thapabutr, collected about 65 million baht in room tax.

K. Paiboon said he expects more than 90 million baht to be collected in room tax in the fiscal year 2008 to 2009.

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## Hogs to attempt record ride

PHUKET: Harley-Davidson and other "hog" riders are invited to join a ride from Phuket to Krabi and back on June 30 in an attempt to log a million cumulative miles on the same day.

Marshalling at West Coast Ride Thailand bike shop on the bypass road at 9:30 am, bikers will start the "poker run" to Krabi at 10 am.

From midday to 2 pm, riders will enjoy a free lunch at the Royal Krabi Hotel, with games and a lucky draw competition.

At 2 pm, riders will begin the journey back to Phuket, and are expected to arrive back at West Coast Ride Thailand at 4 pm.

Details will be forwarded to Hog World Members to register the attempt for the record "million miles".

To join the ride is free, although organizers will need participants to register.

To register, email your name, make and model of your motorbike bike to [sumon@ride-thailand.com](mailto:sumon@ride-thailand.com) or call 081-6919346.

## Middle Way meditation session

PHUKET CITY: The next Middle Way meditation session will be at Wang Kung restaurant, next to Suan Luang Park, on June 22, starting at 1:30 pm.

Leading the session will be Phra Nicholas Thanissaro, a Thailand-based monk of UK origin who has been a Buddhist monk for 11 years.

He has been giving popular meditation courses in Europe since 1997.

Registration for the 90-minute session will start at 1 pm.

The Middle Way sessions are free and open to all, though donations to cover expenses are welcome. The language of instruction is English.

For more information call 076-360846 or 083-9688717.

# Bankers call for vigilance against fraud

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Poonsin Sinthanapat, president of the Phuket Bankers' Club, on June 16 called for people in Phuket to be especially cautious in their financial affairs following a spate of fraud around the country.

At the Governor Meets Press conference at Phuket Provincial Hall, K. Poonsin called for people to be careful in many kinds of financial transactions, including using credit cards, ATM cards and buying or selling cars. "There are many instances of fraud

happening now around the country, including Phuket," he said.

K. Poonsin said that banks have been alerted to many fraud tricks so far this year, including stealing a genuine credit card from its owner and replacing it with a fake one so that the real card will not be reported stolen until long after the theft.

"In this case, the banks are not responsible for any purchases that are refused by the credit card holder [before the card is reported stolen], because the card was not canceled before it was used by the thief, so the

card holder must be very careful," said K. Poonsin.

K. Poonsin added that even people hiring rental cars are being targeted.

"There is a gang that persuades people to share the cost of renting a car. About 30 car owners have been cheated this way, at a total cost of about 15 million baht.

"The gang says they want to rent the car and offer to rent it at a high rate for the first one or two months. They then take the car out of the country and sell it," he explained.

# Crooked conductor caught in Mai Khao

By Sompratch Saowakhon

THALANG: The Phuket Highway Police have arrested a bus conductor for stealing the equivalent of more than 18,000 baht from a young Aussie on his way to Phuket from Surat Thani.

At a press conference on June 12, Phuket Highway Police Inspector Maj Jittrapol Kesornrak identified the suspect as Udon Thani native Rakpong Passawong, 22.

His victim, 21-year-old Australian Jai Ruben Wadick, boarded a bus in Surat Thani at 9 am on June 12, accompanied by fellow Australian Albert Woolhouse, 24.

Both men told police they had been working as volunteers at childcare centers in Khon Kaen province and were on their way to catch a flight to Bangkok from Phuket International Airport at 6 pm.

When the bus pulled into Thap Put Bus Station in Phang Nga for a 15-minute rest stop about 2 pm, Mr Radick went to buy some food and discovered that AUS\$600 was missing from his wallet.

As he asked officers at the bus terminal for help in reporting the apparent theft, the conductor called the passengers back onto the bus, which promptly left the



**TICKETS, PLEASE: Pol Maj Jittrapol touches the shoulder of bus-conductor Rakpong Passawong, who has been charged with stealing AUS\$600 from Aussie tourist Jai Ruben Wadick.**

station – without the two young Aussies.

A Thai man, whose name was not given, helped the two men report their situation to the local police, who called the Phuket Highway Police.

When officers spotted the bus on Route 402 in Mai Khao, they pulled it over and searched driver Niran Homthong and the conductor Rakpong, who had joined the interprovincial bus service just three months earlier.

Officers found some of the missing A\$600 (18,350 baht) wedged into Rakpong's sock and

the remainder in his jacket pocket. They also found banknotes in a number of other currencies including Malaysian ringgitt, Vietnamese dong and Lao kip, officers said.

Rakpong confessed to the theft and was taken to Thalang Police Station where he was charged with daytime robbery, said police.

The two Aussies showed no anger at the Rakpong, telling the press that he might have been acting out of desperation.

No charges were filed against the driver.

## Troubled cop faces suspension

KAMALA: About 30 local residents on June 13 met Kamala Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Winai Kongkeaw to demand that one of his officers be removed from active duty because his behavior was "dangerous".

At 11 am, the residents, including Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBor-Jor*) representative Sontaya Soontarak and other elected officials, explained to Col Winai that a police lieutenant under his command had been exhibiting strange and sometimes dangerous behavior following brain surgery some seven months ago, after he was involved in a car accident.

"Villagers say he is not the same as he was before his operation... We don't want him fired, just to get the treatment he needs," K. Sontaya said.

A villager who identified himself only as "Jamnong" said the officer sometimes went running around the village, staring people down with wild eyes and waving his gun around.

In one instance, he handed his weapon to a civilian and encouraged the person to shoot him with it, he said.

"We are afraid somebody is going to get shot. It's like he has two personalities. Sometimes he is very nice, but sometimes very strange," K. Jamnong said.

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# AirAsia flight forced to land in Phuket – twice

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

MAI KHAO: AirAsia flight FD3024 from Phuket to Bangkok was forced to land twice shortly after takeoff at Phuket International Airport (PIA) on June 16.

A passenger on the flight told a *Gazette* source, "I heard the sound of wind rushing and then the engines roar [shortly after takeoff] and thought something had happened, but the crew didn't tell the passengers exactly what was happening."

After the initial takeoff, the plane landed back on the runway. After a short delay, the pilot attempted a second takeoff, only to be forced to land again.

The source added that he later heard that the plane was forced to land because a door had not been sealed properly.

Aroonporn Sangduangyang, AirAsia's duty executive at PIA, on June 17 told the *Gazette*, "The 6:15 pm flight from Phuket to Bangkok was forced to land

twice yesterday. There was a technical problem, but the pilot was trying to get the passengers [to Bangkok] on time as our next flight was at 9:50 pm."

K. Aroonporn explained that the aircraft's flight system warns the pilot if any doors are not sealed properly. In this instance, the pilot received no warning before takeoff that any doors had yet to be closed fully.

"It was not a serious situation," she added.

However, K. Aroonporn declined to confirm whether a faulty door was the reason for the two landings.

"We transferred some passengers to our next flight at 9:50 pm, but some of them did not want to fly that late, so we transferred their tickets so they could fly with another airline," K. Aroonporn said.

The aircraft was eventually flown to Bangkok. "If we are not 100% ready, we will not take off," K. Aroonporn said.

## Landowner lays claim to Laem Hin access road

KOH KAEW: Irate residents in Koh Kaew on June 16 filed a petition to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit calling for aid in their ongoing dispute with a landlord over ownership of the road that leads to Laem Hin Pier.

For about an hour on June 13, Apichart Kitprasarn blocked the road with a metal barrier, claiming that the road passes through his property, said Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) President Kuakiat Jitkua.

K. Apichart wants to collect parking fees from people wanting to catch a longtail boat to Koh Maphrao from the pier, he added.

On June 16, about 20 villagers, requested Gov Niran find the relevant title deeds to check whether the road is public.

Only the land around the

road was sold to K. Apichart, said Sa-nguan Khumbaen, *Phu Yai Baan* (village chief) of Koh Kaew Village 7.

Gov Niran accepted the petition and said he will assign officers to look into the case.

K. Apichart is allowing people to use the road as normal while the relevant title deeds are located, said K. Kuakiat.

# Sirens sound for tsunami drill

By Sompratch Saowakhon

BANG TAO: The tsunami warning sirens at Bang Tao Beach sounded at 10:30 am on June 17 in a tsunami evacuation drill organized by the provincial government to ensure local villagers, especially the teachers and students at the local school, are prepared for an emergency.

The sirens were triggered locally for the simulation, which lasted about 60 minutes. School children were evacuated to higher ground and the "mock injured" were processed through triage and taken to emergency first-aid centers set up for the drill.

About 60 students from Baan Bang Tao School ran to the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) offices about about 1.5 kilometers away. They were sprayed with water en route to cool them off in the late-morning heat.

The "injured" were recovered by emergency medical personnel in about 10 ambulances and quickly taken to the Cherng Talay OrBorTor office, where they received further treatment from nurses stationed there.

About 125 officers were called on for the exercise, which was led by Cherng Talay OrBorTor President Manote Panchalad and Chotenarin Kerdsom, chief of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Mitigation and Prevention (DDPM – Phuket).

One student taking part in the event told the *Gazette*, "I really didn't hear any sirens. The staff shouted at me to run quickly



Students at Baan Bang Tao School flee the 'tsunami danger zone' during the evacuation drill on June 17.

to the 'safe area' at the OrBorTor office."

K. Chotenarin was satisfied with the drill. "We successfully evacuated all victims out of the tsunami danger area," he said.

"We would have liked to see more local businesses joining the exercise. However, we understand that in the low season they have few staff to care for the guests they have; in the high season they are very busy looking after their guests.

"Regardless, we will ask

Cherng Talay OrBorTor to arrange better involvement from business later," he added.

Another tsunami evacuation drill will be held on July 7, he said.

"On July 7, we will conduct a similar drill, but with all 19 tsunami warning towers in Phuket. This time, the evacuation drill will be co-ordinated by the NDWC [National Disaster Warning Center] and will be carried out throughout the Andaman provinces," he said.



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**O**n May 6, the *Gazette* reported that a new born boy had been left abandoned in a pickup truck parked outside Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Parents and relatives of the the boy, who was found by hospital staff and nicknamed Vigo, have yet to come forward.

The announcement that Vigo is under the care of Phuket Child Shelter (Banpakdek Phuket) led to the shelter being inundated with calls from people hoping to adopt the boy. The shelter and its staff, however, have minimal involvement in adoption.

"Despite receiving many calls from people wanting to adopt Vigo, we are not in a position to control the adoption process. Banpakdek is simply a temporary shelter for abandoned children before they are sent to government foster homes," said Tanyapon Aousaer of Banpakdek Phuket.

Abandoned and unidentified children must be sent to government foster homes before steps can be taken towards adoption, said K. Tanyapon.

Only after exhausting all possibilities in tracing his parents or relatives will Vigo be sent to a foster home.

The adoption process begins at the Social Development and Human Security Office in the province in which the child lives.

# The long and winding

**A**dopting a child in Phuket can feel like an uphill struggle, but as any parent will tell you, the effort is worth it in the end.

*Gazette* reporter Natcha Yuttaworawit and editor Nick Davies take a look inside Thailand's adoption process to discover the steps foreigners and Thais in Phuket must take in order to adopt a Thai child.

Expatriate couple Murray and Chantal Norstrand, having completed the adoption process, reveal what they had to go through before they could be united with their daughter.

Thai couples wishing to adopt can apply to adopt in that province. Foreigners, however, must first apply at the Child Adoption Center in Bangkok, which operates under the Department of Social Development, a branch of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Potential parents applying through the Child Adoption Center cannot choose the child they would like to adopt; that decision is up to social services. To adopt a specific child, the people adopting would have to make special

agreements with a child's natural parents. The Child Adoption Center does, however, allow potential parents to choose the gender and approximate age of a child they would like to adopt.

Arune Suwannarat, a social development expert from the Phuket Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office, explained the adoption process to the *Gazette*.

Parents planning to adopt Thai children apply under one of three categories: Thais, foreign residents or non-resident foreign-



ers. Foreigners wanting to adopt a Thai child must first contact the Child Adoption Center in Bangkok, said K. Arune.

Foreigners follow the same procedure as Thai natives. The first step is to submit identification documents, including two two-inch portrait pictures taken no more than six months before the date of application, passports or ID cards, a house registration certificate, marriage certificates, proof of any previous marriage annulments if remarried, a medical certificate, and any documents relating to changes in names.

Parents putting their own children up for adoption have to submit an application with the same identification documents, along with documents pertaining


to the child, including the child's ID card if he or she is 15 years old or over, plus certificates of education if the child is a student.

If one or both of a child's natural parents cannot be traced to give permission for adoption, then the child's fate will be decided in court.

If the father is untraceable or unknown, the marital status of the child's mother will be examined in court before adoption can take place.

Once adopting parents have submitted all the necessary paperwork, a social worker will review the documents and arrange to interview the potential parents to determine their backgrounds and reasons for adoption.


After that, the assigned so-



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# road: adopting in Phuket



**ABOVE, RIGHT:** Kids from the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation, which aims to give orphaned children and children who no longer live with their natural parents a stable environment in which to grow up.

**LEFT:** Murray Norstrand and his wife, Chantal, with their three-year-old adopted daughter Chiara (right) and their second potential child Kyle (left), whom the couple are in the process of adopting.

cial worker will visit the home of the adopting parents to assess their living conditions. If the potential parents and their home environment are considered appropriate, a dossier is compiled and submitted to a committee for approval.

Once approval is granted, the parents-to-be are added to a pool of parents waiting to adopt. The task of finding a suitable match then begins, with the aim of finding the best family for a particular child rather than looking for a child that best suits the adoptive parents' criteria.

If all goes well during the initial meeting between a child and his or her potential parents, the child will be allowed to go home with his or her new family

for a trial period of between two and three months, during which the new family is closely monitored by social services.

If the initial fostering period is successful and the committee approves the family's progress, the fostering period is extended for another six months, with social workers visiting the family every two months.

The social worker's findings are submitted to the committee for final approval, which, if granted, certifies the adoption.

Foreigners who apply to adopt from outside Thailand with the aim of expatriating a child usually do so through a recognized adoption agency in their own country.

An agency will co-ordinate

with Thailand's Ministry of Welfare and the would-be parents will be interviewed in Thailand.

Once approval for adoption and expatriation is granted by the ministry, social services then apply for the child's passport.

When the child has a passport and is expatriated, adoption records are transferred to the Thai embassy or consulate in the adopting parents' country.

## It can be done

Phuket-based expat Murray Norstrand and his wife, Chantal, have already adopted a three-year-old Thai girl and are in the process of adopting another child.

"The whole process took

about two years in total, from the time we applied to adopt until all the paperwork was complete," said Mr Norstrand.

"We had to go to Bangkok for three interviews with social services before eventually meeting our daughter, who was over two years old by the time she came to live with us," he added.

"We were allowed to request the gender of our foster child and approximate age, but that was all."

The rest of the decision-making and matchmaking was done by social services.

"We had asked for a child under two years old, but eventually confirmed that we would accept a child who was a little over two years old if it meant we would have a better chance of finding a child earlier," he said.

"After submitting all the paperwork, it took over one-and-a-half years to be matched to a little girl.

"We were only given a little basic information. It then took another three months before we were allowed to see her, and another 10 months for the adoption to be legalized," explained Mr Norstrand.

"Adoption in Thailand is a

long, drawn-out process for Thais and foreigners alike, but although it can be frustrating at times, the fact that the adoption process has so many checks in place is a good thing, as it ensures that children are adopted by capable and trustworthy parents with the best intentions," he added.

Mr Norstrand said that the wait and frustrations have been worth it.

"We've been in Thailand a long time as a childless couple, but now we have a daughter and we are in the process of adopting another child. Obviously, our lives have changed dramatically, but definitely for the better.

"For anyone considering adoption, I'd say stick with it. You'll get there in the end."

*Foreigners who want to adopt Thai children should contact the Child Adoption Center in Bangkok. Tel: 02-3547509, 02-3547515, 02-6447996. Thai couples living in Phuket who want to adopt can contact Phuket Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office at Phuket Provincial Hall (Salaklang). Tel: 076-240414.*

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## Queer News

# Rogue monk defrocks himself for all to see

**NONG KHAI:** As every good clergyman knows, improper sexual conduct is a quick way to get defrocked – cast out of the Buddhist clergy.

Perhaps sensing that his own defrockment was inevitable, one naughty abbot in Tha Bor District decided to beat his detractors to the punch.

At a meeting of villagers and local religious authorities to discuss allegations of sexual impropriety against him, he showed his contempt by lifting up his robe and giving the assembled a good look at the organ that had got him in trouble in the first place.

The problem stemmed from the alleged relationship between Phra Wanchai Mahapanyo, 35, abbot of Wat Khok Klang in Tambon Nakha, and a married devotee, 44-year-old Lampang Khambai.

Lampang's husband, 43-year-old Wichai Khambai, told police that he and Lampang have been married for almost 20 years and that they have two children together.

They never had any problems in their marriage until last year, when Wichai went to work on a construction site in Bangkok, he told police.

When he came back to Nakha, friends and relatives told

him that while he had been away, his wife was rarely at home and seemed to spend nearly all of her time in Phra Wanchai's room.

At first Wichai didn't believe what people were telling him, he said. However, late one night, Lampang asked if she could go to the temple, which made him suspicious. A couple of days later, on May 29, Lampang again asked if she could go and visit the temple in the evening.

When it became late and she was still not back, Wichai decided to take action.

He gathered up a posse of friends and relatives, who took up positions around Phra Wanchai's room in the temple to see what was going on.

Nothing happened until dawn, when Phra Wanchai emerged from his cell. Wichai rushed up to him, demanding to know the whereabouts of his wife.

Phra Wanchai denied having seen her that night and, according to Wichai, then pushed him out of the way and punched him in the face.

Wichai's friends rushed in to break up the scuffle, at which point Lampang strolled out of the monk's room as if nothing at all was amiss.

As often happens in small

Thai villages, news of the incident spread quickly.

Before long, the *kamnan* (tambon chief) of Nakha, Phemphun Meuncharoen, and the local dean, Phrakhrui Praphatson Praphatsaro, rushed to the scene to invite all concerned to a meeting at the house of Lampang's mother, Noolee Buri-kham.

The villagers unanimously called for Phra Wanchai to be defrocked on the spot for his behavior, at which point the abbot suddenly stood up, lifted up his robes and wagged his genitals around in the startled faces of his accusers.

Being a media-savvy village, many of those present whipped out mobile phones to get photos and videos of the scene. With the shocking incident duly recorded in digital format, Phra Wanchai fled the room and sped off in his pickup truck.

Wichai, still smarting from his confrontation with Phra Wanchai, reported the altercation at the Tha Bor Police Station, where he filed a complaint accusing the abbot of assault.

At about 2 pm that afternoon, Phra Wanchai turned himself in at the station and admitted to punching Wichai in the face. He was fined 1,000 baht and released.

Villagers also filed complaints to the local Sangha authorities, who have launched an investigation into Phra Wanchai's conduct.

The following day, the images of Phra Wanchai appeared on the front page of the country's top-selling newspaper, *Thai Rath*, the editorial staff of which chose to blur out the offending organ.

Source: *Thai Rath*

## STAMPS



These two stamps depict two of the world's architectural wonders. On the left is an image of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey. On the right is Thailand's Iron Castle of Wat Rajannada in Bangkok. The stamps are being launched to celebrate 50 years of Thai-Turkish relations.

## New stamps celebrate architectural wonders

**PHUKET:** Thailand Post on May 12 launched a pair of stamps to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Turkey.

The stamps reflect two unique architectural works – one from Thailand and one from Turkey.

Each stamp features the respective nation's flag.

The first stamp shows an image of the Iron Castle of Wat Rajannada in Bangkok.

King Rama III ordered this castle to be built in honor of his granddaughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Somanas Vadhanawadi. The castle, built during the reigns of King Rama V and King Rama VI, was finally completed during the era of King Rama VIII.

The Iron Castle is arranged in seven tiers. On the top tier are 37 iron spires containing sacred Buddhist relics, one for each of the 37 virtues leading to enlightenment. Inside the castle is a spiral staircase that leads to the top.

To this day, the Iron Castle remains the only castle of its type in Thailand – one of only three such structures in the world.

On the second stamp is an image of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Turkey. The mosque is located in Istanbul, capital of the former Ottoman Empire.

The mosque is one of several in Turkey known as "Blue Mosques", named after the color of the Iznik tiles adorning its interior walls.

The base of the mosque is square shaped, while on each tier there are a number of domes and semi-domes, the largest of which is 23.5 meters in diameter.

The mosque, which dates back to the early 1600s, is one of Istanbul's most popular tourist attractions.

Each stamp measures 36 millimeters by 51mm and will be available at a cost of 3 baht. Only 900,000 will be produced.

All 10 Thailand Post offices in Phuket will stock the stamps.

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# Cash grants considered for the poor

**F**inance Minister Surapong Suebwonglee on June 11 confirmed that the government is considering issuing coupons, or "top-up cards", that poor people can convert to cash to help buy food and pay for transportation and other daily necessities for six to 12 months.

Minister Surapong mentioned the possibility of taking advantage of smart ID cards already held by many for use in "topping up", allowing people to collect a monthly government grant.

The Fiscal Policy Office, the Budget Bureau and the National Economic & Social Development Board are currently working out the number of eligible recipients of the cash grants and how much it will cost the government.

The support will only last for six to 12 months, a "transition period" during which they can look for more income.

Community leaders will be asked to register the names of eligible recipients and the government will make random checks each month to prevent the grants from "leaking to higher-income groups", he said.

But economists and representatives of the poor were quick label the idea "unrealistic" and say it could be abused.

Issara Musikong, an adviser to Labor Union of the East, said he doubted that workers would ever get any cash assistance.

"If the government hands out cash, I can't help wondering if it will end up in the hands of political canvassers," said K. Issara.

Free food parcels would be a better way to help the poor, he said.

**Natural remedy.** Ten researchers from the medicine departments of Ramkhamhaeng and Srinakharinwirot universities have discovered herbal extracts from locally grown plants that they claim are "novel weapons" in the

fight against tuberculosis (TB), a disease that kills 7,000 Thais a year.

Researcher Benjawan Phetsuksiri said the plant extracts are an alternative medicine that can be used alongside modern treatments for TB.

Drug-resistant TB is a problematic public-health concern. More powerful drugs take a long time to develop and bring to market. The herbal remedy is quick to develop, she said.

The team tested extracts from 84 separate plants looking for a pharmaceutical ingredient that can kill TB bacteria. They found 14 with the potential to be developed into a medicine. Clinical testing will follow next year.

**Shell shock.** Guards at Klong Prem Prison outside Bangkok on June 9 intercepted 2,200 amphetamine tablets hidden inside clams intended for a drug convict.

Prisoner Maisaen Saentha-weesuk admitted accepting the pills from relatives to sell to prisoners. Police also found a mobile phone in his cell and are investigating whether he had any accomplices.

The pills, valued at 500 baht each, were hidden in clams stored in 55 plastic bags.

Prison guards later seized amphetamine tablets smuggled in a bag of sweets intended for Reungsant Masaleh, also a drug convict.

A recent search at the prison turned up three mobile phones belonging to three prisoners, who are being disciplined for having contraband items.

The Justice Ministry later said that it was seeking mobile phone signal-jamming devices and inspection tools that would prevent drug dealing within prisons and with outside dealers.

**Hi-tech nicotine fix.** The Public Health Ministry wants to restrict the import of "electronic cigarettes" that give off no smoke but may be hazardous to health and even used to disguise illegal



**Battle Garb**  
Miss Thailand 2008 Gawintra Phothijakra shows off one of the gowns she will be wearing during the Miss Universe contest in Nha Trang in Vietnam on July 13. Her wardrobe will also include more traditional dresses. Photo: Tatchadon Panyaphanitikul

narcotics.

The ministry says each "e-cigarette" contains 15 times more nicotine than ordinary ones.

None of Thailand's current tobacco-control laws regulate the import of e-cigarettes.

When users inhale the e-cigarettes, a sensor detects airflow and a microprocessor activates an atomizer that injects tiny droplets of liquid into the air and vaporises the nicotine.

This produces a mist that is inhaled. The microprocessor activates an orange light-emitting diode at the tip to simulate real smoking.

E-cigarettes are marketed as a healthier alternative to tobacco, since few of the harmful substances produced by the com-

bustion of tobacco are present.

