

Phuket Gazette

Volume 15 Issue 26 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555