**Desperate measures.** The Medical Science Department's chief has warned that the economic crisis might prompt some food vendors to cut costs by using old cooking oil.

Manit Teeratantikanont plans in August to work with lo-

cal authorities to inspect cooking oil used by food vendors.

Oil used repeatedly accumulates carcinogens. The Food and Drug Administration expects that tens of thousands of vendors might resort to using old oil.

**Gimme shelter.** Authorities in Khon Kaen province are investigating a private child welfare center for abuse after five children ran away to seek help.

The Luk Rak welfare center in Phon district will be closed down if there are grounds to substantiate the allegations of children's mistreatment, senior provincial officials said.

An investigation team led by Khon Kaen Governor Jate Thanawat on June 13 inspected the center after two boys and three girls who had run away were found in a desperate condition about 30 kilometers away.

The five children, aged between five and 10, told the officials that they had to escape because they could not stand the way they were being treated.

The center has been operating for more than 10 years, according to the governor.

After inspection, a provincial social-development and human-security officer said conditions at the center were substandard, but that a dozen of the resident children still wanted to stay.

The director of the center, Chuleemas Jitsajapong, denied any mistreatment of the children.

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

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# Getting it right about Khao Lak

To begin with, I'd like to get something off my chest. While I mostly receive positive responses from foreigners who love Khao Lak, who visit the area from time to time, many expats in the area have asked me why I criticize so much and why I don't write more positive things about Khao Lak.

In general, they try to convince me that I should write more about how beautiful the area is, how tasty the food is, especially their restaurants.

It has come to the point where I can't hold it any longer. I have to set a few points straight, right here, right now. The Andaman Coasting features are not written as disguised Khao Lak advertising, folks! I strongly believe that as a reporter, news copywriter, author or editor, one should find and expose nuisances, problem areas and wrong-doing whenever possible, and as early as possible so that the word gets out to the public.

Addressing problems gives the people, institutions and organizations involved a chance to take action and make changes for the better.

I love Khao Lak and I believe that if I had not written about some problems, they would never have received any attention and would never have been solved. I believe in Khao Lak and I call it my home. My heart beats for this place and everybody knows that, but it doesn't necessarily mean that I should not speak up when I see something wrong and think it should be changed.

Only by doing this can Khao Lak improve. Khao Lak is already a fantastic place, but we also know that it is far from perfect. Many institutions, such as an international school and a proper hospital, are still lacking.



The Merlin Plaza will be Khao Lak's first "child-friendly" shopping mall, with a playground visible from all shops at the center and a much-needed medical center on the first floor.

Law enforcement against illegal dumping of garbage and illegal poaching in the national park is also lacking.

Illegal fishing of endangered species in the nearby marine national parks is still prevalent due to a lack of enforcement. Baby hammerhead and black-tip reef sharks, blue spotted rays and other stingrays are still sold at the market in Bang Niang.

There are no plans to make traffic safer in the center of Khao Lak, especially at the Nang Thong and Bang Niang Beach intersections. Proper drainage systems are still needed near O'Connor's Irish Pub and near the Bang Niang intersection to get rid of the foul stench of wastewater trapped there.

The whole Bang Niang Beach coastline is a mess, with

landfills too high and structures too close to the water line, which will subsequently collapse. All of these problems need to be solved if Khao Lak really wants to become a leading tourist destination – and we all know that the things I've just mentioned are only the tip of the iceberg.

The positive thing about all this is that – unlike Phuket, where the horse has apparently already bolted – we can all make changes to fix Khao Lak and make it safer and better before it is too late.

Having said this, I will certainly not stop writing about potential hazards and existing problems in the area. This is the 80<sup>th</sup> Andaman Coasting, meaning continuous monthly issues for a period of almost seven years without being kicked out, so I must be doing something right, mustn't I? And if anyone thinks they can do better (writing the Andaman Coasting column) or if anyone believes he has more love and passion invested in this area

than I, then I'm more than happy to hand over the pen. Thank you for listening.

**A novel idea.** The Merlin Plaza, under construction near the Merlin Hotel on Khao Lak Beach, will be Khao Lak's very first "child-friendly" shopping center with a playground, giving children a safe place to play while their parents shop. The development will comprise a shopping area and residential buildings and is due to open at the beginning of November, just in time for the high season.

The project's concept is one that has seen success in Singapore, where parents can see the play area from any of the shops. At the Merlin Plaza, parents are expected to keep an eye on their children, although they will be playing in a relatively safe environment, which will be monitored by CCTV.

Although the plaza is fairly small, the management's intention is to have a security guard on duty to monitor activities whilst the plaza is open.

Steve Peppin, director of Medbury Co and "father" of the project, said that the management intends to find someone suitable to open a medical center on the first floor to treat minor ailments. "This is something that is currently lacking in this part of Khao Lak," he added.

Anyone interested in learning more about the project or for shop rental inquiries can email Mr Peppin at [stevepep@aol.com](mailto:stevepep@aol.com)

**In Buddha's footsteps.** On the first weekend of June, about 180 members of the Buddhist Fellowship from Singapore gathered in Khao Lak to bring cheer to the Duan Prateep orphanage.

The Buddhist Fellowship has been carrying out humanitarian work in Khao Lak for the past two years by supporting the community and the orphanage for children who lost their parents during the tsunami.

A check for US\$40,000 was presented to the Duan Prateep Foundation, which runs the orphanage. The money was raised through donations from members and friends and will go towards building a much-needed extension to the cramped orphanage, which was originally built to accommodate up to 30 children, but is now home to more than 40.



ANDAMAN COASTING  
By Franky Gun

The Buddhist Fellowship also held a party for the children at Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort on June 8. Education bursary awards were presented to 12 children nominated by the orphanage and the local school, and donations of

food, groceries, clothes, computers, toys, fans and a washing machine were made to the orphanage and the local villagers.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and since calls Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted via email to: [avalon@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:avalon@loxinfo.co.th)

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# Teachers anxious to exit Yala

Seven Buddhist teachers in a public school in Yala's Bannang Sata district have asked to be transferred out of the region because of security concerns.

Ban Tharnthip School Director Abdulloh Ja-oh said the killing of a fellow teacher, Harit Sa-I, on June 11 had jolted all 27 teachers and caused seven Buddhist teachers to seek transfers.

K. Abdulloh said the village of Ban Tharnthip had been at the frontline of violent clashes between security forces and insurgents over the past four years. The school had been set on fire twice and gunfights between security forces and insurgents in the area had resulted in several deaths.

The school has yet to fully recover from the arson attacks and the village mosque is serving as a temporary classroom for some of the 460 students, he said.

**Fatal Jilting.** A Irrigation Department mechanic shot in his Nakhon Sri Thammarat home on the evening of June 11 later died from his injuries. Police believe the shooting may have been motivated by the victim calling off his wedding engagement.

Police said that witnesses reported seeing two men pull up on a motorbike outside the home of the victim, 33-year-old Udomphon Phaosut. One of the men got off the bike and walked into the house. Witnesses heard a number of shots fired then saw the gunman rush back to the waiting motorcycle, which then sped away.

Neighbors rushed Udomphon to Maharaj Hospital, where he later died from his injuries. He had been shot twice in the face and once in the lower abdomen.

Police recovered three 9mm cartridge cases at the scene.

Police said that they were not yet sure of the motive for the killing, but from their investigations had discovered that Udomphon had recently broken up with his fiancée.



## OFF THE RAILS

**Arunsak Tekjinda, 41, sits in a press briefing on June 10 after being arrested for allegedly stealing the handrails off a pedestrian bridge in Surat Thani Province. Displayed are the handrails confiscated from the suspect.**

Udomphon had been engaged for two years and a date for the wedding had been set. Invitations had been sent out to many relatives of his erstwhile fiancée. Police are investigating this as a motive for the shooting, but are not yet ruling out other leads.

**Going home.** The 10 survivors of the ill-fated refrigeration lorry trip in which 54 Burmese migrants died on April 9 were repatriated to Kawthaung on June 8.

The 10 men and women were escorted from Ranong Immigration Office to the Club Andaman pier to be put on a boat to Kawthaung, where Pol Lt Col Yae Min, Head of the Kawthaung Human Trafficking Suppression Department, and Pol Lt Col Saw Win, Head of Kawthaung Immigration, were waiting to receive them.

The 10 had been detained to give evidence about the deaths of their compatriots.

The group were accompanied to the pier by Ranong Governor Kanchanapha Keeman and Lt Col Yingyot Khenamnat, an Inspector with Ranong Immigration Police. Gov Kanchanapha distributed packages of gifts to the 10 before they were put on the boat.

Fifty-six other survivors of the trip from Ranong to Phuket were repatriated on April 19.

The officials at the ceremony did not say what the Burmese authorities intended to do with the returnees.

**Policeman killed.** A deputy inspector was shot dead then set alight by suspected insurgents in Yala's Ramen district on June 9.

Police said that Sub Lt Somkhith Thapthimsri, a Deputy

Crime Suppression inspector at Ramen Police Station, was ambushed by about five gunmen in the back of a blue single-cab pickup truck as he was driving home after finishing duty.

His attackers then dragged his body out of his car, doused it in petrol and set it on fire before fleeing.

Police at the crime scene led by Col Narin Busaman, Superintendent of Ramen Police station, collected a large number of spent cartridge cases from an M16 assault rifle and 9mm pistol as well as empty shotgun shells.

Police believe the attack was carried out by members of the separatist group Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) in revenge for recent police operations against the group.

**Status seeking.** The National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conser-

vation Department and Satun Chamber of Commerce have announced plans to push for Koh Tarutao National Park to be made a UNESCO World Heritage Site next year.

Nathaphon Ratthanaphan, chief of Koh Tarutao National Park, said that the national parks department had assigned a budget for a year-long feasibility study to be carried out by Prince of Songkla University.

K. Nathaphon said that he believed Koh Tarutao itself was fully qualified for the UN award, but that other islands in the group, particularly Koh Adangrawee and Koh Lipe still faced a number of challenges, including the need to crack down on drag-net fishing and find sustainable livelihoods that do not negatively impact on the natural environment for the islands' sea gypsies.

The Prince of Songkla University study, due to be completed by June next year, will determine whether the island group is ready for World Heritage Status and what obstacles need to be crossed before an application is made, K. Nathaphon explained.

Pritsana Arunwechakul, chairman of Satun Chamber of Commerce, said his organization was fully behind the plan to push for the Koh Tarutao island group to be made into a World Heritage Site. The islands are a world-class tourism spot and last year saw a 50% rise in the visitor numbers, he added.

The Satun Tourism Business Association together with the government have worked together to ensure that the tourism services in the area are top class and the ferries and speedboats serving the islands have been upgraded and have a perfect safety record, he continued.

K. Pritsana said he believed the national park was ready to claim World Heritage status.

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



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By Alin Boonkrungthong

Every parent knows that play is critical to a child's development. By playing, children learn how to get along with other children, and how to manage not-so-nice playmates, as well as develop their imagination and creativity, and improve their co-ordination skills and their physical condition.

Beyond feeding and clothing a child, it is a parent's responsibility to allow their child to play. But many toys are not cheap. Parents often scorn toy companies for exploiting this aspect of childhood, charging exorbitant prices for the latest superhero action figure because they know many parents will give in to their children's demands. And it is not in the heart of a parent not to let their children play.

Looking to help parents who already find it difficult making ends meet is the Toy Library, a community project currently underway that aims to give children in poor families a chance to play with toys and develop that fundamental theme underpinning the concept of play: sharing.

The Toy Library is a joint project, combining the efforts of the Phuket Community Foundation (PCF), Phuket International Hospital, Central Festival and Wichit Municipality, who together aim to have the library open by the end of July.

"Phuket Community Foundation is focusing on children from poor families, and parents who need to buy toys for their children. It's essential to develop their creativity. When Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana of Phuket Community Foundation went to Australia and New Zealand, she saw that they had toy libraries all around both countries," explained Piyarat Kulvanich of Phuket International Hospital.

"Another unexpected inspiration came from Koh Prathong in Kuraburi district, Phang Nga. After the tsunami came donations of cement and construction equipment, but there was one toy shop owner who wanted to donate toys for the kids.

"At first we thought it was just going to be a box of toys, but it was many, many toys loaded onto a big truck. So a teacher at Koh Prathong School used one room to create a toy library there," she said.

The library is being set up at the Child Care Center at Wat



By the end of next month, these children at the childcare center at Wat Thepnimit will have Phuket's first toy library to play and learn with.

# Getting serious about kids' fun and games

Thepnimit in Wichit, next door to the new Wichit Municipality offices on Chao Fa East Rd.

All the toys in the library have been selected by childhood-development professionals at the center to make sure each toy is made from good materials and is safe for children to use.

Toys are separated according to the age of the children who will use them and the type of skills they develop. Each toy is different in that it can develop mechanical skills, social skills or some other specific skill. Even when choosing which toy to play with, children are already developing skills and discovering a little more about themselves.

The "librarian", provided by

Wichit Municipality, will be trained in children's development skills and advise parents how their child's interaction with the toys will help them develop skills.

The Toy Library will be open from Monday to Friday for three periods a day. The first session from 7 am to 8:30 am, then from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and finally from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

"Wichit Municipality already have a Learning Center for kids in their subdistrict, and they were happy for us to set up a toy library there," said K. Piyarat.

"At first we thought the toy library should be set up at a sea gypsy community, such as at Mai Khao or Sapam [in Phuket City], but we must have a professional

to explain and teach the children how to play. It's really easy to set up, but it's not easy to keep going and it must have the funds to maintain the building and the stock of toys," she explained.

Only children one year old and over will be allowed to play at the library and, initially, children will be allowed to play with the toys only at the center.

"Now we are waiting for toy donations at PIH, and after the toy library is open, there will be doctors from PIH regularly attending the library," said K. Piyarat.

"And if this project is a success, we will surely set up toy libraries in other places," she added,

The PCF has issued an ap-

peal for donations of toys. These may be new or used and, as long as they are clean, have no missing parts and are in full working order, they will be accepted.

Toys may be dropped off at the reception desk at Phuket International Hospital on the bypass road. Alternatively, contact Central Festival Phuket and the Child Care Center at Wat Thepnimit.

For more information about the Toy Library or to make a donation, call Wichit Municipality (076-525100), Phuket International Hospital (076-249400) or the Phuket Community Foundation (076-291111).



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It's a wonder just how some people attain stardom while others languish in the darkly lit back jiggers of fame. It's difficult to imagine Mick Jagger belting out Chuck Berry hits in his mid-forties to an indifferent mid-day pub crowd.

Yet I've seen mega-voiced, mid-forties musicians (far better singers than old Rubber Lips) doing just that for peanuts on Liverpool's Dock Road, where the sights after closing time would blanch the cheeks of even the hardest Soi Bangla veteran.

It's all somewhat similar to Phuket's culinary world: Hotels release many glowing homages to their just-arrived superstar chef in the form of ponderous and gushingly written PR handouts, yet when one finally gets the time to go along to check the Great Man out, it's invariably, "Oh him? He's 'moved on'."

Even though some new culinary stars actually deliver the goods in Phuket, if in doubt, it's best to stick to what's constantly been successful and dependable over the years.

A good example of this formula is the triumvirate of Karon Café, Las Margaritas and the Dining Room at Pacific Club Resort – all in Karon and all run by Eric Conger – an American who's been here longer than the surf.



The Mexican 'La Taxi' combo platter (250 baht), consisting of chicken, tacos, an enchilada and other goodies, is a juicy hit at the Dining Room.  
Photo by Stephan Audiger.

## No more games for frustrated foodies

And here we are. The Wilko Bentley purrs into the Pacific's car park and in two shakes of a burro's tail we're seated in a din-

ing room worthy of a Serge Leone movie set. There are high ceilings and tiled floors as well as swathes of pastel walls and

arches. All the Dining Room needs now are swinging saloon doors and a spittoon or two (a definite plus for Chinese guests).

We really should be ordering whiskey in dirty shot glasses, but there are vodka martinis all round. Instead of Mexican guitar or honky-tonk piano ear candy, there's cool background jazz cascading into the night air.

The wine list is brief (two whites and a handful of reds), yet the prices are remarkable. A bottle of house red, a Saint Vincent, goes for 495 baht, while a one-liter carafe costs just 550 baht. This here is quaffing country, at least in a Thailand that has taxes on its wine taxes. We order a bottle of Goiya Shiraz red from South Africa at 795 baht.

Meanwhile, Eric, with his infectious giggle, joins us. He's trained his wait staff well: they're all gorgeous and tuned-in but not a single one of them can match his laugh.

First-time diners, perusing one of Eric's menus at his various outlets, must use Eric's [patent pending] giggle and rub their eyes in disbelief – the prices are that reasonable. No-one likes to be overcharged, but regular visitors to the Kata-Karon-Patong sarm haad (three beaches) belt tend to accept the sometimes ludicrous cost of restaurant food with an "it's a tourist area" shrug and sigh.

Take it from one in the

know: the reason restaurant prices are hiked way high on the west coast of Phuket is to keep the waiters in silly batik shirts.

While we're on the subject of overcharging, just what's with this fad of mandatory hotel Christmas and New Year's Eve gala dinners? Exactly what right do hotels have to self-righteously proclaim to guests, "You can stay here over the silly season but only if you let us gouge your fiscal eyes out by attending our incredibly expensive parties."

Thankfully and admirably, Eric's Pacific Club, along with a few other brave hotels in Phuket, eschews this lowdown tactic.

Gosh, that was a lot of adverbs for one paragraph. English learners take note: angry writers are not always good writers.

And now back to the food at the Dining Room, before I fall to the floor clutching my heart in a near-death spasm caused by a five-star attack. There's a good and eclectic range of dishes, from Thai and Mexican to Chinese and Italian.

The Dining Room offers equally delectable steaks as in the afore-condemned hotels but at a fraction of their cost and easily as well presented. My pork medallions with juicy mashed potatoes and mixed veggies (295 baht) is just perfect while Milady's salmon Florentine on spinach leaves with anise-scented dill cream sauce with saffron rice (350

baht) is a juicy affair to behold and sample. The little guy's fish and chips are a classic and Stephan's Mexican "La Taxi" combo platter (250 baht), consisting of chicken, tacos, an enchilada and other goodies, is a juicy hit.

There's a great range of desserts at the Dining Room, but we're pretty much maxed out

by now, such are the large portions here.

To sum up: if you know of a better place for quality food at these low prices, let me know and I'll eat my '96 Stones' tour baseball hat - with relish.

*The Dining Room at Pacific Club, 16 Patak Road, Soi 24 (the soi heading up the hill opposite Karon Lagoon). Tel: 076-398350. Email: reservation@karon-beach-hotel.com Website: www.pacific-club-phuket.com*

First-time diners, perusing one of Eric's menus at his various outlets, must use Eric's [patent pending] giggle and rub their eyes in disbelief – the prices are that reasonable.

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## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket

Athiya Rattanapittayaporn and Ong-art Chaipechyothin were married at the Phuket Ballroom of Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 11.



Dean Pagram and Erika Krenmayr were married at Laguna Phuket's Chapel on the Lagoon on March 31.



Sunisa Boonwilai and Natthawut Buasai were married at the Chamchuri Ballroom of Phuket Merlin Hotel on May 30.



By the age of seven, Palm was already winning gold medals in national competitions, often beating opponents older than herself.

# Rendezvous in Paris

By Semacote Suganya

When she was five years old, Budsarin "Palm" Raktaengnam picked up a tennis racket and began playing the game associated with England's annual two weeks of summer and which inspired one-hit-wonders such as *Chalk Dust* by the Umpire Strikes Back, making fun of John McEnroe's on-court disputes with the umpire.

By the age of seven, Palm was already winning gold medals in national competitions, often

beating opponents older than herself.

Of the hundred or so games that she's played in national competitions, the 14-year-old Phuket native remains undefeated. She plays 13 to 15 national competition matches a year.

Now, Palm is going international. She has been invited by the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to compete as part of the Thai national team in the 14 & Under European Tournament in Paris.

The Paris event is the first in a series of five such tourna-

ments to be held in July and August, taking the young tennis players on a mini-tour of Europe, where they will also play in Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

Palm's introduction to tennis was not something pushed on her. Her father, well-known local businessman K. Panya, keeps his sporting interests squarely focused on football. Her mother, K. Nittaya, is a nurse. But when Palm began playing tennis at five years old, her father hired a tennis coach to teach her the basics.

As Palm kicks up clouds of chalk dust in her sprint to a career as a tennis professional, she still has to keep up her regular studies as a secondary student at Chalerm Prakit Srinakarin School, but how does tennis practice fit in with school work?

"I practice five days a week, usually for one or two hours after school. I practice with friends, my dad or my brother. I don't really go out with friends much. I'd rather be playing tennis," she said.

"The school and my classmates are very supportive, though. They make sure I get notes from any lessons I miss and the teachers help me to review material so I don't fall behind," she added.

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As Palm kicks up clouds of chalk dust in her sprint to a career as a tennis professional, she still has to keep up her regular studies as a secondary student at Chalerm Prakit Srinakarin School.

Looking forward to the European tournament next month, Palm said she was not worried or overexcited about it, but is anxious about playing on a clay court for the first time. "In France, we'll be playing on clay courts, which I've never done before because there aren't any in Thailand, but most Asian players will be facing the same situation," she said.

Palm's outlook was positive, saying it would take a couple of games to get used to the new court surface, but adding she would have plenty of time to adapt as there are five games to play in the tournament.

Her father was equally positive. "Palm knows this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and that the national team is one of the best. Whatever the difficulties, she will overcome them and try her best," he said.

"I am a bit worried about my knee, though," said Palm. Her father explained that as Palm is 174centimeters and taller than most youngsters her age, the muscles around her knees are sometimes painful, but doctors

say they will improve as she gets older.

While all the signs in Palm's life point toward a career as a pro tennis player, is this what she really wants? "I don't have any plans yet. All I know is that I like what I am doing and I will do my best. I want to be in the national squad for 16-year-olds within the next two years. It's difficult, but I will try my best," she said.

Palm's efforts are starting to pay off. She now receives monthly funding to play tennis from Hero Sport Club and her rackets and clothes are provided by Adidas – a relief for her pragmatic father, who wishes no more than for his daughter to enjoy whatever she does, even if it's not tennis.

"If Palm does go professional, it will be a big change. I want her to do it only if she has fun doing it. We've always supported her passion for tennis, but we'd like her to continue her school studies as well," he said.

"Whatever she decides to do, that's alright with me, as long as she is happy," he added.



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# This week



**LUCKY BREAK:** Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket welcomes top meeting and incentive executives from Singapore and Malaysia on June 12 during their familiarization trip organized by the Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau. Joining them is Lucky the elephant (front, with trunk).



**CUTTING GRADES:** British Ambassador to Thailand Quinton Quayle (center), Chairman of British International School (BIS) Dr Arthit Ourairat (left) and Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (right) cut a ribbon to mark the opening of the new BIS auditorium, which coincided with the school's graduation ceremony on May 29.



**IBIS IDEAL:** Executive General Manager Erwann Mahe (in black polo shirt) of Ibis Erawan in Bangkok joins General Manager Raphael Hirsch (front row, right), Operations Manager Youssef El Khomri (middle row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right), Sales Leader Nisanath Khantivisit (middle row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and other staff of the Ibis Hotel Patong Beach at the hotel's opening cocktail party on June 10.



**MUSIC IN THE HOUSE:** Rommanee Music House bar and restaurant served up live jazz, Thai Indy and ska for the new venue's grand opening on June 7. Pictured are owner Tanin 'Nhoi' Lekhaphan (holding flowers) partner Surisa Wangtiyong (left), his father (right) and friend.



**CHARITY OUTREACH:** Youngsters at a shelter in Mae Sai run by charity organization Childlife receive a helping hand from Phuketeeer Kirstie Flood (not pictured), who organized donations from local businesses and individuals to be sent to the shelter in Northern Thailand. Donations included 275kg of rice, 152 bars of soap, school and medical supplies, blankets and 130 items of clothing.



**NAVIGATING PHUKET:** Serenity Development Group Manager Izzy Ben Natan (left) and Outrigger Hotels (Thailand) General Manager Pieter van der Hoeven shake hands at the recent opening of Outrigger's first Phuket luxury resort: Outrigger Serenity Terraces Resort, Phuket.

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# The Clubman's back, bigger and better than before

Few vehicles can meet the demands of the modern motoring enthusiast, particularly one who enjoys driving, but also one who has to consider where to accommodate a young family. A car that certainly meets most of these criteria is the Mini Cooper Clubman.

Sir Alec Issigonis designed the 1959 original, but the new Mini is anything but "mini". It is larger and more user-friendly than the old one.

Frank Stephenson, who was born in Morocco and went to high school in Spain, designed the latest Mini, released in 2001 and built by BMW. He spent 11 years at BMW, where he worked on the X5, but he is now head of styling with Maserati.

The Mini Clubman, though, was a result of in-house collaboration of a team of BMW designers, intent on replicating the classic Mini estates of the 1960s, which in some guises featured timber frames around the rear of the car.

The Cooper produces a respectable 120bhp (88kW) at 6,000rpm. Torque output is equally impressive for such a

small car, with a maximum of 160Nm at 4,250rpm.

The Clubman comes as standard with a six-speed manual gearbox. As an option, a six-speed automatic transmission is available with gear-shift paddles on the steering wheel.

The driver of a manual-gearbox Mini is able to focus on the most-efficient driving style because the ideal "economy" gear is shown by a numeric symbol in the cockpit display beneath the rev-counter.

The electronic engine "brain" analyzes engine speed, driving conditions and the position of the accelerator pedal to calculate the most efficient style of motoring and suggests the respective gear to the driver.

The new auto start-stop function on all manual gearbox versions of the Clubman effectively reduces fuel consumption and emissions while the car is standing still.

Whenever the car comes to a stop, the system automatically switches off the engine as soon as the driver shifts to neutral and takes his foot off the clutch pedal.

To re-start the engine, the



By Jeff Heselwood



RETROSPECTIVE: The new Mini Clubman comfortably seats five.

driver presses down on the clutch pedal again, and the engine restarts automatically and immediately.

Quoted performance figures are a maximum of 201kmh and a benchmark 0-100km/h time of 9.8 seconds, and 195kmh and 10.9 seconds respectively for the automatic.

Other relevant figures include a claimed fuel consumption of 5.5 liters per 100 kilometers and a CO<sub>2</sub> emission total of

132g/km; slightly more in both cases on the automatic.

Active safety is ensured in critical situations by ABS anti-lock brakes, EBD electronic brake-force distribution and cornering brake control as standard on all models.

In addition, dynamic stability control is also standard – with on-off control by the driver – together with traction control. Included within stability control is Hill Assist.

On a manual-gearbox Mini, this feature engages the brake for a few seconds when setting off on a gradient to prevent the car from rolling back.

Other standard features include electrically powered-assisted steering and discs brakes all round.

The Clubman features a wide range of safety features. Six airbags are standard, consisting of front, side and curtain head airbags for the driver and front passenger. The extra-large curtain airbags, which are integrated into the roof lining, offer protection from head injuries for the rear passengers.

The Clubman is a full five-seater, with the passengers in the rear enjoying an extra 80 millimeters of legroom over the standard Mini.

In addition, the rear seats on the Clubman fold flat to give a very large load area, while the split rear doors – reminiscent of the Mini Countryman and Mini Traveller of the '60s – have individual wipers to maintain good rear visibility.

The Mini Cooper Clubman sells for around 2.6 million baht. For more information visit [www.mini.co.th](http://www.mini.co.th)

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

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# Running for good

**M**ore than 5,000 people from some 40 countries took part in the Laguna Phuket International Marathon on June 15. While many hardcore runners were there to push their bodies to the limit over the 42-kilometer course, many were there simply for the fun – and many also to raise funds for people in need of charity.

More than 200 people formed Team Laguna to take part in the 5km walk. Their aim was to raise funds for Baan Klong Sai School in Phang Nga province, the first in a series of charity projects planned by Laguna Phuket to help schools in need around Phuket and remote areas of Phang Nga and Krabi provinces.

Leading the way was Thai



**Eco-marathoner Hajime Nishi (right) keeps his own pace.**

celebrity Ratthasart “Pepper” Korrasud, joined by Sarocha Wattitapan, who was there to film the event for Thai TV.

Team Laguna raised more than 200,000 baht, not including money collected from donation

**The PIWC were there to raise funds and awareness of their projects.**



**Thousands of people joined the walk, many for the fun of it, but others to raise money for charity.**

boxes placed at the reception desks at all five hotels within the Laguna complex. The highest amount individually raised was 19,999 baht by Kattiya Phadee.

Eco-marathoner and slow-running advocate Hajime Nishi, who also took part in the Laguna Phuket International Marathons in 2006 and 2007, led a group of like-minded participants over the course, focusing purely on the enjoyment of the race, interaction with spectators and volunteers, and taking photos along the way.

The marathon globetrotter and world record holder is renowned in running circles as the founder of the “slow is beautiful” philosophy.

About 100 staff and management from The Sarojin made the trip south to take part so they could raise funds towards Cyclone Nargis relief efforts in Myanmar.

Phuket International Women’s Club (PIWC) members and the foundation’s scholarship students clubbed together in sporting their blues to promote the November 29 annual fundraising gala dinner, under the theme Diamonds Are Forever, which will be held at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort & Spa.



**Thai celebrities Sarocha Wattitapan (left) and Ratthasart ‘Pepper’ Korrasud prepare to talk a walk.**



**About 100 staff from The Sarojin resort in Khao Lak turned out to raise money for Burmese victims of Cyclone Nargis.**

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**A** proud parade of Boat Bar patrons packed the house after rolling up at the Soi Paradise night-spot in Hollywood-premier style for a Red Carpet party to celebrate the venue's 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary last Saturday night.

Boat Bar owner Poonsak Sanchan, better known to islanders as Khun Daeng, rolled out the red carpet for his party guests, including Miss Tiffany Universe 2008 first runner-up Donkamon "Golf" Khontan, and brought in the "Dreamgirls" from Simon Cabaret for a dazzling show.

On the turntables were resident DJ Mikey Mike accompanied by special guest DJ Sitto from Bangkok's Rome Club and Twisted Republic's DJ Charlie.

MC for the night was the endearing Helen. "I've been working here – spent my life here – since the Boat Bar was born. It's been wonderful and I've learned so much from Khun Daeng, who we call 'Pa Daeng' ['Dad Daeng']. He works with us and stands beside all of the staff," she said.

"This is a special day for the Boat Bar," Khun Daeng said. "I don't have a party every year, but this year I thought it would be great to hold a party that lots of my friends and regular customers could join, so I'd like to give a big thanks to everyone for their support."

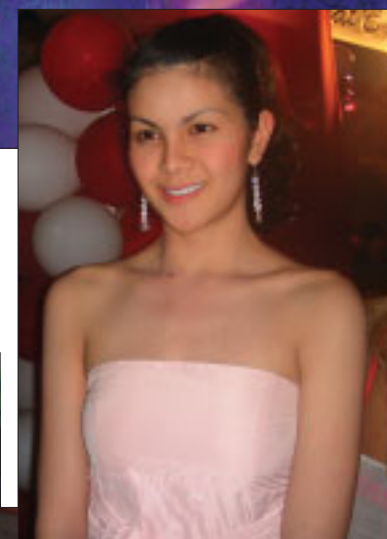
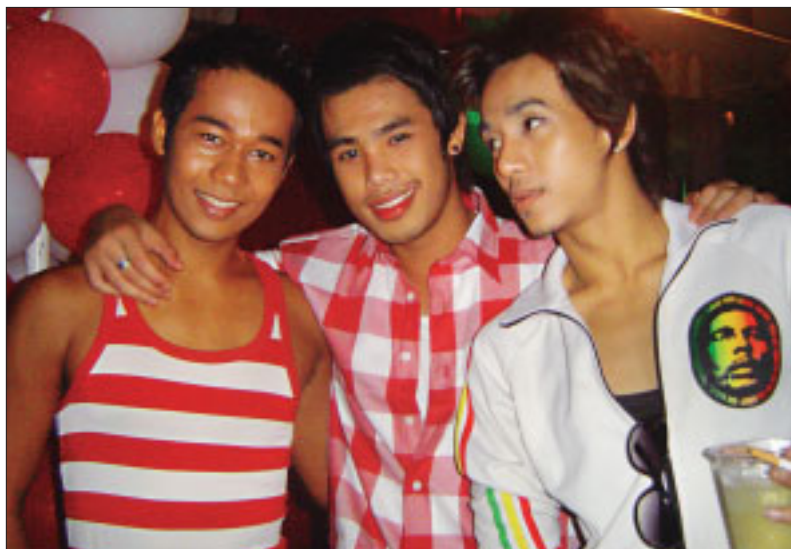
Khun Daeng promises to keep on developing the bar's shows, bringing new experiences to guests every night.



Guests were treated to one of the Boat Bar's renowned stage shows (above), featuring Miss Tiffany 2008 first runner-up Donkamon 'Golf' Khontan (right).

Boys will be boys (below, left) and girls will be girls (below, right).

Below: Boat Bar diva Helen (left) and Khun Daeng talk backstage.



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It's a great shame that many of Thailand's top bands and artists don't play in Phuket. One of the hottest record labels in Thailand is Panda Records, an indie label established in Bangkok in 1999 by three friends who wanted to spread their love of music.

Well respected in the capital, the guys at Panda Records have done a sterling job of putting out some great material.

Case in point: Bear-Garden, also known as June Subnai, makes pop music seemingly at odds with the Thai pop music scene. Her style of singing is so sweet you'll think it's sugar coated.

You need not look any further than her debut album, *I Am a Gardener*, released on Panda Records in 2001. It's hard to believe that anyone in Thailand was making this kind of music seven years ago.

The production work is very fresh, creating an appealing sound that retains its artistic credibility. But it's Bear's voice that is the real attraction. You'll either fall in love with it or you'll fall asleep.

Bear-Garden went on to release three more albums on Panda Records before her latest offering, *A Friend Like Me, Don't Be Afraid*, which is currently in semi-release state on Panda.

Fans of Bear-Garden can download for free one track from the album every month this year until November. The only problem with this is that once that month is over, the track becomes unavailable. It's an odd way of releasing an album because if you're new to Bear-Garden, you've already missed the tracks from January to May. Get 'em while they're hot.

Another band worth checking out on Panda Records are Meawer. Their double-CD album *In Memory of 2538*, actually released in 2546 (2003) is an odd mismatch of pop songs.

CD1 is straight-up pop with a male vocalist who could quite easily pass as the male version of Bear-Garden – just not as lovable.

Meawer make the kind of music that you imagine would confuse the hell out of live audiences, but in the confines of your own headphones, it's happy music with simple melodies and keys. It's not the sort of music you're likely to hear much of on the ra-

# Help! There's a bear in my garden



Bear-Garden, also known as June Subnai, is releasing her latest album one track per month for free download from the Panda Records website.

Silly Fools have that big-band sound that is so popular in Bangkok's club scene in places such as Ratchada. Silly Fools have been making music for more than 10 years and the maturity of their sound stands out in *The One*. The album was released in March, with a limited edition version in April.

There aren't many popular Thai bands who could go through the transformation of changing their lead singer, but vocalist Benjamin Jung Tuffnell is a sound performer on *The One*, which is Silly Fools' first full-length album since the departure of Natapol Puthpawana, who left because playing in venues serving alcohol conflicted with his religious beliefs.

The artwork on *The One* is all kind of i-Robot, with the band members appearing as mecha-noid versions of themselves. If you can access YouTube, check out the video for "No Regrets", which was made by a young guy named Andre Weiss, who lives in Bangkok. Access the video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNuT22tE\\_gc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNuT22tE_gc)

On a slightly different tip, T-Bone released their latest album (available in all Phuket CD stores) in May. *Seasons* features the 10-piece's typical sound, with shades of reggae, ska, jazz and Thai country music molded into a mass of happy-go-lucky songs.

With 14 years behind them,

T-Bone have been around the block and are still producing great music. T-Bone were

also the first Thai band to be invited to play at the Glastonbury Festival, where they did their thing in 2005.

The band headlined this month's Hua Hin Jazz Festival, but, sadly, T-Bone are another act who seem to have played all over Thailand this year without making a stop-off in Phuket.

Panda Records releases can be ordered online from [www.pandarecords.com](http://www.pandarecords.com). Bear-Garden's official website is at [www.pandarecords.com/bear-garden](http://www.pandarecords.com/bear-garden). For more information about T-Bone visit [www.tbone.ska.com](http://www.tbone.ska.com). For more about Silly Fools visit [www.myspace.com/sillyfoolsmusic](http://www.myspace.com/sillyfoolsmusic)

dio, but it's fun and will make you smile.

CD2 takes a turn for the weird. The disc contains a concoction of dreamy synth sounds and glistening melodies that come to life and show signs of influences from the likes of Air and Millenia Nova. This isn't new music, but it's music you probably

won't have heard and it deserves attention.

The music Meawer make resembles the sound that has exploded into the mainstream thanks to current indie stars Crystal Castles. The second CD could easily have come from the soundtrack of an 1980s Sega video game.

That's enough for this week's retro flashback. There is still some decent, less obscure music worthy of your attention. One of the biggest albums so far this year is the latest offering from Silly Fools, titled *The One*.

**Good  
vibes**  
By Matt Crook

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

**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 June 30.

For more information contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

**June 22. TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon.**

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.

Contact Shaun Boulter for more information. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: tri@triballisticclub.com Alternatively email jittima@indigo-pearl.com

**June 22. 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.

Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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

**ESPN Charity Golf and Dinner****July 26**

Fifteen members of the ESPN Star Sports football broadcasting team and Peter Withe, former English football legend, will visit Laguna Phuket to support Laguna's initiative to improve conditions at underprivileged schools in Phang Nga. The stars will play a charity golf tournament followed by a dinner at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

Dinner-only tickets are 2,500 baht per person, inclusive of wine and beer. Team packages and dinner tickets are sold at the Laguna Golf Club Pro Shop.

For details contact the Golf Club Pro Shop. Tel: 076-324374. Email: timh@laguna-phuket.com



**FOOTBALL MAD:** ESPN's Football Crazy presenter Andy Penders will in be Phuket to play golf for a good cause. Whether or not he'll be this happy while on the greens is another matter.

Contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

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

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

**July 2. PR Guru Alastair Carthew Seminar at Mom Tri's Boathouse.**

A get-together for public relations and communications managers of hotels and businesses in Phuket. Informal and informative.

New Zealand PR Guru Alastair Carthew, working in the PR business worldwide for decades, well-known lecturer at New Zealand universities and a TV personality, will conduct a PR seminar at the Boathouse.

Presentation from 10 am until 12:30 pm in the Boathouse Island Lounge. Optional lunch at 500 baht per guest. Mr Carthew's morning seminar is free of charge.

For reservations contact Lisa Sol at the Boathouse. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

**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 proces-

sions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

**July 18-20. Kalim Surfing Contest 2008.**

The fourth annual Kalim Surfing Contest, by Phuket Boardriders Club, will be held July 18 to 20.

This contest aims to promote the sport of surfing to the general public as well as promote tourism in Phuket.

Foreign contestants come

from several countries including the US, Australia, the UK, South Africa, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

Entry forms are available for download from www.phuketboardriders.com

Contact K. Joob for details. Tel: 081-9565854. Email: joob@phuketboardriders.com

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

Occurs one day after the

full-moon day of the eighth lunar month.

Khao Pansa officially marks the beginning of the annual three-month Rains Retreat, during which, Buddhist monks customarily stay at a particular temple in order to study and meditate.

A candle festival is held annually on this day.

**July 22. Green Initiatives in Event Planning: a Seminar.**

"Green Event planning is here to stay," says Shannon Kilkenny, author of *The Complete Guide to Successful Event Planning* - a best-seller - who will present a seminar at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket on green initiatives in event planning.

Sponsored by the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter and Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International, this seminar is essential for all in the hospitality and events industries.

The registration fee of 1,200 baht includes the seminar, refreshments and lunch. From 9:30 am to 3 pm.

Space is limited; book before July 4.

For information and reservations contact Andrew Johnstone. Tel: 076-396139-787. Email: andrew.johnstone@moevenpick.com Website: www.moevenpick-phuket.com

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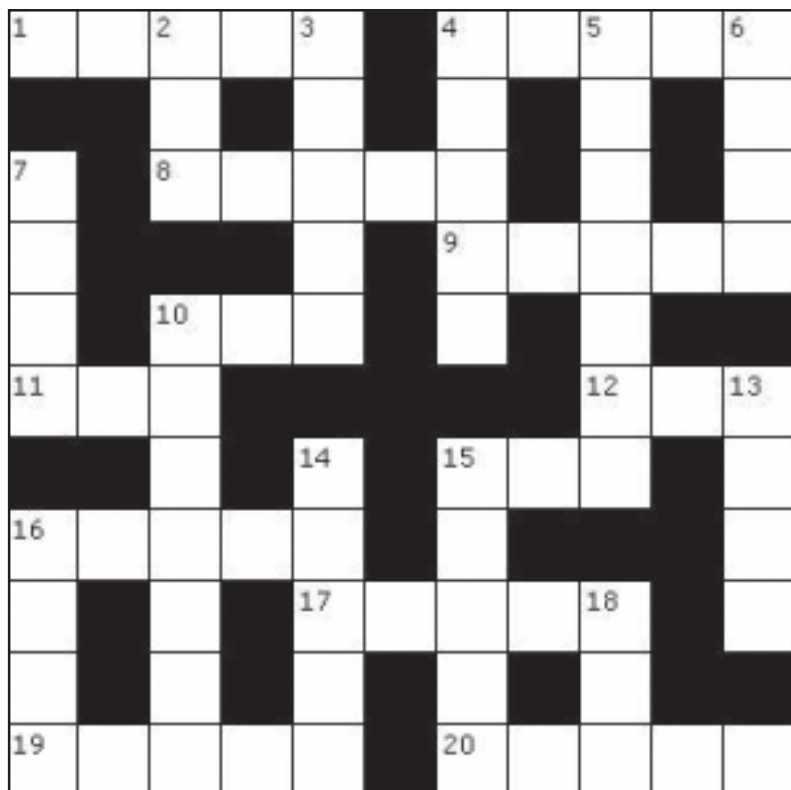


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## Quick Crossword

### Across

1. Italian specialty
4. Royal headgear
8. Subject
9. Used to tie shoes
10. How old you are
11. The... we breathe
12. Our main source of light
15. Belly
16. Malicious burning
17. Boast
19. Baron
20. Part of your arm

### Down

2. Pimple
3. Fruit
4. Ride a bike
5. Misfit
6. Daily happenings
7. Type of cheese
10. Coming into being
13. Geek
14. Heavenly creature
15. Large bird
16. Eve's partner
18. Credit in a bar

*Solution below*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. In Greek mythology, who shot the arrow that eventually killed Achilles?
2. What other name is he known as?
3. Which computer hacker group became famous for its Back Orifice Trojan horse?
4. Which cult claimed responsibility for the 1995 gas poisonings at Tokyo subway stations?
5. How many people died in those attacks?
6. What is the official name of Japan's legislature ("House of Representatives" and the "Senate" combined)?
7. What was the current Dalai Lama's birth name?
8. What does "Dalai" literally mean?
9. Who is the current Pope?
10. What does "Pope" literally mean?
11. What is an aglet?
12. Which movie was the first Hollywood hit that Brad Pitt appeared in?
13. Which current Hollywood star was the male lead in the same movie?
14. Whose name does he have tattooed on his left bicep?
15. What does Actress Angelina Jolie have tattooed on the base of her neck?
16. Which trophy will be presented to the winners of Euro 2008?
17. Which country won the first European Championships Cup and in which year?
18. In that same year, which country elected the world's first female prime minister?
19. What was her name?
20. Whom did she replace as prime minister?

*Answers below*

# Puzzle Solutions

### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



### Monster Quiz Answers

1. Paris; 2. Alexander; 3. Cult of the Dead Cow; 4. Aum Shinrikyo, now known as Aleph; 5. 12; 6. National Diet of Japan; 7. Lhamo Döndrub); 8. Ocean; 9. Pope Benedict XVI; 10. Papa, or father; 11. The bound end of a shoelace; 12. Less Than Zero; 13. Robert Downey Jr; 14. Suzie Q; 15. "Know your rights"; 16. The Henri Delaunay trophy; 17. USSR, 1960; 18. Ceylon (now Sri Lanka); 19. Sirimavo Bandaranaike; 20. Soloman Bandaranaike, her murdered husband.

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

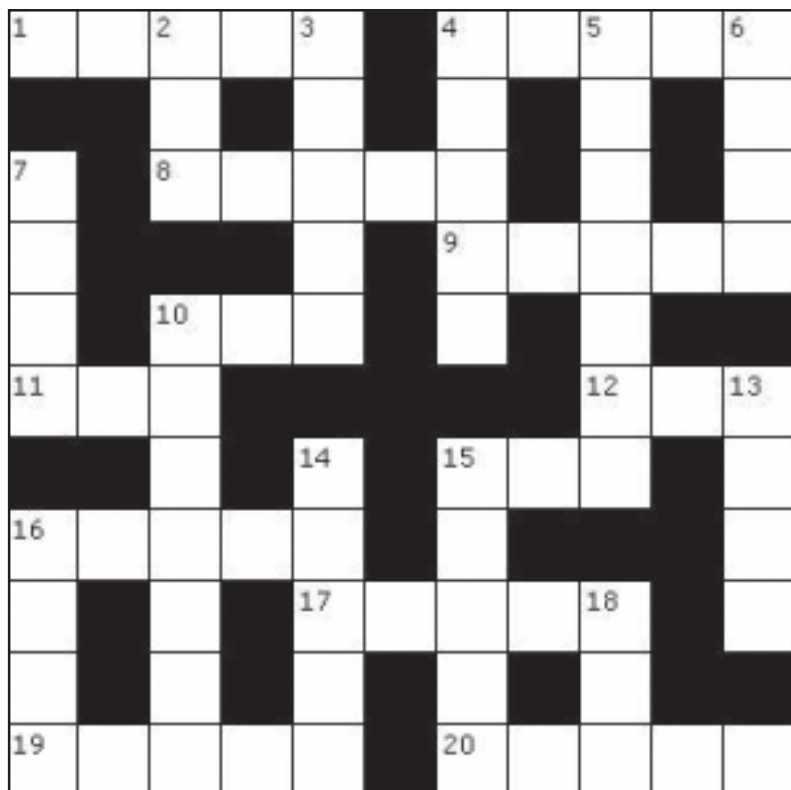
### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

BOTANIC	GRIDS	SHAPE	HAMPERS
CAN	CHORE	HEFTY	ELDER
SHAKIER	OFFAL	IDLES	MINARET
REL	DIRGE	LEDGE	VERSA
RELET	S	R	C
E	TACTIC	GATEAUX	MONACO
MUESLI	T	A	V
A	N	KNEADS	OOZES
I	VASE	L	P
NEON	MAIMED	UMA	GETOUT
LYCRA	A	C	PSALM
E	H	SONATA	H
SCOOP	O	BSIDE	RIODEL
T	R	EMMA	L
DRAWS	P	CREME	BRAVO
O	O	CHOKED	T
DEMUR	V	L	STYLE
VERA	ONAPAR	EEL	RECALL
O	ONES	T	T
I	D	ASPIRE	MILER
CREATE	O	D	C
E	PEDANT	BALDING	LETSGO
SHORN	B	D	E
E	O	BORNE	MATHS
SLOPPED	UNDID	ALICE	LOCATES
L	O	RESTS	MILLE
POISONS	SEVEN	EDITS	DEFENDS

### Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle







## Quick Crossword

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8	6	1	5	9	7	4	2	3
3	7	9	2	4	1	6	8	5
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### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

BOTANIC	GRIDS	SHAPE	HAMPERS
CAN	CHORE	HEFTY	ELDER
SHAKIER	OFFAL	IDLES	MINARET
RRL	DIRGE	LEDGE	VERSA
RELET	S	R	C
E	TACTIC	GATEAUX	MONACO
MUESLI	T	A	V
A	N	KNEADS	OOZES
I	VASE	L	P
NEON	MAIMED	UMA	GETOUT
LYCRA	A	C	PSALM
E	H	SONATA	H
SCOOP	O	BSIDE	RIODEL
T	R	EMMA	L
DRAWS	P	CREME	BRAVO
O	O	CHOKED	T
DEMUR	V	L	STYLE
VERA	ONAPAR	EEL	RECALL
O	ONES	T	T
I	D	ASPIRE	MILER
CREATE	O	D	C
E	PEDANT	BALDING	LETSGO
SHORN	B	D	E
E	O	BORNE	MATHS
SLOPPED	UNDID	ALICE	LOCATES
L	O	RESTS	MILLE
POISONS	SEVEN	EDITS	DEFENDS

### Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle







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# In search of the lost terroir

Wine is a product not only of grapes, but of soil, climate and weather; of flora and fauna; of human art and romance – in a word, of *terroir*. For the uninitiated, *terroir* is a once-innocent French word used by denizens of Mondo Vino to mean much more than “land”, which is all its Latin root signifies.

Some argue it embraces all that lies, lives or breathes where grapes are grown. Others narrow the definition somewhat. Olivier Krug, of the celebrated Champagne house, defined *terroir* as “the combined effect of all in nature: topography, soil, subsoil and climate”.

Winemakers whose products exude these subtle influences are accounted great talents. But a few unromantic cynics insist that talk of *terroir* amounts to little more than blowing smoke. “Wine,” they say, “is most unnaturally arrived at; it is manipulated from first to last. Nothing survives but what the winemaker wants; where is there nature in that?”

“Wouldn’t *terroir* include nuclear warfare?” wondered an American wine critic. A good question and – in a Roundup-Ready world of reverse osmosis, nano-filtration and flavor-mapping – one that’s difficult to refute.

But could one find a wine maker who eschewed pesticides, fertilizers and the rest; who disdained even temperature-controlled cellars, cultured yeast and new French oak – wouldn’t it be fair to talk of his wine’s *terroir*?

It would, and the winemaker is found. His name: Alain Chabanon, of Domaine Chabanon in the Languedoc’s department of Hérault in southern France. Chabanon, 48, who with partner Pierre Metz visited Rawai’s Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa recently for a wine-tasting dinner, is modest and conservative – yet he harbors an iconoclasm that challenges the modern industry to its very roots.

That wouldn’t matter much, of course, if he didn’t make good wine. But he does – great wine; wine that rivals the champions of Bordeaux and the Rhone. Moreover, he does it in the bulk-wine producing Midi-Pyrénées

Chabanon employs organic growing methods, with few machines and indeed with his own hands for he employs only three



Marque A Rome (left) chats with organic wine maker Alain Chabanon of Domaine Chabanon from the Languedoc’s department of Hérault in southern France.

persons. Bordeaux’s famous, fabulously expensive first growths count their output by the hundreds of thousands of cases. Chabanon counts his in bottles.

“I could make a lot more wine if I used non-organic techniques,” he admitted. “But it’s a choice [made to express the *terroir*]. If I wanted only to make money, I’d do it differently,” he said.

Who is this David that can batter mighty Petrus into submission? A champion whose character was revealed during a dinner at Evason’s Into the Med restaurant that matched Chabanon’s upstart wines with the cuisine of Justin Maiklem, formerly chef to the Sultan of Brunei.

“We’re concentrating tonight on flavors you may find new,” the chef announced after our group of about 20 was seated. “Has anybody had *wakame* before?”

Several wondered audibly what it was. In fact, it is a hardy

seaweed commonly found in miso soup. Had he asked, “Has anyone ever eaten seaweed?” Probably all would have answered, “Yes”. But that would have been letting on...

Dinner was eclectic. Australian Maiklem’s oeuvres require long hours to prepare. “*Audendo atque agendo*”, Latin for “by daring and by doing”, is the motto of Maiklem’s alma mater, Perth’s Wesley College, and not unfitting of his uniquely personal recipes.

But the focus, inevitably, was on Alain Chabanon and his wines.

Hors d’oeuvres were served with Rose Tremier, an unusually well-structured Mourvedre-Grenache-Carignan blend redolent of allspice and blackberries, with enough character to support savory dishes.

Chabanon, as quickly became apparent, has a talent for smoothing out the rough tannins that often coarsen wines made from Grenache, Carignan, Mourvedre and Syrah – his principal grapes.

His wines are so smooth it is hard to believe most are only a few years old. In conversation after dinner, he noted that “a wine may be quite tannic but seem not so because the tannins are smaller”; that is, their surface area is less. Conversely, a wine with fewer but “bigger” tannins may feel much more tannic than it is.

Our first course was of seared, poached and marinated scallops, set on the aforementioned *wakame* with shellfish lemongrass jelly; the result was at once sweet, sour and tasty.

With this was served

Chabanon’s lusciously viscous 2004 Trelans white, a mix of Vermentino and Chenin Blanc aged one year in old French oak and matured for 30 months before bottling. Flavor notes hint of herbs, honey, apple and citrus. Remarkable complexity and longevity is lent by the Vermentino, a powerful white varietal little planted outside its native Italian and French regions.

“It will be great in nine years,” the winemaker pontificated, “and will last 15.”

Next came a dish of ocean trout on a walnut and potato salad. With this the chef paired the garnet-colored, deeply aromatic unfiltered Grenache (90%) mix Chabanon calls

Les Boissieres. Reminiscent of Chateaufort du Pape, it is spicy without being tannic – a fruit-forward wine with slight herbal notes and a clean finish. 2000 Les Boissieres famously topped Chateaufort du Pape Chateau Rayas – generally accorded top honors in the appellation – at a blind tasting *Financial Times* wine critic Jancis Robinson later made much of.

It is on the strength of Les Boissieres and his Merlot-based Merle aux Alouettes that Chabanon is acclaimed a “master of style” in the European press.

The wine with the greatest “wow!” factor at the Evason tasting, however, was the 2006 Syrah-based Campredon. Dark. Incredibly viscous, the Campredon’s delightful peppery, cherry-like nose will delight any Rhone Ranger and should com-

bine well with hearty dishes of roast pork or beef. For us diners, Chef Justin produced a thin slice of cold Angus beef topped with Parmesan tempura of Enoki and sweet black vinegar glaze. Tasty and savory.

To accompany Chabanon’s now famous Merle aux Alouettes Merlot-Mourvedre blend, we had tasty lamb flame-cooked with chickpea Morel ragu and aubergine puree. Ours was the winemaker’s 2004 vintage of Merlot; the ’99 vintage topped ’99 Chateau Petrus – perhaps Bordeaux’s most esteemed red – in a well-publicized blind tasting. Chabanon’s Merlot is priced at 20 euros in France; Petrus at... well, bidding begins at around 900. It is a superb wine, dark and unctuous, aromatic of plums and cloves; well structured yet soft.

With dessert of apple pie, nuts and apple and maple syrup sorbet was served Le Villard, a Chenin Blanc finished in the style of Barsac or Sauternes. It was a mating of two vintages.

“One vintage, at 18.5%, was too alcoholic,” explained Chabanon, “so I wanted to...”

“Throw it out,” said Metz.

“But I thought to keep it in barrels. Then I had a vintage with too much sugar and not enough alcohol.” So he combined them, making a wine to which the word “dessert” is most apt: colored like the setting sun, sweet, tangy and aromatic of baked apples and nuts. Great.

Chabanon, 48, tends about 40 acres of vines. In recent decades, however, the Midi’s image has gradually grown to include something very different than bulk wine: it is now a crucible of change, where young French winemakers challenge the traditions defining French production.

Montpellier, where he was born, is home to one of Europe’s oldest, most illustrious universities. Chabanon studied there and in Bordeaux, obtaining a degree in viticulture before working with “two of Europe’s greatest winemakers”: Count Peraldi on

**Rare vintage**  
By Marque Rome

Corsica (where he became better acquainted with Vermentino),

and Alain Brumont in Madiran, one of southwest France’s great “little” appellations.

Though iconoclastic by modern paradigms, Domain Chabanon sees organic methods as traditionalist. “Fertilizers first appeared in French wine-making after World War II,” explained Metz, “before that it was all organic.” Thus Domain Chabanon wine-making techniques are not fashionably new, “just back to basics”.

Metz told the gathering of his and Chabanon’s pride at being selected for presentation by the hotel, noting that their domain doesn’t do supermarkets. “We want to be in countries around the world,” he said, “but only in the best places” – which is a fitting goal as such places are, can we say, their natural “*terroir*”.



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# We'll always have Paris

Gregor Dallas is a historian best known for his War and Peace trilogy covering the vital years of 1815, 1918 and 1945. In his slender new book, *Metrostop Paris* (John Murray, London, 2008, 240pp), he skates along on a clever conceit that allows him to present a pleasing jumble of a dozen historical eras.

Subtitled "History from the City's Heart", the book opens with a map of the Paris Metro and Dallas takes the reader through various neighborhoods and the historic personages attached to them. It's both educational and entertaining.

Thus you move from Adolf Hitler admiring the view of Paris from the top of Trocadero Hill, to the house where writer Anaïs Nin impulsively knocked on the door of psychiatrist Dr Otto Rank with whom she launched a passionate affair in parallel to her old one with Henry Miller.

And then we're in Montparnasse, the haunt of the American Lost Generation. Then it's St Germain des Pres and the cafes where the post-war existentialists hung out.

In the Deux Magots cafe "an extreme leftist would talk with an unconditional Gaulist, a Catholic with an anticlerical or a Jew.

"The only thing de rigueur was tolerance."

The true philosophical giants were Gabriel Marcel and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, though Jean-Paul Sartre grabbed the publicity with his turgid novels and plays. Dallas properly eviscerates the hypocrisy of the Stalinist poseur.

And then Dallas announces a change of scene to the first bishop of the city, St Denis, decapitated by a Roman legionnaire in the year 272.

He follows this with a delightful overview of the struggle for control of Europe among the various Germanic tribes after the fall of the Roman Empire.

"For a German king, Theodoric was a most civilized man," he writes.

"He had enjoyed the benefit of being held hostage as a child by Zeno in Constantinople, where he learned the Greek and Roman classics, so that he would become one of the few German patrons of writers. Zeno had not appreciated the overthrow in 476 of the last Western Roman emperor, Romulus Augustus, and so let loose his hostage, learned Theodoric, in northern Italy."

Theodoric invited his rival King Odoacer to a great banquet:

"Odoacer sat down next to the scholarly Theodoric, who pulled out a dagger



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

and nimbly slit his neighbor's throat – a sign to his followers to slaughter all the other guests.

"Thus did Theodoric become Great, the new master of Italy and wise man of Europe."

Next we're in Chatelet-Les Halles, the haunt of novelist Emile Zola, and a tour de horizon of belle epoch Paris teeming with literary genius – Gide, Wilde, Proust – and the great Dreyfus controversy.

This in turn leads to the strange tale of the anti-Semite Marquis de Mores, who died in 1896:

"He had been felled by a bullet in the side and another in the neck after facing off, with his Colt .45, fifty desert ban-

ditions of the Tuareg and Chamba tribes in southern Algeria."

Before that he had been an officer in the French army, a banker in New York with a rich American wife, a cowboy in North Dakota, a tiger hunter in India and a railroad builder in north Vietnam, fighting off the Black Flag pirate gang.

There are innumerable historical nuggets like this studded throughout the book. Dallas has a keen idea for the weird detail and you follow his lead gratefully.

"From the Opera you can take Line No. 7 down to the Palais Royal, which will put you in the heart of the most frequently visited part of Paris," Dallas writes, leading into a panoramic view of the French monarchy and the reasons behind the French Revolution.

"Play and corruption were organized in the Palais Royal; the higher you ascended, the more grotesque the vice."

The last image he leaves us with is Oscar Wilde praying at Notre Dame cathedral after learning of the sudden death of his wife.

The sun streams through the stained-glass windows amid the pealing strains of an organ. "No person at that time, or even less today, could imagine what lay within that great soul so devoted to the pursuit of beauty."

# Finding a happy medium

How do you decide between "due" and "owing" in sentences such as "The event was postponed due to the weather"? Many years ago, when I was at school in England, I used "due".

My English teacher crossed it out and said I should have used "owing". She gave the reason, but I didn't take it in and instead have always used "owing" whenever I'm tempted to use "due", on the assumption that I'm probably about to make the same mistake that I did all those years ago.

Pam Marriott  
Kingston, Ontario

### Barbara replies:

You've described perfectly an impulse many of us have: We don't remember a rule, but we remember that one exists, so we come up with a work-around to keep ourselves from being wrong.

Well, other people use "due", so eventually we start feeling aggrieved that we've ruled it out for ourselves. You've done the right thing to ask the question and seek an answer.

In strict traditional usage, only nouns are "due to" something. For instance, a postponement might be due to the weather. Whole clauses, though, such as, "The event was postponed..." are supposed to be "owing to" or "because of".

I follow that rule, but it's

Welcome to Word Court, where Barbara Wallraff unravels some of the mystery that shrouds the English language, debunking confusing usage and clearing away the clutter that stops clear understanding – all by answering reader's questions.

quite old-fashioned. These days, some authorities recommend that we ignore it. I agree with them to the extent that "The event was postponed owing to the weather" sounds a bit highbrow and that "The postponement of the event was due to the weather" is just as bad.

However, I must concede that "The event was postponed due to the weather" is a whole lot better than "The event was postponed because of the weather."

Since you already have an alarm bell that goes off in your head when you're about to say "due to", why not respond to it by saying "because of" whenever this phrase makes sense? When "because of" isn't right, go ahead and say "due to" – now with confidence.

Two questions: Is the proper phrase "happy medium" or "happy median"? And is it "to buy time" or "to bide time"?

Michael Meuti  
Columbus, Ohio

### Barbara replies:

At first I thought you were

published in 1778: "All extremes are ridiculous: the happy medium is to be aimed at."

As for "buy time" and "bide time", they're both standard phrases, but with different meanings. To "buy time" means "to increase the time available to do something".

For example, here is a quote from Wired News: "The surge was a strategy designed to buy time and space for Iraq's political leaders to make critical political concessions that would allow the US Military..."

To "bide time" means "to wait".

This example is from the United Press International news service: "Many buyers continue to bide their time with a large number of homes to choose from."



Barbara Wallraff is a weekly syndicated columnist for *King Features* and a contributing editor and words columnist at *The Atlantic Monthly*, where she has worked since 1983.

  
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## New police chief has his work cut out

New Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Apirak Hongtong can expect to have his 30 years of leadership experience tested in trying to improve the work of the 1,100-member Phuket Provincial Police.

As Gen Apirak freely admits, many police officers on the island are too busy running what he euphemistically called “side businesses” to devote themselves fully to the duties they swore to uphold when they were inducted into the Royal Thai Police.

So devoted to these “businesses” are many officers that their effectiveness in protecting and serving the public is typically reduced to half of what it should be, while some officers make no effort at all.

While such a statement may ring of editorial hyperbole, it comes from the words of Gen Apriak (See First Person, on facing page).

While this level of dereliction may be distressing, the reality in some cases is worse – as indicated by the life story of recently murdered former Kathu Police sergeant Decho “Sia Decho” Kaewnabon (see News pages).

After his dismissal from the force after being caught allegedly smuggling illegal Burmese workers into Phuket five years ago, Decho continued as part of the racket, eventually amassing a personal fortune large enough to gain him the honorific title “Sia” conferred upon Thai tycoons.

Some may wonder why the 54 souls who suffocated in the back of a cold-storage truck in Ranong in April had to be so secretly concealed, when truckloads of densely packed Burmese workers – many illegal – are such an everyday sight on the bypass road at dawn and dusk.

The answer lies in how the various rackets involved compete in exploiting these poor workers’ desperation for their own financial gain. It doesn’t take a genius to connect the dots and understand just how capricious the dark industry is. If Gen Apriak feels up to the challenge, he has our full support.

There are no laws we are aware of that restrict police officers from setting up legitimate businesses to augment their notoriously low salaries, though a strong argument could be made that there should be.

Perhaps Gen Apirak could start by having all officers in Phuket submit lists of any legitimate business interests they have on the island. At the very least, such a list would certainly come in handy for future reference.

– The Editor

**Do you have an opinion you want to share?**  
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## Letters

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

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

### Discovering more to Phuket than Patong

There was a recent article on the *National Geographic* website that stated that Phuket is “in serious trouble” thanks to overdevelopment on the island. I’m sure a lot of people read the article as a link was posted on a popular local forum.

A group of panelists gave their opinions about Phuket. One of them wrote, “No building code harmonizing construction with the natural settings, especially on Pathong [sic] beach (ugly high-rise building). We missed the window of opportunity after the 2004 tsunami to clean out illegal coastal development.”

Funny how this “expert” can’t even spell “Patong”. I don’t think I have ever seen it spelled with an H. I also haven’t seen many high-rise buildings in Patong, but even if I had, is Patong the only part of Phuket? I think not.

Another panelist wrote, “Phuket’s original charm as an astonishingly beautiful, unspoiled, and culturally rich destination has been completely lost.”

It’s this kind of ignorant attitude that really haunts Phuket. Sure, there are some parts of the island that have lost their original appeal, but these are the parts that smart travelers would avoid. I would have thought that the guys from *Nat Geo* were smart travelers. It isn’t that hard to find decent places to go in Phuket.

And then came this: “Reputation for bars and illicit activities overwhelm the natural charm of the Thai people.”

Again, this sounds like Patong. My bet is that the folks from *Nat Geo* spent a weekend

in Patong and then had the cheek to complain about doing so.

“Pathong [sic] is a classical sex-tourism destination.” You get the feeling that maybe these learned experts aren’t all that sharp.

Perhaps some solace can be taken from the fact that Phuket was only sixth from bottom in the rankings, coming in ahead of Jamaica and Ibiza.

Burt Banana  
Phuket City

### Smoke and mirrors

In reading your editorial comment [*Gazette*, June 14-20] about the public hearing for the Ao Phuket project, I was struck by your assertion that it “passed the acid test” for initial public hearings.

While it’s great that the public was given a forum in which to air grievances about the project, the reality is that this is just another ruse by the people who are determined to push this project through at all costs.

In 2003, at a meeting held to vote on the siting of a conference center, the *Gazette* reported that “government officials, business leaders and members of the public voted overwhelmingly in favor of Tah Chat Chai, with 226 votes, compared to 19 for Saphan Hin, 17 for Khao Khad on Ao Makham and just seven for a site opposite Suan Luang Park in Phuket Town”.

The report said that even the mayor of Phuket Town at the time, Phummasak Hongsyok, was opposed to the Saphan Hin (“Ao Phuket”) project.

Back in 2003, I talked to several people in the community about this project – including an architect/urban planner and an

official in the Town and Country Planning Department – and it was clear that this project was not in the public interest in any way.

Five years later, another meeting is held with the same result. So now what? Will they keep holding these things until the public tires of it and gives up?

It is very premature to judge a public hearing to be a “success” when clearly the public sentiment has been resolutely ignored in the past. There’s no valor in standing there and listening to someone scream at you in protest until your subsequent actions prove that they have been heard.

This public hearing was an absolute sham, no doubt about it.

Susan  
Chalong

### Give us more to read on the weekends

Since the beginning of the *Phuket Gazette*, I have bought your newspaper every week, but as I read the Daily News on the *Gazette* website two or three times a day, I read the same text that appears in the newspaper before it is even printed.

When I get the newspaper, it takes just a few minutes to read the extra information, such as Inside Story, Phuket People, features, the editorial, letters and perspectives.

May I suggest that you add a few more topics about Phuket activities and sports in order to have something more to read at the weekend, even if we have to pay a few extra baht for the privilege.

I think many readers would be happy with that.

Guy Lidureau  
Phuket

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net).



# Phuket's top cop calls for change in police attitudes

**F**irst of all I would like to say that I don't know why I have been given the chance to return to Phuket so quickly, especially as I was only six months ago promoted to major general and assigned to work as Ranong Provincial Police Commander.

I have been an officer with the Royal Thai Police since 1975 and have had a good deal of experience here in Phuket, having served as superintendent of Phuket Immigration Police from 2001 to 2003 before being promoted to deputy commander of Phuket Provincial Police.

In 2004, I took a leave of absence to try and win a seat on the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) as a Thai Rak Thai party candidate, but was unsuccessful.

I also served as head of the Thai Disaster Victim Identification (TDVI) center [formerly known as the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) center] in Phang Nga, before being transferred to Ranong, where I served as deputy commander until my appointment to commander six months ago.

I am honor-bound to uphold my oath as an officer of the Royal Thai Police, but it is not really a dream job for me.

Some 30 years ago, I passed the police entrance exam and an exam to study construction engineering at university.

Now I see that my friends who chose the other path own their own construction businesses and have had the chance to study and travel abroad.

The only thing I can do now is to advise my children and

## FIRST PERSON

**T**he island's police force has a new leader in Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Apirak Hongthong. A 54-year-old native of Bangkok, Gen Apirak moved to Phuket from Ranong, where he was Provincial Police Commander, a position he held when 54 illegal Burmese workers perished in the back of a truck en route to Phuket in April.

Gen Apirak, whose motto is 'fast action brings the best results', plans to root out unscrupulous behavior in the ranks and develop a better work ethic among officers.



young relatives to steer clear of a life in the police force.

During my 18 months in Ranong there was very little crime.

There are not a lot of Thai people living there, but there are huge numbers of Burmese. Smuggling is always a problem when you have such a long border.

Thai police officers typically like to drink and spend their nights carousing with women.

I guess I am strange in this respect because I prefer to inspect the work of the patrol police in the evenings. Some officers have labeled me a black sheep, but as a general I don't let it bother me.

Any officer under my com-

mand who neglects my policies or doesn't carry out my orders will run into trouble with me because my ultimate goal is to reduce to zero the crime rate in any district or jurisdiction to which I am assigned.

We have to accept that Phuket has a high crime rate. To combat this we need to rebuild the police force so that it can better carry out its duty of protecting the entire population, including tourists.

I have to improve the work ethic of my officers.

Most police officers here their own businesses on the side, so I think the maximum effort we are getting out of most of them is about 50%. Some others are giving only 30% or 20%,

while some give no effort at all.

It's impossible for me to turn this situation around just by working like crazy on my own, so I will try to make systematic improvements.

I plan to bring in some specialist trainers from other provinces or Royal Thai Police headquarters.

The current economic situation, with the soaring cost of living, is going to make police work here challenging, especially in the upcoming peak season when police will have to be on high alert.

I took up this position on June 9 and immediately ordered a crackdown on illicit drugs. The result was a large number of arrests, in which many of the sus-

pects were found in possession of guns; they were ready to commit crimes.

One of the problems I am confronted with now is officers who fail to follow the chain of command, instead choosing their own bosses.

If they ignore my orders or policies that means we can't work together. I plan to call a meeting of all high-ranking police to make this plain.

I need hard-working, duty-bound officers so that crime cases can be closed swiftly.

When I was in Ranong, most cases were solved within 18 hours. This is very different from the current situation here in Phuket.

Phuket has about 1,100 police officers. I think this is sufficient when compared with Ranong, where we had only 800 officers assigned to cover seven [administrative] districts, making confronting illegal Burmese migrants frightening.

Phuket has only three districts, so I think the focus on the total number of officers is not as important as maximizing the effectiveness of the officers already here.

I start work at 7 am every day, but I have told my duty officers to keep me informed of all significant cases on the island, regardless of the time, because I want to command the response effort and be involved from the outset.

I worry about them failing to stay alert or getting lazy, as people tend to be when they know the boss is not watching.

I plan to meet with the leaders of any Phuket communities of more than 100 people to learn about their problems and see what kind of help they need from the police.

I will also go to every police station in Phuket and get feedback from low-ranking officers to see what problems they have. I don't intend to listen solely to the top-ranking officers in each station.

One thing I don't want to see here or in any province I am assigned to is public protests, as these are bad for the image of the province and can harm tourism.

I plan to discuss this directly with community leaders and encourage them to engage in dialog before resorting to mob action.

I need help from the people of Phuket to cut down crime. If people have crimes or leads to report, they can email me at [pk.itpolice@royalthaipolice.go.th](mailto:pk.itpolice@royalthaipolice.go.th) or call me directly on my mobile at 081-8936767.

— Compiled by  
**Sangkhae Leelanaporn**

## Double-entry visa stamp mistake

I am an Austrian citizen who is married to a Thai lady. We were married in South Africa a year ago.

Over the past year, I have been in and out of Thailand six times.

During my most recent visit to South Africa, I applied for a double-entry non-immigrant O visa.

At the Royal Thai Embassy in Pretoria, I was informed this would give me the right to stay in Thailand for two three-month periods.

I paid 880 rand for that visa, twice as much as a single-entry three-month visa.

After spending three

months in Thailand, we traveled to Europe.

Upon returning to Thailand with my wife, the officer at passport control informed me that I was allowed to stay in Thailand for only one month before I would have to leave the country again.

Please enlighten me, as my IQ is not high enough to understand this.

Gunter Steinhart  
Phuket

**Pol Col Paweena Boonsutthi, Phuket Airport Immigration Superintendent, replies:**

According to your visa, you should have been given a stamp

for a 90-day stay. It appears as though you were given a 30-day stamp in error by our staff when checking it at the passport control point.

Therefore, I would like you

## 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.**

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to contact me in person and bring your passport so I may check it again.

You may call me directly at the number 081-6394080 to make an appointment.



# The new dog on the block

A growing number of local Thai people are concerned with the effect that development is having on Phuket's environment, with groups dedicated to protecting turtles, the mangrove swamps, monkeys and snakes.

Although there are many local people who help street dogs, organizations devoted to tackling the problem of stray animals on the island have usually been started by foreigners. Even though organizations such as the Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) are staffed and run mostly by Thais, the management is still predominantly carried out by foreign volunteers.

It was refreshing, therefore, to meet a Thai man who is trying to address the balance.

Narong "Peter" Phromjitta, 39, is a native of Chiang Mai, but has lived on Phuket for the past 10 years.

Fluent in English, K. Peter runs BMS Events, which manages events, promotions and product launches.

After adopting a mixed-breed dog, he realized what wonderful companions dogs make if treated and trained correctly. He also began to notice how many dogs were wandering the streets, neglected.

Concluding that people need just as much training as their dogs, K. Peter founded [www.phuketdog.com](http://www.phuketdog.com)

With about 150 members, the website is free to join and has an active forum. K. Peter points out that he is not in competition with other dog organizations as he has neither the funds nor the time to tackle the stray-dog population. Instead, he focuses on educating people about responsible ownership.

Too many people, he points out, buy a cute puppy without realizing that it could grow into a large dog that can live for more than 15 years and costs money to feed and provide veterinary treatment for.

Through [www.phuketdog.com](http://www.phuketdog.com) – currently only in Thai with an English-language forum available – K. Peter is attracting dog owners from Phuket and beyond.

"People need to realize that it is wrong to let their dogs wander the streets where they will mate with other dogs, producing unwanted puppies, and to let them foul their neighbors' yards and footpaths," said K. Peter.

"Responsible ownership is about keeping your dog under control. It is good to exercise them in parks or on beaches, but owners should take plastic bags with them and remove droppings. They should not allow their dogs to spoil the environment for others. It's not the dogs fault, but the owners," he added.

"If you don't want puppies, then your dog must be sterilized," he said.

As well as the website, Peter also organizes rallies – currently about four per year – where members and their dogs get together for days out. The last two were held at Nai Yang Beach and were a great success.

A few foreigners have joined in the rallies and Peter hopes more will follow.

The rallies also have a more serious purpose. K. Peter uses his website to help dogs in Phuket's dog pound. "Our last rally started [at the dog pound] and we donated sacks of food and raised money to buy a new well pump for the pound. The old one had broken, which meant there was no water for the dogs or for the staff to clean with," he said.

K. Peter is not against the pound, in principle, but points out that it was built as a result of the previous administration's policy and that no money has been made available by the central government to run it.

"The central government should provide the funding to feed these dogs and give them veterinary treatment," he added. "The head of the Livestock Department tells me they have no budget and must rely on local *OrBorTor* to give them money, but many do not do this," said K. Peter.

(One point of note is that SDF spent more than 2 million baht improving the shel-

ter and provided an on-site vet and other staff, as well as paying utility bills, having been told exactly the same thing. A few months ago, SDF was told that its help was no longer needed, as there was now a budget to run the pound properly.)

K. Peter raised the issue of the growing number of large, aggressive dogs, such as American pitbulls, that are proliferating on the island.

"There is nothing wrong in owning such dogs. Many make great pets and have responsible owners, but

unfortunately some owners are not responsible and these dogs can then cause problems. It is the owners who are the problem and that is what we are trying to change," he said.

K. Peter added that he is aware that some large dogs are used for dog fighting in Phuket and that he is against the "sport".

"I want [*Phuket Gazette* readers] to join our club and to help the dog community. If a foreigner can aid me in translating our website, it would also be a great help," said K. Peter.

"Take care of your dog and remember your social responsibilities."

To contact Top Dog, email [topdog@phuketgazette.net](mailto:topdog@phuketgazette.net)



## MAKING TRACKS

By Top Dog

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Where work matters are concerned, those of you who have recently been caught between a rock and a hard place can look forward to pressures easing this week. A dream you have this weekend provides creative inspiration and Capricorn is prepared to help you change direction. Tuesday is the best day for making romantic overtures. If your birthday falls during the coming days, expect the year ahead to bring greatly improved financial circumstances.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): An overdue payment is forecast to arrive before the end of the month, which should enable you to plan a holiday. The stars suggest that you could be about to encounter a problem related to romance and will discover whether someone's heart is really in the right place. On Mon-

day, being in the right place at the right time will ensure that a lucrative business deal is sealed. The number 1 is lucky this weekend.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You will discover that there's more going on in a rock pool than first apparent. Libra, in particular, has been keeping secrets, but all will be revealed this week. Pace your energy this weekend as busy days lie ahead. Your dedication and reliability could help to land a new job; Wednesday is the best day to impress those with influence. Wear the color shell pink to soften your demeanor.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Your talents for burying your head in the sand when you should be attending to important matters could compromise a working relationship. You are advised to devote some quality hours to taking

care of business during the last week of June. Turning friendship into romance proves to be trickier than you anticipated, but the astral signs are encouraging. The scent of peppermint oil can help to sharpen your senses.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Unforeseen circumstances could mean that you need to change carefully made plans this weekend. Try not to lose patience with friends who want to help you; Leo is tiring of being taken for granted. Your financial situation is highlighted to look healthier by the end of the month and new investments are currently well starred. Wearing the color violet can encourage more spiritual insight.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Singletons will be heartened by events due to take place during the last week of

June. Aries would like to know what floats your boat and Leo is still interested despite showing a happy-go-lucky attitude. Monday is the best day for resolving a difference of opinion with a work colleague. A chance meeting this weekend can help business to prosper later in the year. The number 4 is lucky this weekend.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Your self-discipline helps you overtake others in a race towards success at work. Those of you who are tiring of your talents being taken for granted will have reason to celebrate by the end of this month. Where romance is concerned, Pisces is becoming starry-eyed when they see you and could make a tentative gesture this weekend.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): You are advised to keep your feet on the ground this week. Your dreamy attitude towards business could mean that a golden opportunity slips by. Leo likes the idea of getting to know you better, but has some personal unfinished business to attend to first. Impulse buying can lead to regret this weekend – take a Taurean friend on a shopping trip to ensure a practical second opinion.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Your reluctance to be pushy will mean that you miss out on chances to get ahead. This is particularly true in the world of business, but could also apply in romantic affairs. Taking tips from a confident Scorpio is advisable,

but Libra doesn't have your best interests at heart. This Saturday is the best day for traveling further afield if you're searching for new accommodation. The number 5 can be lucky on Thursday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): If you are business-minded, you will surge ahead during the final week of June. Your streamlined energy will guarantee that no mistakes are made, but there could be a near miss mid-week when Libra is forgetful. Putting romance on the back burner is likely to upset a new partner; taking some quality hours out this weekend to spoil them will help avoid problems. The scent of sandalwood enables relaxation.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Those of you who are truthful could find that your words are not appreciated by others this weekend. Scorpio, in particular, is liable to be over-sensitive and should be handled with extra care. Where romance is concerned, a relationship with Capricorn starts to hold more potential when you learn more about what makes them tick.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): If your efforts to be heard in the business world have proved fruitless this month, the last week of June will see some success. Someone who has been dragging their feet in the mud is about to see the light and Gemini will benefit. A new romantic partner reveals personal information that could put a dampener on the relationship.



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# Chinese workers run amok in Phuket

The previous "Looking Back" column looked at how Chinese workers migrated to Phuket to work in the island's tin mines. As the number of migrants increased, so did organizations with the aim of giving the workers union powers and protection. These "angyi" eventually split into two factions.

Government officials in Siam considered these societies to be dangerously secretive, even though they were responsible for bringing laborers from China and Malaya to Phuket.

Once the workers disembarked in Phuket, the angyi found jobs for and looked after the newcomers, protecting their interests as long as they remained active angyi members. These societies were run by wealthy, influential Chinese businessmen.

Towards the end of the 19th Century, the largest angyi had more than 4,000 members. As each group grew, so did its local influence. During a time when the economy was in a downturn, restrictive government policies were the spark that caused angyi members to rebel against the Siamese, resulting in one of the most violent riots in Phuket history.

In the lead up to 1876, tin prices plummeted. In London, prices fell from about GBP 140 per ton to just GBP 76 per ton. Despite mining revenues tumbling, tax demands placed on each province by the

central government in Bangkok were unchanged.

At that time, there were changes to Siam's administrative system aimed at centralizing power with the monarchy. In Phuket, a law was passed prohibiting Chinese entrepreneurs from bidding for the rights to run government-owned tin mines.

Under the new law, operating the mines in the province became the sole responsibility of the governor. In the light of tax demands and falling tin prices, the Phuket Governor Lam Duan was in a difficult position.

Before 1871, the governor was expected to send 17,360 baht in tax revenue to Bangkok each year. Between 1871 and 1873, the central government increased its demands to 336,000 baht per year.

By 1874, the Bangkok government was demanding 480,000 baht per year, citing that Phuket's tin resources had brought it considerable wealth and that the province should be able to afford the demands. If the governor failed to meet tax targets,

he risked losing his official titles and post as governor.

The governor was anything but an entrepreneur and had minimal experience in running a business. When the government commissioned him to run Phuket's tin mines, great losses ensued. Eventually the time came to send tax dues to Bangkok, but the governor failed to do so, provoking Bangkok to send a warship to Phuket to collect the tax.

Seeing his options running out, the governor paid the difference using the mine laborers' pay fund. Chinese migrant laborers usually worked in the mines for three years and received their collective pay at the end of their term. Most of them were also angyi members. When the rumor broke out that the governor had used the pay fund to cover the island's debt, there was widespread discontent among the workers.

During Chinese New Year of 1876,

a riot led by angyi groups erupted in Ranong Town.

A group of 300 armed angyi members broke into Phuket Provincial Prison to release two of influential angyi members who had been detained.

Other angyi members joined the fray until the dissidents were 2,000 strong. The rioters ransacked Phuket Town, killing Siamese locals and burning shops and businesses. They then marched to the governor's mansion, which was located at the site of the Pearl Shopping Plaza.

When news of the unrest reached the governor, he fled the province with his family, leaving Phraya Montri, his second-in-command and brother-in-law, to resolve the situation.

Phraya Montri had under his command 100 soldiers and 100 police officers. So desperate was the situation that some prisoners from the provincial prison were given weapons and entrusted to help with the peacekeeping process.

Phraya Montri somehow managed to break up the mob and disperse the rioters.

The rebels moved on and faced another defeat in Chalong, where government forces took control of the situation. Many influential angyi members were subsequently arrested, while others fled Thailand.

## LOOKING BACK

By Anand Singh

Recently there were news reports about a gentleman in Udon Thani who married a snake. This raises a question that needs to be considered by switched-on trendies who are looking for alternate lifestyles: If you're looking for True Love, why not marry a snake?

Western theologians will thunder that such a union is obscene, unnatural, immoral and in violation of God's Law. Eastern theologians are more flexible. In the case of the Udon Thani man, a fortune teller declared that the happy couple have been soulmates for repeated reincarnations spanning the past 600 years, which makes their relationship perfectly okay.

Without wishing to be damned as a skeptic and a curmudgeon, I question how the fortune teller can know this. If it's true, I wonder how the people who run the whole system of reincarnation could have screwed up so badly as to make the two lovebirds be reborn as different species.

But let us eschew the thorny thickets of theology and take a cool and analytical look at the situation on the ground. What are the advantages and disadvantages of marrying a snake? I'll look at it from the male viewpoint, because that's the only viewpoint I'm capable of. Perhaps one of the *Gazette's* more feisty female readers could write in and present the female point of view.

First, the advantages of marrying a snake:

- She won't nag, although she might hiss a bit to convey her displeasure every time you drop

*The herpetological path to happy love*

# Snakewife

**TSOWNDINGS**  
By S. TSOW

your socks on the floor, leave the toilet seat up, or leave the TV room littered with empty beer cans.

- She won't mind if you don't constantly assure her of your undying love. If your sexual prowess is not up to snuff, she won't compare you unfavorably to Arnold Snake-negger or Brad Pittviper.

- She won't take half an hour to decide what dress to wear if you decide to splash out and treat her to a luxurious meal of beer and *somtam* at your friendly sidewalk Isarn restaurant.

- She won't spend another hour putting on her makeup, either. She'll be ready to go the minute you ask her, hissing happily at the prospect of all that beer and *somtam*. All you have to do

is toss her over your shoulder, caveman-style, and sing, "Let's go, baby!"

- You won't have to spend half the US national debt buying her clothes, jewelry and cosmetics.

- Her food expenses will be zero. Whenever she gets hungry, all you'll have to do is let her out in the yard to catch a mouse or two.

All this leads to the conclusion that you'll save a lot of money if you marry a snake. You'll also avoid a lot of unnecessary chitchat, because snakes can't talk.

There is, however, a downside: what the children will look like. If your son has the head of a snake and the body of a human, he might have trouble finding a date on Saturday night. If he has a human head and a snake body, he'll have trouble figuring out what to do with her once he's found her.

An even trickier question is how to manage, ah, the technical

aspects of reproduction. In my case, for instance, without meaning to boast, I'm afraid that the, uh, relevant aperture on the average female snake would be too small for me to, er, access. I might manage it with an anaconda, but garden snakes are out of the question.

There is also the problem of exactly where on the female

snake the, um, aperture of access is located. I suppose it's somewhere down near the end of the tail.

Since I'm shamefully naïve in such matters, I'd have to seek guidance from a competent herpetologist. On the other hand, to avoid embarrassment, I suppose I could look it up on the Internet.

Looking at the whole picture, the problems seem to outweigh the benefits. So the Western theologians may have a point, although their objections smack of a politically incorrect attitude which, for lack of a better term, we can call speciesism.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's trying to calculate the amount of alimony a snake might be entitled to.*

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## ON THE MOVE



**Sitthisak Panan** has joined SenSes Health & Beauty Clinique at Cherng Talay as a professional hair stylist. He has eight years of experience from Bangkok.

K. Sitthisak was named the best Hair Setting & Fancy Design for Gentleman and Lady by the Hair Stylists' Association Bangkok in 2005. He specializes in color, highlights, permanent waves and straighteners.



French national **Raphael Hirsch** has been appointed General Manager at the Ibis Patong Hotel. Mr Hirsch began his career in the hospitality industry in 1997 as Duty Manager Front Office at the Dolder Grand Hotel in Zurich. He then moved to Phuket to become F&B Coordinator at the Laguna Beach Resort. His experience includes working as Executive Assistant Manager at the Mercure Coralia Resort Koh Samui.



**Dr Sujit Banyatpiyaphod** has been appointed chief of Robotic Cardiac Surgery at the Heart Center at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. He graduated from Chulalongkorn University and started his training in robotic cardiac surgery at East Carolina University and Alliance Hospital in the US. His experience includes working as chief of the cardiac surgery unit at Police General Hospital in Bangkok.

By Janyaporn Morel

KOH KAEW: Combined efforts by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the travel and hospitality sectors are luring ever more Russians to Phuket, as a strong post-tsunami surge in Russian arrival figures shows.

During a "FAM Trip to Phuket" from May 31 to June 10, TAT Moscow Office Director Visanu Jaroensilp told the *Gazette* that in 2007 about 280,000 Russians visited Thailand.

"FAM Trip" is a TAT-shortened form for "familiarization trip", intended to introduce foreign tourism industry leaders to local tourism products and services.

The TAT projects that Russian tourist arrivals for 2008 will be at least 340,000, a 21.4% increase year on year.

In 2007, Russian visitors spent an average of nearly 50,000 baht each while on holiday here, for a total of 13.8 billion baht.

The TAT expects total 2008 expenditures to rise anywhere from 16 to 20 billion baht.

The TAT officials were joined by media, airline and travel agent representatives from Rus-

# Healthy growth in Russian tourist arrivals projected



The welcome party in Phuket was held at the Royal Phuket Marina, where Governor Niran Kalayanamit, Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) developer Gulu Lalvani, local officials and top tourism industry figures were on hand to greet the delegation and enjoy a short traditional Thai dancing show.

sia and two of its neighboring countries, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, in a "green season" promotional tour of Phuket and Southern Thailand.

In 2005, a year that saw a sharp contraction in tourism arrivals from all countries, Russian visitors to Phuket stood at 14,179, according to TAT guest arrival statistics. In 2006, that figure rose by 513% to 87,004 Russian visitors. Last year, 122,419 Russians arrived to Phuket, an increase of 40% over 2006.

Even with current strong growth, Phuket remains a lesser known beach destination among Russians tourists, some 65% of whom go to Pattaya, said K. Visanu.

As a result, TAT is promot-

ing Phuket and other destinations to encourage more Russian travel throughout the year.

K. Visanu said that there are still many areas in the South of Thailand that Russian tourists are not aware of.

"Russians tend to know only the East of Thailand, but with this trip we are bringing travel agents and media to see Krabi,

Phang Nga, Phuket, Hua Hin and Cha-am, introducing them to new beach destinations," he said.

Major attractions for Russian tourists are dining and entertainment; only a small percentage have shown interest in "adventure" travel, he added.

Travel agent Starilov Vasily, deputy director of Atlas Travel Company in St Petersburg, said that his company has been bringing Russian tourists to Thailand for about 15 years.

The company ran its first tours to Phuket only five years ago.


"My company brought about 3,000 tourists to Phuket last year, and we expect to have more this year.

"Before, Russians knew only Bangkok and Pattaya, but now there are many tourists interested in the North and South of Thailand, including Phuket, Krabi and Samui. Although trips [to these destinations are] not so cheap, the places are beautiful," he said.

"Russian tourists spend about 10 days or two weeks in one trip. They like Thai food and Thai traditions, especially the performances at Phuket FantaSea," he added.

TAT Krabi office Director Pornprapa Lorsuwan earlier told the state-run National News Bureau that she expects an increase in Eastern European visitors to push the number of tourists in that province past the 2 million mark, up from just over 1 million in 2007.

Krabi currently has some 14,000 rooms, with hundreds more new rooms under construction and expected to be available by the start of the next high season.




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# Bank mistrust leads to uncertain climate

Central banks are usually supportive of each other. However, what happened recently did not follow that general rule.

In early June, Ben Bernanke, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, made a speech outlining that the US had, effectively, come to the end of its interest-rate cutting policy.

This gave the US dollar some respite. Then, two days later, Jean Claude Trichet, president of the European Central Bank, indicated that interest rates in the euro zone could rise at the bank's next meeting, set for July. The reason given for the rise was to counter inflationary pressures.

The first week of June ended with poor US unemployment data, with a rise in unemployment reaching 5.5% in the previous month. This is the largest increase in 20 years and is indicative of the weakness of the US economy.

This was bad news for the US stock markets and the US dollar. Ben Bernanke, supported by US Treasury Secretary Henry "Hank" Paulson, stated that the US is vigilant against inflation and the next move will be to raise interest rates.

They also had to try and persuade skeptics that they were serious about wanting a strong dollar policy. This is no easy task, since for several years the US has paid lip service to a strong dollar while in reality its value fell.

One area where many analysts agree is that they are wary of how much is still undeclared in losses for European Banks from the sub-prime fiasco.

The International Monetary Fund asserts that total write downs for sub-prime losses should total more than US\$900 billion. Less than one third of this has been declared.

This is the reason that Libor (London Interbank offer rate) is so high; banks simply don't trust each other and are reluctant to lend to their counterparts.

Markets around the world are volatile with energy prices at such high levels and predictions from some quarters that there could be a "super spike" in prices. This leads to deep concern about the future in terms of economic growth, inflation, corporate profits and unemployment.

This has become a global problem. In Asia, a number of



**Sultan Abdul Samad Building in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where the government gave consumers only hours of warning before raising prices by 41% on gas and an even higher percentage rise for diesel.**

countries have had to raise fuel prices and have walked into domestic political turmoil as a result.

Malaysia was holding gas prices at around 19 baht per liter, but the cost of this subsidy at current prices would have taken over half of the government's annual budget – an unsustainable percentage.

The government gave consumers only hours of warning before raising prices by 41% on gas and an even higher percentage rise for diesel. That took some political courage and, predictably, the opposition is making this a major issue.

Thailand is not escaping unscathed from current events. A combination of political and economic uncertainty, together with a recent current-account deficit, had the Bank of Thailand (BOT) intervening in currency markets to support the baht.

The BOT alleged that foreigners were speculating in the baht with a view to forcing it lower against the dollar.

This may be true to some extent. However, the real cause of baht weakness is importers in Thailand buying dollars as they look at rising import costs for a large range of imported goods,

including commodities and energy.

There is a lot of speculation that Thailand may soon have to raise interest rates to combat inflation; there are concerns that this will have to take place against a backdrop of a slowing domestic economy.

Normally, in an economic slowdown, the central bank of any country is able to cut interest rates to support the economy. When the opposite happens, it makes life more difficult. This is not a situation that faces only Thailand.

Even Malaysia, India and other nations are expected to have to raise interest rates to fight inflation. Most countries now have to deal with economic headwinds, including a slowing growth environment and substantial inflationary pressures.

**Moving pensions offshore.** Regarding QROPS and the article that was published in this column (in the May 17-23 issue) about the transferability of UK onshore pensions to offshore jurisdictions, there is some additional information.

The UK authorities have stopped all transfers of pensions to Singapore. Apparently, two companies in Singapore were

marketing their service to expats on the basis that after five years, all monies in the pension fund could be withdrawn. This is taking advantage of a loophole in the regulations that the "offshore pension trustee" was only required to report on the "new" pension for a period of five years to the UK authorities. The UK authorities take a very dim view of this type of conduct.

There are, however, substantial additional advantages offered by offshore pensions compared with the onshore (UK) equivalent. These include access to capital in various situations, income tax advantages, investment advantages and long-term (depending on individual situations) inheritance tax advantages.

The companies I am dealing with in these matters are complying strictly with UK rules, but combine this with maximizing all the advantages.

*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*

## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS SLOWLY REGAIN				
Type	May '06	May '07	May '08	% change
Limited company registrations	157	77	92	16.00%
Limited partnership registrations	34	21	24	13.5%
Limited companies changed	339	295	223	-32.3%
Limited partnerships changed	34	30	32	6.25%
Companies deregistered	20	13	8	-62.5%
Partnerships deregistered	8	3	9	66.7%

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office

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## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

**PATONG:** The big surprise in last week's play was two-time defending champs Queen Mary going down 7-2 to a fast-improving Beach House side.

Teams that have played a bye week will now have this fact shown with an asterisk next to their names in the standings.

Send match notes to [darts@phuketgazette.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazette.net)

**June 10 results:** Queen Mary\* 2 Beach House 7; Simply Red 4 Piccadilly\* 5; Offshore\* 5 Hilltop 4; Dogs Bollocks 4 Market Bar\* 5; Celtic 3 Shakers\* 6; Sick Buffalo bye (\*winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Queen Mary (18pts.); 2.= Dogs Bollocks, Piccadilly (17); 4.= Sick Buffalo\*, Offshore\* (15); 6. Shakers (14); 7.= Beach House, Market Bar, Celtic (12); 10.= Hilltop, Simply Red (\* = have had bye week).

**June 24 match-ups:** Queen Mary v Celtic; Offshore v Sick Buffalo; Shakers v Market Bar; Simply Red v Dogs Bollocks; Beach House v Hilltop; Piccadilly bye (home teams first).

# Malinga retires Sahaprom

By Scott Mallon

A boxer's eyes tell no lies. Inside the ring when the punches begin to fly, all the hype and frivolity is set aside – and honesty begins. Questions receive answers. Who is stronger, faster and better on that particular day? Who is in over their head? Were the fighters equally matched?

The young inevitably defeat the old in the lighter weight classes, where fighters can cheat time for only so long before the bell signifying the end eventually sounds. Except for the odd heavyweight anomaly such as George Foreman, over-the-hill fighters either find a new occupation or they get beat up, brutally reminded that age favors no man.

Former WBC bantamweight (118lb) champion Veeraphol Sahaprom learned this the hard way at the Bodindecha School in Nonthaburi province on June 12, when he suffered a career-ending fourth round TKO at the hands of current WBC International champion Vusi Malinga of South Africa.



Manager Suchart Pisitwutinin (left) consoles Veeraphol Sahaprom. The looks on their faces say it all.

Malinga had been preparing for the fight since February, only to see originally scheduled bout date in April postponed. He now moves on to challenge WBC champion Hozumi Hasegawa of Japan.

Veeraphol, who had reigned as champion of the bantamweight division for seven long years, was but a shell of his former self. For three rounds that must have seemed like an

eternity to the Thai, Malinga toyed with the champion, brutalizing him with a combination of hooks and uppercuts until referee Bruce McTavish mercifully stopped the carnage 36 seconds into Round 4.

For years the writing had been on the wall, but like so many great champions before him, Veeraphol stubbornly refused to accept the truth – blind to what others knew but were unable to convey.

Lighter-weight fighters rely on speed and combination punching to defeat their foes. By the age of 35, most have already hung up their gloves. Veeraphol turns 40 in November.

Three years ago, when Veeraphol lost his title in a stunning unanimous decision defeat to Hasegawa, he steadfastly refused to believe the signs and chose to go after the rematch. Determined to prove his detractors wrong, Veeraphol was knocked out cold inside nine rounds.

Still, Veeraphol refused to

believe his better days were behind him.

Too proud to admit or see what others tried to tell him, he fought on against no-name opponents. He won nine in a row, but was hurt in several of the fights. Even in his younger days, Veeraphol's chin was never his strong point. With advancing age, fighters he would have easily dispatched before the issue arose began to prove troublesome.

Malinga, who hails from a family of South African fighters, showed no fear of the former champion, attacking from the get-go and nailing Veeraphol seemingly at will. Showing all the signs of a ring-worn fighter, Veeraphol was flat-footed and unable to pull the trigger. Instead of confidently marching forward as in past years, controlling the ring and dominating his opponents, Veeraphol looked to find a safe haven, like a man looking for a shade tree in the desert. To his credit, the Thai took the beating with stoic pride.

In the third round, an uppercut landed flush to the point of the chin and Veeraphol fell to the canvas face-first. He rose on shaky legs, ready to face his opponent, but the bell would temporarily save him from his fate. Those in attendance knew what was next. At the bell to start Round 4, Malinga strode forward like a man on a mission and pushed the Thai against the ropes. When referee McTavish stepped in and called an end 36 seconds into the round, no-one complained.

It is understandable that after losing the decision to Hasegawa, Veeraphol wanted revenge. But fighters with the determination to reach the top are a stubborn lot, who often refuse to accept reality.

## YFH boys set for Euro soccer tour

**PHUKET:** Eight Phuket boys earned themselves a spot on an international soccer tour set to kick off on June 27.

The boys, who are all from local charity Youth Football Home, recently tried out for the Bangkok team Thamrong Thai Samosorn and were picked to represent the side during the forthcoming tour of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Copenhagen.

Three of the boys will be in the under-11 side, three in the under-12 and two in the under-13.

The squad will head from Stockholm to Gothenburg on July 13 to 19 to take part in the Gothia Cup, the world's largest youth football tournament with 60 teams competing from around the world.

From Gothenburg, the boys will move on to Copenhagen for the Tivoli Cup, before returning to Phuket on August 1.

Youth Football Home is a charity that provides homes for orphans and destitute boys. There are eight teams taking part in the league.

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By Chris Husted

CHERNG TALAY: Australian Stephen Paine completed the 42-kilometer course around the north end of the island in 2 hours 37 minutes and 52 seconds on June 15 to win the men's championship title in this year's Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

In second place was defending champion Brent Roeger from the US. He rounded the course in 2:41:57, six minutes faster than last year. Wu Yung-Fa (2:44:42) from Taiwan, finished third.

Australian Angela Louise Stevens won the women's marathon, finishing the course in 3:14:17. Second place went to Peta-Jane Harthen (3:35:32) from Australia and in third place was Miho Miyashiro (3:40:18) from Japan.

Races started early, with the first group of marathon runners leaving the start gate at 4 am. Although the main race started at 5 am, the first group started at 4 am this year to provide a head start to runners who may have needed four to seven hours to complete the course.

More than 5,000 people from more than 40 countries took part in the event, which included a Half-Marathon, a 10.5km run, a 5km walk and a 2km kid's run.

Winner of the men's Half-Marathon was Stefano Passarello (1:13:26) from Italy. Thai



Laguna Phuket International Marathon winner Stephen Paine (main picture, right) leads Brent Roeger (left), who finished second, and Wu Yung-Fa (in green top), who finished third.

## Aussies dominate Laguna Marathon

runners Niwat Oithip (1:19:30) and Sittipong Changlai (1:23:36) placed second and third, respectively.

The top three female finishers in the Half-Marathon were 2007 women's marathon champion Nicola Green (1:13:26) from the UK, Emily Woodfield

(1:19:30) from the UK and Kerrie Elizabeth Edwards (1:23:36) from Australia.

Thai celebrity Ratthasart Korasut joined 202 Team Laguna members in the 5km walk to raise funds for Baan Klong Sai School in Phang Nga province.

This is the first in a series

of projects Laguna Phuket has planned to help schools in need in Phuket and remote areas of Phang Nga and Krabi provinces.

Eco-marathoner and slow-running advocate Hajime Nishi also took part. With 541 marathons in 71 countries under his belt, Nishi is renowned among running circles as the founder of the "slow is beautiful" philosophy.

The marathon globetrotter and world record holder, who also took part in the Laguna Phuket International Marathon in 2007 and 2006, led a group of interested participants along the course, focusing purely on the enjoyment of the race, interaction with spectators and volunteers and taking photos along the way.

For complete race results visit [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com).

## Call for Phuket tennis players to unite

PHUKET: In a move to improve the quality and the number of tennis matches being played on the island, Darran Ferre, the resident tennis professional at the Indigo Pearl resort at Nai Yang, is calling for all tennis players on Phuket to join a register so they can play better matches, more often.

"Tennis in Phuket is in the doldrums. Many people play and enjoy the sport on a weekly basis, but there is a lethargic attitude that surrounds all areas of the sport, including coaching, training and playing. It affects social and competitive players of all levels," he said.

"The ideal answer would be a structure of leagues for men, women and children, but this requires commitment and organization, both of these being in short supply in Phuket. The next best

thing is to create a database of players on the island.

"It may also be the first step in starting leagues that would provide junior players on the island the perfect platform to learn how to compete," he added.

The register is intended to be used to arrange matches between players of a similar standard, Mr Ferre explained.

"Irrelevant of where you play or whether you have coaching or not, how old you are or how well you play, you can join this list. Every month, this list will be emailed to you along with details of tennis events around the island," he said.

"In most countries a good junior player would be playing league matches two or three times a week to gain experience for tournaments. Here, unless they are

willing to travel to Bangkok or Haad Yai, which is expensive, the kids play matches so infrequently it's difficult to post good results.

"A good local structure would allow everyone to play and get experience and identify who may be able to play at a higher level," he added.

To join the register, email Mr Ferre at: [darran@phuket.sport.com](mailto:darran@phuket.sport.com).

## Minx regains ACYC magic

AO CHALONG: Kevin Gillow's *Minx* on June 15 turned the tide against Roger Harris's *Simone* and won the Racing class in race 6 of the ImageAsia Ao Chalong Yacht Club Race Series.

In race 5 of the series, before much of the local fleet headed off to race in the Koh Samui International Regatta, *Simone* etched ahead and completed the course some 13 minutes ahead of *Minx*.

On June 15, however, *Minx* put on a fine display and outsailed *Simone* to round the course with a corrected time of 2 hours 54 minutes 33 seconds – more than 31 minutes ahead of *Simone*.

The win took *Minx* to 16 points and second place overall in the series. Leading the Racing class series with 19 points is Ben Copely's *Katsu*.

*Simone* now has 11 points in the series and is fourth overall.

In the Cruising class, John Fenn on *Four Winds* maintained his winning streak, completing the course in 3:28.27 to secure 21 points and first place overall in the series.

In the Multihull class, Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* scored another win, this time in 2:29:52. The win elevated *Moto Inzi* to 23 points overall in the class series, five points ahead of nearest rival, Matt McGrath's *Typhoon*.

*Typhoon* raced well to finish little over six minutes behind *Moto Inzi* on corrected time and move into second place overall in the series with 18 points.

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## Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

## New classrooms in time for 100-year party

PHUKET CITY: Work on the new seven-story building at Satee Phuket School is now about 10% complete and on schedule to be ready in time for the school's centennial celebrations at the end of next year.

School Director Kiattisak Pilawart told the *Gazette* that the school, established on the 28-rai site 99 years ago, now has about 3,200 students in attendance, 120 teachers and 160 support staff. The new building is to support the school's expansion by providing more classrooms.

Once completed, the building will comprise 36 classrooms as well as other rooms dedicated for special use, such as the Chakri Royal Family room, HM The King's "Mission Exhibition" room and an audiovisual-education room, K. Kiattisak explained.

"Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn laid the foundation stone on March 11. We would like her to return for the grand opening ceremony and for our 100-year anniversary celebrations," he added.

The new building is expected to provide relief from overcrowding in the classrooms. "I moved here in 2004 and found that the school didn't have enough classrooms. It still needs 24 more classrooms to accommodate the current number of students," K. Kiattisak explained.

"We originally received 17.44 million baht from the government to build a three-story building with 24 classrooms, but

we have to demolish an old two-story building to make space for the new building as we don't have enough space for both of them.

"With the rate at which the school is growing and the limited space we have, we thought we should change our plan to expand and have more rooms to support other school activities. So we changed the plan to be a seven-story building," K. Kiattisak said.

However, the bigger building will require a larger budget, he added. "The new building will cost an estimated 51.4 million baht just to build; and fitting it out with interior decoration and equipment will push the budget up to about 60 million baht," he said.

To raise the funds needed, the school has held golf tournaments, bowling competitions and many other fund-raising events, said K. Kiattisak. "We have also received donations from students, teachers, parents and local administration organizations," he added.

"The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*Or-BorJor*) has allocated for us 10 million baht from its 2007-2008 fiscal year budget. We still need about 13 million baht, but we can start construction now while we continue to receive more donations," said K. Kiattisak.

Plans for the new building's Sino-Portuguese design were drawn up by Phuket architect Urupong Prateep Na Thalang free of charge.

## Likit Plaza rises high in Patong

PATONG: As motorists dodge the gaping potholes along the uncompleted Phang Muang Rd – the new road that runs north-south through Patong – the buildings of Likit Plaza are rising high, with the project on target for completion mid-2010.

Eam-on Likit-ittiruks, managing director of developer Likit Property Co Ltd, explained to the *Gazette* that the five-rai project is divided into three phases, which, combined, will create a project expected to value 1 billion baht when complete.

Construction of the first phase began in December, with work starting on six blocks of five-story "shophouses", housing 41 units in total, facing Phang Muang Rd. Phase 1 is expected to be completed by the end of November this year.

"The shophouse units have sold out already. They have been designed to meet the demand for small boutique hotels and guesthouses that have a business office or shop on the ground floor," said K. Eam-on.

"We have received much interest from foreigners – about 90% of the people who bought our units are English, Scandinavian or Italian," she added.

K. Eam-on explained that each shophouse unit comprises eight rooms upstairs and that almost every person who bought Likit Plaza shophouses bought three to four adjoining units in order to create their own guesthouses.

The second phase, located



The buildings of Likit Plaza are rising high, with the project on target for completion mid-2010.

behind the shophouse buildings, will be the Andakira Grand Hotel, a seven-story hotel with 105 guest rooms. The hotel will be 4-star standard with full hotel facilities, including a business center, restaurants, swimming pool, fitness center and spa. The basement of the hotel will be used as a car park, K. Eam-on said.

Work on the Andakira Grand Hotel started last month. The hotel is expected to be completed around April next year.

Phase 3, near the hotel, will be the seven-story Andakira condominium complex. The building will comprise 46 accommodation units with seven shophouse units on the ground floor.

Construction of the condominium residence is scheduled to start next month and expected to

be completed about mid-2010, K. Eam-on explained.

Condominiums will range from 51 to 140 square meters, at prices from 4 million baht up to 14 million baht. There will be 22 studio units, six one-bedroom units and 18 two- or three-bedroom units.

The condos are expected to go on sale next month.

"Our rooms are large. The studios can even be modified into one-bedroom units and the two-bedroom units can be made to have three bedrooms because the living room is so big.

"Residents will have views of the hills," K. Eam-on said.

The two main construction contractors for Likit Plaza are Haad Yai Nantakorn Co Ltd and Phuket Built Co Ltd.

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# It's all white in Patong

Inside and out, white is the dominant color of this three-story, three-bedroom home with views across Patong Bay. Located in a quiet neighborhood, the three-meter-high perimeter wall and remote-control security gates ensure privacy for residents of this pad with a pool.

White dominates the floor tiles, walls and furniture to give this 27-million-baht home a crisp and timeless look accentuated by clean architectural lines.

The open-plan living, dining and kitchen space on the first level is accessed from the carport and storage area, which is completely tiled and secured under video surveillance.

Floor-to-ceiling windows on two sides of the house offer sea views from the living area.

The 12m-by-4m lap pool running along one side of the house is set next to a high wall and mature vegetation for shade and privacy.

Sliding glass doors from the dining area open onto the garden and pool, which also has a waterfall and Jacuzzi.

Back inside, high ceilings and recessed ambient lighting cre-



The stark white interior space together with the pool that runs the length of the home make this a cool place to live.

ate a spacious appearance. The kitchen area is compact, equipped with high-quality fitted stainless steel appliances, including a double-door refrigerator and a built-in oven. A black granite kitchen island completes the cooking area.

The large master bedroom on the upper level is fitted out with built-in wardrobes. The private balcony, with views of the sea, can be accessed through the en-suite bathroom, which comes with a large bathtub.

The other two bedrooms, lo-

cated on the second level, also have bathrooms en suite, as well as views of the bay.

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are already installed. The house has three-phase electricity, air conditioning, ceiling fans, window screens and a laundry room.

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## Design

by Suganya Semacote

# The zephyrs of Zen Space

Living in a Zen Space condo leaves a lot to the imagination. The designer, senior designer of Island Architect, Wichan Buasa, has focused on creating a balanced living environment in harmony with nature that feels spacious and airy despite its compact dimensions.

The name given to these 60 condominium units on the low-rise Kamala hill residential development is certainly apt for the modern design, which more than hints at inspiration garnered from Japanese architecture, with a Shinto-style roof over a minimalist form of clean lines and walls of glass.

"The design is meant to give residents a sense of being close to nature and to feel part of a community," said K. Wichan.

The hillside location allows a broad view to compensate for the minimal interiors of the units, which have been finished with natural materials to enhance the designer's concept of living harmoniously with nature.

"The structure of building is laid along the slope of the hill without altering the hillside landscape," said K. Wichan, whose inspiration for Zen Space came from previous work in Phuket on the design of The Tree Residence.

"That project required a mix of Asian styles to give a simple and natural look," he added.

"To give Zen Space its airy look and allow the views to dominate, the large floor-to-ceiling panes of glass are held in place with a sturdy, yet unobtrusive, aluminum frame. This reduces the barriers between the eyes



**'The furniture is as simple as it can possibly be. Everything was chosen for its straight lines and boxy shapes,' said senior designer of Island Architect, Wichan Buasa.**

and the view outside," he explained.

K. Wichan added that the glass helps reduce humidity, especially when it rains.

"The furniture is also as simple as it can possibly be. Everything was chosen for its straight lines and boxy shapes. We wanted to ensure continuity by not using other forms, such as curves. This is important, as it makes the rooms seem spacious," he said.

Adhering to the Zen concept meant not using bright colors. Instead, the mostly white decor is broken with straight black lines and light-colored wood is used for some of the fittings, added K. Wichan.

"The same concept is applied to the high ceilings, which are lit with a soft glow of ambient lighting along the edges where they join the walls, making a square of light," he said.

The lights themselves are

no different to fixtures used elsewhere, but they are positioned to emphasise the lines of the rooms rather than shining them directly onto the surfaces, he added.

The approach to the project's structural design was to work with the landscape's geography rather than shaping the hillside to accommodate the development, said K. Wichan.

"We didn't need to cut into the hillside or use much fill soil at

all. We laid the structure along the lye of the land and only drilled into the ground to secure the supportive pillars. It was a step-by-step process of fitting the design into the landscape," he said.

"We wanted to keep the trees already growing there as they provide shade, so we didn't cut any down to make way for the project. The site was chosen also because the surrounding hilly land offers protection from strong winds."

The Village Coconut Island

Phuket Thailand ...

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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

The eighties has a lot to answer for. What were we thinking? Even 20 years on, we still cringe at the decade's shameless excesses, from those ridiculous Flashdance legwarmers to Dallas shoulder pads, New Romantic frills, women with hair the size of continents and way too much eyeliner on the part of both sexes.

Why did we think it was cool to wear linen sports jackets with the sleeves rolled halfway up the forearms? We even thought that dancing a bit like a mentally deficient robot and spinning around on our heads on sheets of hardboard was clever.

Come to think of it, this was the time when we thought the Sinclair Spectrum and the Commodore 64 were the most incredible inventions in the history of the human race. Not a lot made much sense.

So much in the eighties was just plain silly. We had some of the best bad films during that rather forgettable 10 years. Anything featuring Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger qualifies automatically. Thankfully, many of the films made then are so forgettable that I've forgotten about them.

Then there's the music. This decade, after all, was responsible for possibly the worst song in the history of recorded music: "We Built This City". Perhaps even worse was that Wang Chung song, "Everybody Have Fun Tonight". Both utterly awful.

The Brits produced what could possibly be a close second in the form of "Agadoo", sung by a nauseating couple of chaps with

# Big shame from the big-hair decade



Sometimes referred to as the 'powderpuff', this plant would have done well in the 80s along with such oddball characters as Steve Strange.

rapid growth in sandy soils and full sun, the powderpuff plant will respond favorably to regular watering while young, but should require no special care once established except an occasional pruning.

Pinching new growth increases the number of branches and enhances flower productivity. It's drought tolerant, too, so once it's established, if you can't be bothered to give it any water for a while, it won't whinge too much.

The *calliandra* bush is perfect as a flowering hedge up to two meters, or is equally happy as a small, flowering tree with the lower branches pruned off. It can grow to about 5m tall when it's allowed to. The long, arching branches form a kind of natural canopy shape, so it does a pretty good job on patios.

About the only thing to bear in mind in terms of where to stick it is that the bark is fairly thin and is damaged quite easily. Keep this one away from the strimmer or Junior's back-garden-trike slalom course.

The *calliandra* is even used for less-predictable purposes in some parts of the world. One of its features is that it grows rapidly, producing lots of wood that is ideal for fuel. The *calliandra* bush binds the soil with its far-reaching root system, preventing erosion and revitalizing exhausted soils. *Calliandra* is also good livestock fodder.

Propagation is from seeds, which you can get from the plant itself. A flat pod – first green, later brown – contains five or six seeds. This curls open after a while, to release the brown seeds inside.

So we have gone full circle, from the absurdity of the eighties and makeup, to a rather interesting plant named after a makeup accessory. The *calliandra* is bizarre enough to have done well in the eighties. Steve Strange would have loved it.

All I need to do now is to apologize if anyone has the words "aaah-gaaa-doo-doo-doo" going round in their heads. I have no excuse. I'm sorry. The eighties has a lot to answer for.

Need garden advice?

Email Bloomin' Bert at:  
bert@bloominbert.com

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unfortunate mullet haircuts. Having said that, Wham were pretty high up on vomitous charts, too. The less said about Milli Vanilli, the better.

Do you remember A Flock of Seagulls? Google them and have a look at the pictures you find. They can't honestly have been serious. From the downright irritating to the decidedly odd, we had some weird acts in the eighties, many of whom insisted on applying copious quantities of makeup for no apparent reason – and that wasn't even the ladies. Two that stood out were Adam Ant and Steve Strange.

Come to think of it, wasn't this the same decade that gave us the stuntman Dangerous Dave and a pop singer called Captain

Sensible? At least neither of them plastered themselves in makeup.

There might be several people who have actually bothered to read this far in this week's issue and are wondering what the purpose is of all this inane drivel about the eighties.

Never one to disappoint, stand by for perhaps the most tenuous link in the history of the *Gazette*: makeup. There's a plant in this part of the world that's more commonly known as the powderpuff (an implement used to apply makeup, I believe), more correctly referred to as the *calliandra*.

The *calliandra*'s name comes from the Greek *kallos* meaning "beautiful" and *andra* meaning "stamen". This descrip-

tion is perfect, as it really is an incredible bloom. They are most often grown for their dense, 10-centimeter-wide heads of long, fine, pink stamens that usually appear on short stalks on the upper sides of the branches. Even when not in flower, the plant looks good.

The powderpuff is multiple trunked, low branching and evergreen, with silky leaflets – glossy copper when new, turning to a dark metallic green later on. Another appeal is the profuse, fragrant bloom, which it also produces when the plant is in flower.

The *calliandra* seems to enjoy growing, so those amazing clusters of stamens (I'm not even sure you could call them flowers) don't require much work. With

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### LUXURY HOUSE



for sale or rent. Mission Heights community, 5 mins from Mission Hills Golf Club. House 270sqm, 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms with bath and shower, large Western kitchen, 90sqm pool complete with seating area, complete with solar heating. Tel: 089-4720918.

### 1.5 RAI IN PASAK

Laguna area at 6.5 million baht. Chanote title, square-shaped plot, good location, road and utilities access. No agents please. Tel: 081-5399269.

### 699,000-BAHT STUDIOS

One-story studios and townhouses for sale in a stunning area. Tel: 089-5943367. Email: maurice@dejong.md For further details, visit: [www.thebeachvillage.net](http://www.thebeachvillage.net)

### SEA VIEW LAND

6.1 rai in Mai Khao. Chanote title. Tel: 084-4413871. Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

### COZY HOUSE IN CHUAN CHUEN

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for sale in a quiet soi in Chuan Chuen Lagoon. 5 mins to British International School, close to marinas, shops/malls, hotels, airport. Tel: 086-4715075, 086-7430033. Fax: 076-239266. Email: pskcarter@yahoo.com.sg

### HOUSE IN KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, 2 floors on 222sqm of land. 7.95 million baht. Tel: 081-9251730.

### 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. Contact Paula. Tel: 084-844-1486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

### KATA SEAVIEW LAND

1100sqm, full sea view, access road, electricity. Includes plans for 19 apartments. 12.5 million baht. This is the Best land. Contact Tim. Tel: 087-8938747.

### NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate, and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-5399269.

### NICE HOUSE LOTS

Half-rai and 1-rai lots for sale. 800,000, 1.15 million baht and 1.95 million baht, full price, near Mission Hills Golf Course. Underground electricity, peaceful. Tel: 086-9421930.

### PATONG STUDIO

fully renovated and furnished 1,950,000 baht, freehold. Tel: 089-9715664.

### FLAT LAND

Nice flat land for sale in Pa Khlok. 49 rai, Chanote, 200m from Heroines' Monument, opposite Thalang museum. Price: 1.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-1802143.

### LAND IN AO NANG

4rai in Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

### EXECUTIVE LIVING



Modern, 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom home in secure upscale development. Over 395sqm of living area with 25sqm enclosed sala and 13x4m salt-water pool, big maid's room. Only 800m from BIS. Too many upgrades to mention. For sale at 27 million baht or for rent at 150,000 per month. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-4077403.

### PATONG SEA VIEW



Luxury apartments with best view over Patong. Tel: 083-1736521. Visit our booth at Jungceylon. Website: [www.patong-view-talay.com](http://www.patong-view-talay.com)

### PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Ao Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 18 million baht. No agents! Tel: 086-9442065, or 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

### FOR SALE

Two 5-rai plots (8,493sqm and 8,46sqm) in Tambon Thepkasattri, Thalang. Almost level, dry, secluded land near Thalang east side. Adjacent land already built on with large, elegant houses. Titles: full Chanote, water, electricity. 1.5m baht/rai. Contact Michael. Tel: 076-521591. Fax: 076-521592. Email: kerryt@southwest.com.au

### 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

### INEXPENSIVE LAND

0.5-rai Chanote lots near Mission Hills golf course and airport. 10 minutes to Yacht Haven. 1.25 million baht, full price. Tel: 086-9421930.

### SEA AND WATERFALL VIEW PLOT

Hillside plot, Chanote, 1,400sqm, creek frontage, utilities, private road. One-of-a-kind plot. 6 million baht. Tel: 086-2670157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

### LOOKING FOR JOINT VENTURE OR SALE



Resort in Chiang Rai situated in a beautiful place in natural surroundings including lychee trees and 2,500 Arabica coffee trees. Convenient location in the middle of Chiang Rai, just a 25-minute drive from airport, 35 minutes from town, and 20 minutes to tourist attractions. Comprises 23 guests rooms and 1 conference room. 50 rai at 39 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner's representative. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com for more details.

### 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](mailto:allservices29@gmail.com)

### SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

### BEACHFRONT LAND

Land for sale, Chalong. 45 rai with 300m beachfront. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: [info@houseinphuket.com](mailto:info@houseinphuket.com) [www.landinphuket.com](http://www.landinphuket.com)

### NICE 5-BEDROOM HOUSE

Perfect house for family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-8915296. Email: [hkthomesale18@yahoo.com](mailto:hkthomesale18@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website: [www.jikkycar.com](http://www.jikkycar.com)

### NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 19 wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd, opposite Villa California. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

### LAND - 3.5 RAI

Chanote title at Pasak-Laguna area. Good location and nice view. Suitable for small villa project, road access. Quick sale: 2.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: [talayjan@yahoo.com](mailto:talayjan@yahoo.com)

### www.phuketmarbella.com Villa Sales Rental Management "We've got what you're looking for"

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076-271 544



### PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See [www.fairway15.com](http://www.fairway15.com) for full details. Tel: 081-8941994.

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE NEAR BIS

3-bedroom waterfront townhouse for sale. Tel: 076-273466. Fax: 076-238948. Email: [info@phuketpropertytrip.com](mailto:info@phuketpropertytrip.com) For further details, please see our website: [www.phuketpropertytrip.com](http://www.phuketpropertytrip.com)

### 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](mailto:jihshand@gmail.com)

### POOL VILLA

BangTao, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sat TV, ADSL. Big living room, 2 car-parking spaces. 6 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121. Website: [www.phukethome.ws](http://www.phukethome.ws)

### RAWAI TOWNHOUSE

2.4 million baht. Townhouse in Happy Home village. Two bedrooms, living room, European kitchen, terrace front and back. 3 aircons, fully furnished, True TV, DVD, microwave, water tank. Motorbike also included. Rebuilt just 10 months ago, everything as new. Nice, quiet and safe area. Tel: 083-3939622 (English), 086-9414113 (Thai). Email: [jerker@sandstorm.as](mailto:jerker@sandstorm.as)

### DESIRABLE HOME

for sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 en suites, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/dining, study, laundry room, garage, ADSL and True TV fitted. Verandas, klong along back, fenced garden in secure Choafa Thani estate. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: [somlerdee@yahoo.com](mailto:somlerdee@yahoo.com)

### THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for sale (27.5 million baht) or for 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](mailto:png.phuket@gmail.com)

### FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condominium in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: [chotip07@yahoo.com](mailto:chotip07@yahoo.com)

### SMALL PLOT

1,832sqm in Palai, Chalong. 5.2 million baht. Chanote, good road. Tel: 089-7298365.

### BRAND-NEW CONDO

Great location near Tesco and Big C. Pool, gym, fully furnished with washer, dryer, fridge, aircon, TV. 45sqm corner unit with 2 balconies. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: [koyangle99@hotmail.com](mailto:koyangle99@hotmail.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 haggles. Tel: 080-7197147. Email: [pmoneley@hotmail.com](mailto:pmoneley@hotmail.com)

### TOWNHOUSE

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Western kitchen, pool, furnished, Chalong. 6.7 million baht. Tel: 089-6468374, 086-5742815.

### CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

This immaculate 2-bedroom home on an excellent estate is priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

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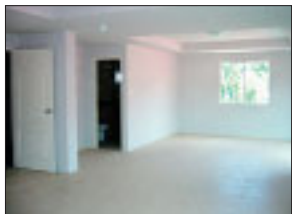
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# Property Gazette

## NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach

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  - \* 8 apartments on floors 2, 3, 4
  - \* Chanote title
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  - \* 2 minutes to the beach
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Tel: 087-2709093, 081-8687676.

## SHOPHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



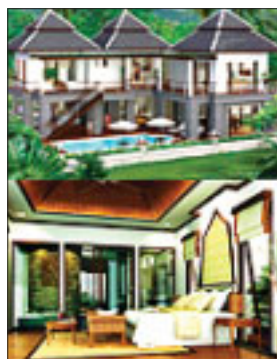
Beautiful shophouse on a Chanote title of 50 wah, 4 floors in Kathu. Fully furnished and equipped (used to be a restaurant). For sale or rent. Very good price. Tel: 081-8915602.

## LAND IN KATHU



More than 5 rai with Chanote title in residential and secure area, 5 minutes to Big C, Lotus, Central, Index, school, etc. Ideal for private complex. Reduced to 6.5 million baht/rai. Call 081-8540061 (English) or 081-0803414 (Thai and English).

## 11 BIG NEW LUXURY VILLAS



in Kamala with private pool. Modern Thai-Balinese style. 24-hour security in a gated community. Exclusive location a few minutes from beach and center. Built in natural surroundings on flat land with a very good hill view. Chanote. 4 bedrooms. Large, fully fitted modern kitchen. All bedrooms with separate bathrooms and built-in cupboards. Jacuzzi. All rooms have aircon. Freehold or leasehold. 2 show homes fully furnished. Ready now. Prices from 21 million baht. Tel: 076-279-289, 086-2742308. Email: kamalaparadise@yahoo.com or visit: www.kamala-paradise.com for more info.

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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info@kamala-coconut-grove.com  
Call: +49 (0)6190 918290, +49 (0)171 4558888

## PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale at 4 million baht or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com. No agents!

## NEW RAWAI POOL VILLA



400sqm. 3-4 bedrooms. 300m from Rawai Pier. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

## TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19 sq wah. Located near Khao Khad viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

## CHIANG MAI LUXURY HOME

Exquisite 4-bedroom home in landscaped estate, 10 minutes from town. Fully furnished and adorned with antique art pieces. 17.5 million baht. A unique investment opportunity. Tel: 053-862450, 081-4726494. Email: chris@chiangmailifestyle.com Website: www.chiangmailifestyle.com

## 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

## PATONG CONDOS, FREEHOLD

2 freehold condos in Patong. 1 bedroom, 54sqm each. Just 350m to the beach. 4.6 million baht/unit. Under construction. Will be fully furnished. Tel: 081-9793369. Email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

## KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 aircons, European & Thai kitchen, pool, ADSL, in well-maintained & secure estate. Close to main shopping centers, international schools and medical facilities. Tel: 081-8934661. Email: valiant@loxinfo.co.th

## SOI MANGOSTEEN 5 PLOTS

5 land plots (5x22 meters each) on Soi Mangosteen. Only 3.25 million baht per plot. Chanote title. Call or email for details. Tel: 081-5395373. Fax: 076-289389. Email: hajo@mangosteen-phuket.com

## KAMALA TOWNHOUSE



near Phuket FantaSea, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park. 3.2 million baht, negotiable. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

## HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (en suite) with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

## 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

## VILLA IN BANG TAO

10 mins to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. 13 million baht. Tel: 081-8976998 (English), 089-6995136 (Thai).

## KOH SAMUI SEAVIEW LAND

Hillside sea view on Koh Samui. Size: 3,200sqm, or 2 rai. Chanote. Tel: 02-277-1992, 083-6113020. Fax: 02-9610072. Email: phara-wee@yahoo.com For further details, please visit www.lovesamui.com

## PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Chermg 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

## PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

3.5 rai in Chalong with access road and utilities. 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-949 6480. Email: thipsee84@hotmail.com

## LAND, 9 RAI

opposite the new golf course in Chalong. Concrete road, lagoon at the rear, perfect for villa project. Subdivision is possible. Price: 7 million baht/rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

## HOUSES IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn, from cheap to luxury Jacuzzi villa. 4.9 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 083-3904176.

## TROPICAL POOL VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

## HOUSE IN CHALONG

Quiet location in Chalong Bay, Khao Khad area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, fully-equipped kitchen, fully furnished, freehold. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8528096.

## VILLA, THALANG

Baan Pa Khlok. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 ensuite. Foreign freehold. Contact Lee. Tel: 084-3078407.

## SPECIAL LAND

2.3 rai at Mai Khao Beach. 6 million baht per rai. 220m from beach. Tel: 087-264-6808 (English), 081-5371279 (Thai).

## KATA BEACH 3-LEVEL HOUSE

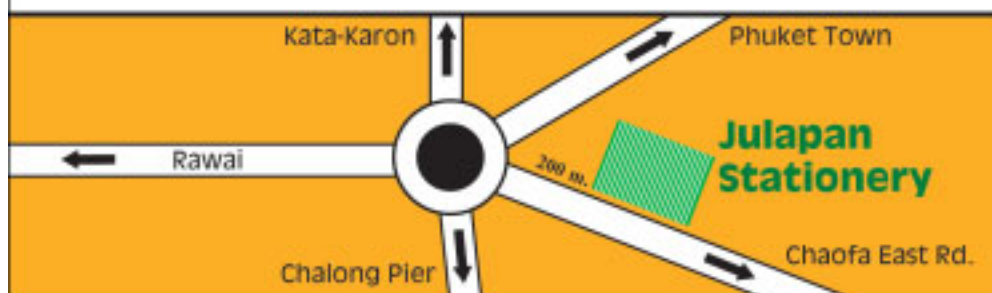
Only 2 mins to the beach. Chanote, reduced for quick sale from 3.5 to 3.1 million baht. Tel: 084-8405834.

## 2-STORY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Contact K. Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahnies@hotmail.com, okika\_j@hotmail.com

## Live in Chalong?

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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: 30 million baht.



For full details contact Tel: 087-6899679.  
Email: png.phuket@gmail.com



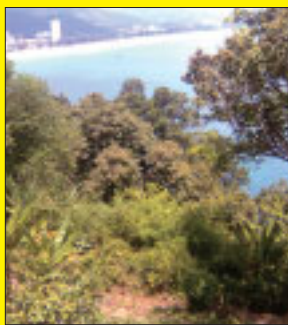
# Property Gazette

## BEACH FRONT 5.9 MILLION BAHT



Beautiful piece of land opposite of Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build on, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180 meters of beach frontage. For quick sale. Only 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

## 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

## AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai, Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. From 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents! Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

## LOOKING FOR INVESTMENT

Looking for an investment: any land or uncompleted project? Please contact Michael with information. Tel: 081-8937720. Email: m@bayproject.com Visit our website at www.bayproject.com

## LAND IN KAMALA



Flat land from 1 rai up to 50 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

## HOUSE, RAWAI

for sale. 4 million baht. Living room, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 terraces, carport, own water. Tel: 084-8463826.

## EXCEPTIONAL BARGAIN

House located in desirable and secure estate for sale at 6.9 million baht. 3 bedrooms (2 with ensuite), 3 bathrooms, living room, study, kitchen/diner, storage/laundry room. Verandas up and downstairs, fitted furnishings, ADSL, & True TV. Fenced garden, approx 500sqm, use of estate clubhouse and swimming pool nearby. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

## GOLFER'S PARADISE LAND

opposite Mission Hills Golf Course. 1.43 rai, Chanote title. Only 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-8924126. Email: jaron@khaokhad.com

## CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

3.5 million baht, 1 minute to Chalong pier, 34 wah, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, unfurnished, 3 telephone numbers. Nice, quiet & safe area. Contact Kay. Negotiable. Tel: 076-236590, 081-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: kay.boon@hotmail.com

## LAND AT NATAI

Khao Pilai Beach. 20 rai with Chanote title, only 1.7 million baht per rai. 300m from the beach, road and electricity access. Urgent sale. No agents. Tel: 081-5399269.

## SINGLE HOUSE

Pa Khlok, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 310sqm. Tel: 081-5365030.

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## SEA VIEW IN KAMALA



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**APARTMENT DUPLEX** for sale in a nice resort. 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, kitchen, swimming pool, garden, fully furnished. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8448381.

## HOUSE NEAR BIS

2-story house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with ample parking space and nice landscape. Total area: 336sqm. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7247073. Email: jutima021@hotmail.com

## 2-STORY HOUSE

in Kathu. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, swimming pool. 2 minutes to Lotus, 3 minutes to Big C. 3.99 million baht. Tel: 081-7876238, 087-0216542.

## SEAVIEW SPA VILLA

Patong, large, fully furnished, private, pool, garden, spa, waterfall. Tel: 089-5908233.

## STUDIO APARTMENT

for sale. Poolside studio apartment, Ya Nui 2. Good rental return, near beach. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8528096.

## PANORAMIC SEAVIEW LAND

Chanote plots from 1 to 8.3 rai. Best Chalong location. 300m from new 9-hole golf course. Wichit area. Tel: 081-8913740.



## Chalong House Lake View

New detached house on 370sqm of land with Chanote title. 1-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Jacuzzi and Western kitchen. Telephone line, internet ADSL, Cable TV.

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Tel: 087-2709093 Email: png.phuket@gmail.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.

## LAND PLOT 2.3 MILLION BAHT

900sqm. Land plot with underground electricity and water supply in quiet, secure community next to Mission Hills golf course. For sale at only 2.3 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 081-2712825.

## PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit www.phuketproperties.com If you are a real estate developer or owner you may list your properties with us. Contact Khun Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

## PATONG BEACH LAND FOR SALE

7 rai, good location. Chanote available, roadside plot. Contact Alex for details. Tel: 089-7231682. Email: patonland@gmail.com

## KHAO KHAD, AO MAKHAM



Chanote. 16 rai with panoramic view near Ao Makham, towards Cape Panwa. Wide road access direct to the site. 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-539-9269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## YAMU HILLS, PA KHLOK

Private land, fully developed. Sea view, Chanote, 4 million baht per rai. For details contact Royal Coast Co Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-3966060. Email: earn1008@mac.com

## KRABI LAND

10 rai, 20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote title. 600,000 baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

## KHAO LAK HOUSE/VILLA

1 rai of Khao Lak land (Chanote) with house/villa for sale. Top residential area close to Bang Niang Beach. For further inquiries call 081-7874043 (Eng) or 081-8825069 (Thai). Tel: 081-7874043. Email: wolly.woerner@subaqua-khaolak.com

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### STUNNING SEA VIEWS



Outstanding villa. Perfect condition, near the sea with spectacular views. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large dining and living rooms, maid, garage, enchanting gardens and pool, situated in affluent Cape Yamu with full privacy. 85,000 baht per month. No dogs. Tel: 086-2796283.

### FOR RENT, RAWAI



2-bedroom house, aircon, cable TV, Internet. Short-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-0912905.

**LUXURY 2-BEDROOM, EN-SUITE BUNGALOW** in private 4-house estate in Kamala. Teak furnishings, ADSL/satellite, plasma TV, DVD, private swimming pool, maintenance and cleaning included. Long term rent: 35,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-9437598.

**NEW CHALONG HOME** 2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

### BAAN ROCK GARDEN BYPASS RD

5 new two-story houses for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fitted kitchen, large garden. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8684644.

### FOR LONG-TERM RENT

Furnished duplex unit next to lagoon at Allamanda, Phuket Laguna, Chong Talay. 3 bedrooms, guest bedroom, bathroom, living room and kitchen. Call Leo. Tel: 086-0008585.

### CHALONG HOUSE

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

### KATHU GOLF-VIEW VILLA

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, big pool, 4km to BIS, lake, hill and valley view. Quiet, on top of private hill, furnished, Wi-Fi, True TV, Long term: 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

### RAWAI POOL RESIDENCE



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. 9,000 baht per month. 100m from Rawai Temple. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: p.pimada@gmail.com

### THAI-STYLE HOUSE



for rent. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, True TV, aircon, hot water, kitchen, private terrace with sea view, on the hill opposite Safari Pub, Tropical garden. 40,000 baht/month. 1-year contract. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com



For more information, email: a.pueng@gmail.com

### PATONG GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Rare opportunity. A chance to stake a claim on Patong's Golden Triangle. A prime retail rental unit is coming onto the market in July. Located on Soi Bangla and next to Thawee-wong (beach) road, this unit offers in excess of 120sqm of prime retail space. Lease terms negotiable for the right client. Contact Thira Chanphum. Email: pla.tuna@yahoo.co.uk

### PATONG STUDIO

Fully renovated and furnished, 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9715664.

### HOUSES FROM WELLTA

You want to rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

### POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, sat TV, ADSL. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, with car park, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High-speed Internet and True TV included. 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Tel: 081-0021364. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.chalongparadise.com

### 4-BEDROOM FAMILY HOUSE



at Kathu for sale or rent. 4 bedrooms, 320sqm, 3 bathrooms, in Kathu, near Lotus and BIS. For sale at 8.7 million baht. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7872201.

### 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

### LUXURY HOUSE

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, beautifully furnished, pool, garden. Pool cleaning and gardening included. 5 minutes from Mission Hills golf course. Contact K. So. Tel: 081-3444473.

### 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.

### BEACH HOUSE

for rent at Fisherman Way. 1-4 bedrooms. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189. Website: www.fishermanway.com

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### THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for rent or sale (27.5 million baht). 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

### BOAT LAGOON TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, roof terrace, very high standards, 55,000 baht/month, incl Wi-Fi & cable TV. Tel: 081-8915546. Email: rolf@andamanproperty.com

### KHAO KHAD HOUSE FOR RENT

Furnished, True satellite TV, phone line, nice garden. 13,000 baht per month. Email: kwanarune@hotmail.com

### 2-BEDROOM COTTAGE

Fully furnished, near Kathu waterski park. 10,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months' deposit required. Available in July. Tel: 076-202193, 087-8934830.

### FOR RENT, RAWAI

2-bedroom house, safe area, aircon, cable TV, Internet, furnished, walled garden, 18,000 baht in low season. Tel: 085-7873046.

### HOUSE IN THALANG

Neramt 5 Project. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 8,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-2839181.



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www.phuketeasyrent.com

### NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from both Rawai & Nai Ham beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

### HOUSE RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to stay. Tel: 089-6628733.

### BOAT LAGOON VILLA

Luxury villa: 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 300sqm, pool. 85,000 baht/month long term, incl Wi-Fi & cable TV. Tel: 081-8915546. Email: rolf@andamanproperty.com

### NEW HOUSE



near At Panta resort. 5 minutes to Laguna, fully furnished, TV, kitchen, 2 bedrooms. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

### HOUSE IN PHANG NGA

for rent. A traditional Thai-house situated near Phang Nga Town. It has a very beautiful view, natural surroundings, on the way to Sa Nang Manora Forest Park. 2 bedrooms. Monthly rent: 20,000 baht. Includes water and electricity. Please contact K. Poo. Email: rukwith@yahoo.com

### NEW TOWNHOUSE

for rent near British International School. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-9241447.

### THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong. New 2-bedroom bungalows. Fully furnished, cool, quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht/month. Contact K. John. Tel: 081-9791976.







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Hobbies: 20, 17 or 16ft on trailers. Jetski, Seadoo 130hp, 78 hours of use, on trailer. Inflatable, RIB, Gemini, 3.1 meters, Hyperlon, as new. Tel: 086-2697138.

## BOATS FOR SALE

1 sailing boat: 52ft. 1 local wood hull. 1 sportfisher ready to go. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: huuwi@hotmail.com

## 3-METER RUBBER DINGY

Heavy duty, good condition. Mercury 5 HP, one year old with tank, anchor, oars. 60,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-3970364.

## POWER CATAMARAN

Price: 3.9 million baht. LOA 19m, BEAM 7m. 4 cabins, 2 with toilet and shower, 1 separate head, 1 separate shower, saloon, galley, flight bridge, 2 crew berths. 80% finished. Boat is in Pattaya. Tel: 02-3308592, 081-3061150. Fax: 02-3308593. Email: rm2@foodcomthailand.com

## TRIMARAN

for sale: 51-foot, 8-berth sailboat. Thai registered and in good running order. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

## FIBERGLASS RUNABOUT

Small fiberglass speedboat with 15hp Yamaha outboard in good condition. 14ft long, newly restored and painted. 120,000 baht, including launch trailer. Can be viewed at Boat Lagoon. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 076-321203, 081-9681975. Email: leonbowles@gmail.com

## FIBERGLASS SPEEDBOAT

for sale, Thai registered 11-meter fiberglass hull, perfect condition, 3 years old, 2 engines: Yamaha V6 200HP. 990,000 baht. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-8955628. Email: kay.boon@hotmail.com

## SPEEDBOAT WANTED

33ft+ speedboat required. Please send photo with details of age, specs and engine running hours, etc. Up to 1 million baht. Tel: 084-8463816. Email: gesine\_sdl@hotmail.com

## STILETTO 27 SPORT CATAMARAN

Tel: 089-5871862. Email: mmcgrath2@hotmail.com Info at Typhoon Sails website: www.typhoonsails.com/stiletto.html

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## SPEEDBOAT HULL

37-foot wooden hull, 2 years old, perfect condition. 275,000 baht. Contact Nicolas (Tel: 081-7286188) or Kat (Tel: 084-7463032). Email: nicolas.winckler@hotmail.fr

## SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

33-foot wooden hull, perfect condition, 1 1/2 years old. 2 engines: Yamaha v6 200hp. Fully equipped for diving. 900,000 baht. Contact Nicolas at Tel: 081-7286188 or Jano at Tel: 083-5905464. Email: nicolas.winckler@hotmail.fr

## 10-METER CATAMARAN



New! 4 double-berth cabins, 37sqm sailing area, 9HP 4-stroke Honda. Built in 2008 in wood epoxy composite. 590,000 baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

## THAI REGISTERED SPEEDBOAT



with two Yamaha 200 engines in good condition. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 085-7820586, 087-8846788.

## FAMILY SAILING DINGHY

4.52m/15ft. Easy sail for husband-wife, parent-child combos. Outstanding stability and fiberglass hull. Designed to be sailed by a man and a woman. Can deliver exciting performance without using spinnaker or trapeze. Small class on island, so can race. Four hours free tuition with sale. 125,000 baht. Wind comes free. Tel: 081-539-9560. Email: oystcove@loxinfo.co.th

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72' Vitech Cruiser - 1994: \$985,000 USD  
63' Hatteras Custom - 1972: 5,950,000 THB  
44' Riviera - 1994: 6,500,000 THB  
36' Princess 360 - 1996: 4,750,000 THB  
30' Riviera 3000 - 1999: 4,100,000 THB



### 33' Custom Sloop <

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### Hatteras 32 Sportsfisher <

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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437  
tel/fax: 076 239 729  
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
Contact: Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 081 891 3237  
tel/fax: 076 206 260  
email: yachtaven@leemarine.com

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## SECRETARY TO GM

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**Scandinavian Divers**

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- 2 Booking Staff, Phuket

For the Manager the following qualifications are needed:

- Flexible and able to work under stress.
- Scandinavian would be preferred.
- Presentable and flexible.

For the Accountant position the following qualifications are needed:

- Able to speak and write English.
- Minimum 2 years of working experience with accounting.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks is necessary.
- Knowledge of official papers such as work permits, TAT license and related company papers will be an advantage.

For the Booking positions the following qualifications are needed:

- Excellent skills in spoken and written Thai.
- Good skills in spoken and written English.
- Knowledge of the dive business – persons with a dive certificate will have a big advantage.
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Interested candidate, who fit the above profiles, please email your resume to us immediately. We will call you to make an appointment for an interview.

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Wanted: Female with B.Sc, 20-30 years old, English skills, self motivated, sporty, car owner preferred. 25,000 baht per month + car compensation. Tel: 081-0780014. Email: andamanproject@myway.com

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Closing Date for applications: Monday, June 30, 2008

Please submit a letter of application, along with a detailed curriculum vitae and three references to: Headmaster@bcis.ac.th

Further information may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th/staffvacancies.asp



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for Act & Art Tiny Tots, Mon-Fri, 8 am-5 pm. 8,000 baht/month + benefits. Female, must love kids, speak English. Artistic skills a plus. Koh Kaew area. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-238147, 087-2707163. Fax: 076-238147. Email: evakinnaree02@yahoo.co.uk

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Thai lady, part time, good English and computer skills. Please contact for more information at Tel: 086-2790837.

## RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful small guesthouse in Karon. Call: 086-2718254 or Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

## THAI RESTAURANT

Black and White opening soon in Kathu. Staff required urgently. Contact Khun Nat. Tel: 086-9432976.

## HOTEL STAFF

Patong hotel needs 1 receptionist with good English skills. Tel: 081-8921621.

## POSITION: RECEPTIONIST

Requirements:

- Diploma or bachelor's degree in any related field
- Minimum 1 year of experience. We also welcome new graduates.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office, Excel and email correspondence.
- Good written and spoken English communication skills.
- Pleasant personality, service minded with excellent interpersonal skills.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications together with a resume of career to date, present salary, expected salary, references and a recent photo to the address shown below.

PK International Law Office Company Limited.

18/9, 17 Moo 8, Chao Fa East Road, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130.

Tel: 076-384014, 076-381055. Fax: 076-381252  
Email: rung@pk-phuket-law.com

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# Island Job Mart

## VACANCY

### BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL IN PHUKET

A vacancy will arise in Phuket for a suitably qualified British National or other national with close affiliation to the UK. The main purpose of the role is to support the work of the Consular Section at the British Embassy in Bangkok.

Key duties undertaken by the successful candidate will include:

- ❖ Liaison with the British Embassy in assisting British Nationals in distress.
- ❖ Availability 24/7 to respond, in exceptional circumstances, to disasters involving British Nationals.
- ❖ Informing the Embassy of any deaths, accidents, hospitalisations, or arrests involving British Nationals.
- ❖ Forging contacts with local authorities and organisations with a view to obtaining their appropriate assistance with cases involving distressed British Nationals.

Further details can be found on the British Embassy web site.

**SCOR**

Applications must be made by letter, enclosing CV, copy of ID or passport, addressed to Assistant Management Officer, British Embassy, 14 Wireless Road, Bangkok 10330 by 12 noon on Friday 4 July 2008.

Please ensure the envelope bears the reference "Job/Hon/Con".



**SCANDINAVIAN DIVERS**  
needs a  
**LIVEABOARD Operation Manager/Tour Director**

For the coming season 2008/2009 we are looking for the best TOUR DIRECTOR to operate our new LiveAboard with scheduled trips to the Similan/Surin area.

It is our goal that you can make the boat the most wanted.

The following qualifications are needed:

- Outstanding knowledge of LiveAboard operations.
- Outstanding knowledge of dive sites and marine life.
- Excellent spoken and written English.
- Presentable and flexible.

Work permit will be provided.  
Salary according to your qualifications.  
Start of work as agreed during interview.

Interested candidates who fit the above profiles, please email your resumé to us immediately. We will call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Patong: Phone: 076-294 226  
Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com  
For additional info of our company: www.diving-phuket-thailand.com

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

The Chedi Phuket is a well-established resort with 108 cottages and F&B outlets. The resort is currently looking for a dedicated professional to fill the position of:

### Restaurant Manager

- ▶ Male or female, Thai national
- ▶ Age between 26 and 35 years old
- ▶ Degree in hospitality or related field
- ▶ Minimum 2 years of experience at restaurant manager level
- ▶ Good command of English
- ▶ Great personality, passionate attitude, service-minded and a team leader

Candidates with the above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resumé with a recent photo to:

**The Chedi Phuket**  
118 Moo 3, Cherg Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076-324017-20 Fax: 076-324083  
Email: personnel@chedi-phuket.com  
www.gmhhotels.com



**Mom Tri's Villa Royale** is set atop the headland of Kata Bay between two of the most beautiful sandy beaches on Phuket, Kata Noi and Kata Yai. We are currently seeking energetic and dynamic people to join our team at Mom Tri's Gung Restaurant.

**Food & Beverage Department**

- Waiter
- Bartender
- Cleaner

**Kitchen Department**

- Chef
- Cook

Candidates are invited to apply in writing with full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo to: hr@villaroyalephuket.com

**Mom Tri's Villa Royale Phuket**  
12 Kata Noi Road, Karon, Muang, Phuket 83100  
Tel: 076-333568



**Due to recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following position:**

**Camera Operator:** Reporting to the Production Manager, the Camera Operator will be responsible for daily footage and news gathering for our daily program packages, and will coordinate with the TV news editor, producer and reporters.

Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows; who have a real passion for TV production; and who enjoy being part of a dynamic team.

Attitude and interest level will be more important than experience as a camera operator. A driving license and basic English is required. Knowledge of video editing would be an advantage.

Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter, photo, and video samples (if available) to [Jib@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Jib@PhuketGazette.Net), or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang  
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

## ENGLISH TEACHER

An English teacher is required to teach my 12 staff basic English on a full-time basis. Salary and hours negotiable. Please email me with your contact details. Tel: + 61-418-997446. Email: [tonyll@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tonyll@bigpond.net.au)

## Employment Wanted

### CREATIVE CHEF AVAILABLE

Creative American chef with 20 years' experience seeks to relocate to Phuket. For more info, please contact me. Tel: + 1-351-2011419. Email: [dru\\_01923@yahoo.com](mailto:dru_01923@yahoo.com)

### SWEDISH MALE CV ONLINE

Open for all suggestions. Please contact me to arrange an interview. Tel: 084-4463331. Email: [northernkwai@hotmail.com](mailto:northernkwai@hotmail.com) For further details, covering letter and full resume, please visit this weblink: [www.thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=187111](http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=187111)

### 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. Please contact for more info. Tel: 085-7932477. Email: [garyteets@yahoo.com](mailto:garyteets@yahoo.com)

**CONSTRUCTION**  
German supervisor, 20 years working experience in Thailand. Speaks English and Thai. Email: [johann.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:johann.phuket@gmail.com)

## 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: [spacare@singnet.com.sg](mailto:spacare@singnet.com.sg)

### WANTED: ROCKET SCIENTIST

Just checking. Email: [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

### MASSAGE THERAPIST

A female massage therapist is required to work in a luxurious spa in Abu Dhabi/UAE. Must be certified, speak good English and have at least 5 years' experience. Tel: 02-4437375, 050-446-4426. Fax: 02-6655764. Email: [footprint\\_spa@yahoo.com](mailto:footprint_spa@yahoo.com) For further details, please visit our website at: [www.footprint-spa.com](http://www.footprint-spa.com)

### AJAX PHP PROGRAMMERS

Freelancers welcome for large Internet project. Please contact for more details at Tel: 084-6644050. Email: [aadams007@yahoo.com](mailto:aadams007@yahoo.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)

### MASSAGE AND SPA

We are looking for a manager, cashier and massage lady. Must be service minded. Call K. Pui for more information. Tel: 085-7859239.

### ENGLISH-SPEAKING

lady for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motorbike. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: [gregmackay67@hotmail.com](mailto:gregmackay67@hotmail.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](mailto:max.t@th.diethelmtravel.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 resume, photo and date you can start work. Email: [bob@elephant-hills.com](mailto:bob@elephant-hills.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](mailto:scott@pcs.co.th)

### 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. Contact for interview. Tel: 089-9711813. Email: [info@abcnurseryphuket.com](mailto:info@abcnurseryphuket.com)

### CLUB ASIA FITNESS

Phuket's leading fitness center requires sales staff, fitness instructor and personal trainer. Tel: 076-354027, 089-126-5671. Fax: 076-233384. Web: [www.clubasiaphuket.com](http://www.clubasiaphuket.com)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

**AQUA ONE FISH TANK**  
Rounded perspex, filter, built-in lights + pump, 75L. 4,500 baht. Tel: 084-4405438.

**PRO DJ SETUP**  
2x Vestax turntables, Pioneer DJM 600 mixer, 2x Behringer pre-amp speakers, 164-house records, 3xt cases, 70,000 baht. Tel: 084-4405438.

**BOSE LIFESTLYE 50**  
10+1 speakers, white, wall brackets, 6 CDs, touch-screen remote, complete system. 65,000 baht. Tel: 084-440 5438.

**HP 312 SAT NAV**  
Complete with car kit. Only 1 month old. In box and complete. Unwanted gift. New: 15,000 baht; will sell for 10,000 ono. Tel: 085-789-5092. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

**MOSQUITO MAGNET**  
Mosquito magnet (Defender model). Complete with gas bottle and in good working order. Can deliver. Tel: 085-7895092. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

**SIERRA WIRELESS AIRCARD**  
4,000 baht, call after 2 pm. Comes with CD software. Not for Vista; XP is OK. Tel: 076-296351, 081-0862772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

**LIKE-NEW 9-BALL POOL TABLE**  
Size: 4'x8'. Slate top, new felt, new set of balls, all accessories. Delivery & installation included. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-8234627, 084-290 1645. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

### OFFICE FURNITURE

Armchairs, chairs, desks, computer tables – all for sale at just half of their full prices. Also have aircon unit for sale, only 10,000 baht. Tel: 076-346004, 087-2642598. Fax: 076-346004. Email: georgeslancry@hotmail.com

### PRIVATE SALE

Gurios paintings, stereo, antique oriental carpets. Call Heyno. Tel: 080-1453483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

### MULTIGYM

Large, 4 stations, excellent condition. Moving, so must sell quickly. All offers considered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2752808. Email: lwa\_liz@hotmail.com

### 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 headset. Fixed price: 11,500 baht. Tel: 087-3892160. Email: jrm.dlrm@gmail.com

### MONGOOSE

Rockodile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold-drink fridge, 2ftx5ft. 4,000 baht. Compaq desktop computer: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-628-8450.

### WATER DISPENSER

For both cold and warm water. Sale includes 2 x 5-gallon bottles. 1,000 baht. Tel: 076-323459, 089-7291113. Email: richard\_melen@hotmail.com

### 2-LEVEL TRAILER

Legal, registered with lights. Suitable for 2-3 small boats/dinghies, karts, etc. 35,000 baht. Tel: 081-3970905. Email: phil@asiawebworks.com

### SUPER HD TV 52"

Samsung projection TV, plus Samsung DVD player. 10 years old. Free delivery. Tel: 075-637290, 087-9214260. Email: odni.gg@gmail.com

### BINOCULAR-STABILIZED-14X40

Fujinon Techno-Stabi image-stabilizing binoculars. Waterproof. Come with yellow Pelican case. Rarely used. 25,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-397-0905. Email: phil@asiawebworks.com

### MATTRESSES FOR SALE

25 hotel mattresses, good condition. 1,500 baht each. Tel: 081-9684978.

### SAMSUNG LCD TV

32-inch screen, about 1 year old. 17,000 baht. Call or email for more info. Tel: 089-972-8544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

## Articles Wanted

### L/XL DOG CRATE WANTED

I am seeking an airline-approved travel crate or kennel for my dog, size large or x-large. Please email me if you have one available. Email: debradownes@gmail.com

## Bulletins

### 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

## 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 – 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).

### 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

## Business Opportunities

### BAR FOR SALE – NANAI RD

Bar with large kitchen and pool table. Fully equipped and ready to run. Landlord is very reasonable. Monthly rent only 7,000 baht for next 2 years, after which it will be possible to renew contract for around 30,000 baht per year. Priced to sell at 545,000 baht. Please contact Nat. Tel: 089-651-4279. Email: m\_saundersuk@hotmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Bar at Otop Market for sale. Call Andrew at +61-414 794446. Email: 6mods@ozemail.com.au

### GUEST ROOMS

Four high-quality guest rooms in a new development on Koh Phi Phi. Long lease and good returns. Close to the center and the beach. Suit existing guest-house operation. Contact owner for details. Tel: 087-4613121. Email: sgiandubh69@hotmail.com

### SHOP/OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

On main road opposite Club Med hotel. 8m x 12m, lease renewable every 3 years. Key money: 1 million baht. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. After 3 years, key money is 600,000 baht for 3 years with rent at 18,000 baht. Don't miss - big space! Tel: 081-4154883. Email: robinkhap@gmail.com

### BARS, GUESTHOUSES

Bangla, Nanai, many business opportunities. For further details, please see our website at [www.janepropertyphuket.com](http://www.janepropertyphuket.com)

### SPORT FISHING COMPANY

Turn key, ready to start, fully rigged. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: huuwi@hotmail.com

### MASSAGE BEAUTY SALON

for sale. 120sqm, brand new in Patong. 750,000 baht, great deal. Contact Alex. Tel: 081-4954761.

### SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

in Patong. Must see. Great location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

### HOTEL IN PATONG

Hotel for sale, Patong. 19 luxurious rooms (en suite), duplex penthouse, lift, swimming pool, sea views. Needs refurbishment. Total cost: 49 million baht. Call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

### BARGAIN BAR FOR SALE

Nanai Rd. League pool table, 6-month-old 42" plasma TV, music system, DVD and large pizza oven. 500,000 baht. Tel: 083-6491300.

### BAKERY & RESTAURANT

for sale. Please visit [www.bakeryforsale.info](http://www.bakeryforsale.info)

## 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, Chaofa 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

Srisoontorn 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!

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## BAR FOR SALE

Soi Bangla area. Priced for quick sale at 1.2 million baht. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-730-0190.

## BAR FOR SALE

One of the busiest bars on Nanai Rd. Established for 11 years with year-round trade and known for good-quality food. Pool table & dartboard with established teams in two pool leagues and darts league. TV projector & 6ft screen. Website and Wi-Fi. Four-year lease with reasonable monthly rent. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 086-2678138. Email: dna-muswell@hotmail.com

## ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain, 4-story shophouse with chanote. There is a fully equipped restaurant on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-8915602.

## RESTAURANT & BAR FOR LEASE

Directly opposite the beach in Patong. Fantastic location. Fabulous sea views. 14-million baht total for this business. Please call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage for more information. Tel: 084-304-7700.

## ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (with license). Contact via email at a.pueng@gmail.com

## BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with bookshelves. Quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

## THAI RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Thai-style restaurant (house) on Kamala hill, prime location, for rent. Built traditional Thai way with 3 separate buildings. Wi-Fi. 130,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-292980, 086-9473432. Fax: 076-292980. Email: thai\_model2003@yahoo.com

## WANTED

Genuine business, must be able to show 3 years profitable operation, 3-8 million baht available. Contact Alan. Tel: 084-8426146.

## PATONG GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Rare opportunity. A chance to stake a claim on Patong's Golden Triangle. A prime retail rental unit is coming onto the market in July. Located on Bangla and next to Thaveewong Beach road, this unit offers in excess of 120sqm of prime retail space. Lease terms negotiable for the right client. Contact Thira Chanphum. Email: pla.tuna@yahoo.co.uk

## PATONG SHOPHOUSE

Bangla Road area, 4 floors, approx 600sqm retail space. 7 residential units. Finance available at 25% deposit. Price: 16 million baht. Website: www.phuketshophouse.com

## BEAUTY SALON, MASSAGE SPA

in Patong, opposite Cabana hotel. 6 massage beds and chairs, massage room, spa room, 2 aircons. 2-year contract possible. 1.5 million baht, includes rental, non-negotiable. Contact Ben. Tel: 081-9586741.

## BAR AVAILABLE ON SOI BANGLA

Prime location, frontage. 8.5 million baht. Fixed price! Call Simon at Andaman Business brokerage. Tel: 084-304-7700.

## 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.
- Has government licence.
- All materials, equipment, furniture, air conditioning and coolers are new with warranties.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 FOR SALE

on Karon main road. Seats 38. Three floors, with big, newly-furnished apartment. Rent: 17,000 baht/month. 3-year contract. No key money. Price: 15,000 euro, all inclusive. Tel: 089-8729149. Email: info@klausharbauer.com

## FISH & CHIP RESTAURANT & BAR

Business for lease in Patong. Great returns & low costs. Just 1.5 million baht. Call Simon at Andaman Business Brokerage. Tel: 084-304-7700.

## GO-GO BAR

On busy soi off Soi Bangla. Well established, good fixtures and sound system, staff accommodation and 2 other upstairs rooms. Popular dancers and a good website. Rent 30,000 baht/month. Sale price: 1.99 million baht. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

## PATONG OPPORTUNITY

Bars, a-go-gos, nightclub and huge area suitable for club or other development. Very long lease available on excellent terms. Starting from 750,000 baht. Phone Simon at Andaman Business Brokerage. Tel: 084-3047700.

## KARON GUESTHOUSE

Beautiful guesthouse, 6 apartments from 45sqm. 50m from beach. 2.9 million baht for inventory. 55,000 per month rent. Tel: 086-271-8254. Email: ninproperty@hotmail.com

## TAILOR SHOP AT JUNGCEYLON

A well-established tailor shop at Jungceylon, Patong, is for sale. Tel: 086-3287376. Email: sohailnoshad@hotmail.com

## 50% PARTNERSHIP OFFERED

Established business producing sausage and bacon products for the catering industry requires working partner. Sales, marketing and logistics. Work permit available. Investment: 500,000 baht. Tel: 084-8058815. Email: gntradingco@hotmail.co.uk

## HOTEL FOR SALE

Located in Nakorn Sawan. Quick money, daily income. Contact K. Joe. Tel: 085-4055333.

## 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

## Business Products & Services

## www.visasiam.com

1,500.-	Visa run to Ranong border [All inclusive]					Daily
4,500.-	To Penang, Malaysia to apply for new visa includes 3-star hotel (single room), food & drink. [Visa fee not included]					Sunday Night
Trip To Penang	JUN.'08 1,8,15,22,29	JUL.'08 6,13,20,27	AUG.'08 3,12,17,24,31	SEPT.'08 7,14,21,28	OCT.'08 5,12,19,26	
25,000.-	One year visa for age 50 years or over - Thai bank book					
+ 5,000.-	Change visa from TR, P.30 to Non-Immigrant O visa					
20,000.-	Married to Thai person (All inclusive)					

We Offer Consulting Services On  
Company Registrations, Work Permits, Visas, Accounting,  
Auditing, Legal Advice

## PHUKET VISA & BUSINESS

64/46 Moo 1, Chao Fa Road, Tambon Vichit, Muang Phuket District, Phuket 83000, Thailand. Email: phuketvisa@hotmail.com  
Tel/Fax: 076-263475, 076-264476. Mobile: 081-8929960

## VISA RUN

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## Personals

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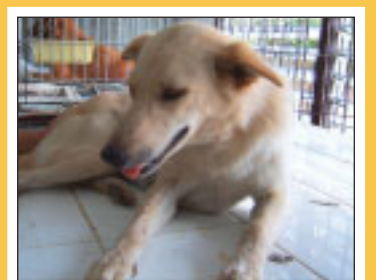
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# Wheels & Motors

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### 1997 HONDA CITY

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### TOYOTA CAMRY FOR SALE

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### 1998 MGF 1.8 VVC SPORTS CAR

Immaculate condition. Convertible with red body, red hardtop, black softtop. Cream leather seats. Low mileage. 799,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-578280, 086-9410639. Email: andrew@damaskdesign.net

### MAZDA 3 SPORT

Top model, 2005: black, auto, aircon, sunroof, 6 airbags, CD/MP3/tape player. Selling for 795,000 baht. Tel: 076-305-657, 081-7379241. Fax 076-305657. Email: steveru@phuketinternet.co.th

### TOYOTA CROWN

1991 model, 2.5L, 24V eng, auto, dual aircon, many new parts, reliable, needs new paint. 100,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-9087350. Email: jacek\_fi@hotmail.com

### MIRA DAIHATSU

12 years old, red, CD player, 65,000 baht. Tel: 084-509-9652, 089-8728468.

### HONDA CIVIC 2007

As new, only 6 months old. Low cost. New: 893,000 baht, bargain at 800,000 baht. Has 2 years on warranty. Tel: 087-1612928.

### 1956 CHEVROLET

2-door, V8, auto, power steering, power brake, fully restored and modernized. 600,000 baht. Tel: 086-2778461.

### TOYOTA CAMRY 2003

Black, 94,000km, 2.4-liter engine, 800,000 baht. Tel: 089-8733952. Email: bigmanfox@pacific.net.sg

### NISSAN FOR SALE

Station wagon, 1999, green, new wheels. Insured until August. Tel: 081-7281887.

### 1996 AUDI A4 AUTO



1.8L, 190,000km, dual airbag, new aircon, transmission, brakes, radiator. Only 190,000 baht. Tel: 081-4760380.

### HONDA CITY V-TEC

Top model, Sept 2004, auto, 29,800km, insured, full service, very good condition. 435,000 baht. Tel: 076-383-280, 086-2817605. Email: nigelnpxie@yahoo.com.au

### CHEVROLET OPTRA LT SS

2006 model. Metallic black, 32,000km, one-year warranty. Just serviced, excellent condition. 450,000 baht. Tel: 076-528016, 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

### CHEVROLET 480,000 BAHT

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### TOYOTA COROLLA OLD TIMER



1969. Green, Mini Cooper style, good condition, drives well, 50,000 baht. Tel: 089-6466871.

### 1994 OPEL ASTRA 100,000 BAHT

Wagon. Auto. AIG 1st-class insurance. Kenwood MP3/USB audio + speakers. Good condition. Serviced by Benz. Tel: 084-8771047. Email: danielryu@hotmail.com

### HYUNDAI EXCEL GLS

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### OPEL CORSA FOR SALE

Beautiful, in excellent condition. Blue, fully insured. Selling for 180,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-2781583.

## Pickups

### MAZDA PICKUP 2005

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### NISSAN BIG M FOR SALE

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### TOYOTA HILUX

1996 model, 2,500cc, 4 doors, 216,000km, 250,000 baht. Tel: 084-7164826. Email: sea88@yandex.ru

### NISSAN NV 2005 MODEL

30,000km, auto, red, guarantee. Asking price: 285,000 baht. Tel: 081-8937068.

### TOYOTA SPORT CRUISER



November 2003 model. 62,400km. Diesel, auto, 2WD. Price: 470,000 baht. Tel: 081-7283281.

### 1996 NISSAN NV

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### CHEVROLET PICKUP

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### 2005

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### TOYOTA FORTUNER 2005

3G, MT, 43000km, beige, full service, only one owner, excellent condition. 790,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-8953320.

### TOYOTA HILUX 2001

87,000km, manual, 2.5 L Diesel, D4D, full options, DVD player. 370,000 baht. Tel: 076-344725, 089-212 1254.

### D-MAX LTD 3.0L

Turbo, 4x4, DVD, 11,000km. Top of the range. For long- or short-term rent. Also for sale. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4243562.

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### FORD ESCAPE 3.0L

2005, automatic. 55,000km. Many extras. As new. Only 775,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-2908854. Email: verhaeghefranc@hotmail.com

### MAZDA 4X4 DIESEL TRUCK

2006. Just like new. Only 13,000km. 3.0L turbo diesel. Power steering, ABS. Price: 575,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

### TOYOTA SPORTSCRUISER 4WD



2002 2.5L, 16V turbo, manual, regularly serviced, 107,000km. 380,000 baht. Tel: 076-377902, 084-064 6746. Email: nvandecasteele@bcis.ac.th

### HONDA CRV

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### FORD RANGER 4WD TURBO

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### BLACK TOYOTA JEEP

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### ISUZU DMAX 2004 MUST SEE!

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### BMW F650 GS 2002

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### YAMAHA VIRAGO

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### HONDA AFRICA TWIN 750CC

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### 2 HARLEY-DAVIDSONS

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### KAWASAKI VULCAN 1,500cc '98

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### SUZUKI STEP 125

2006, automatic, 125cc. Green, 7,300km, taxed & insured until June 2009. Green book. 27,000 baht. Tel: 084-8463887. Fax: 076-245736. Email: stefuena@hotmail.com

### SUZUKI GSX-R 2005

600cc, GPR exhaust, 3700km, super condition. 360,000 baht. Tel: 089-9715664.

### YAMAHA TENERE 750

1995, with green book, 22,000km, good condition, 150,000 baht. New tires. Please call 089-9715664 for further details.

### 2004 YAMAHA FAZER 1000

17,000km. New paint, chain and tires. Moving, must sell. 280,000 baht. Comes with green book. Tel: 084-7137495. Email: richguess@aol.com

### HONDA AIR BLADE

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### HONDA AFRICA TWIN 750cc

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10,000 to 20,000 baht per month, full insurance. Call 089-4727304 for details.

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Suzuki Caribbean, new: 600 baht/day; 3,800 baht/week; 12,500 baht/month. Honda Phantom, new: 350 baht/day; 2,000 baht/week; 7,000 baht/month. Contact Koi's Bar at Kamala Beach. Tel: 086-2663836.

### FORD & HONDA BUY OR RENT

Ford Ranger for sale: 55,000 baht down, plus 7,069 baht monthly. Rent: 12,500 baht per month. Honda Civic for sale: 520,000 baht. Rent: 27,000 per month. Tel: 081-5372657 (Eng and Thai). For more info visit: [www.phuket.tripadvisor.com/phukettripadvisor6](http://www.phuket.tripadvisor.com/phukettripadvisor6)

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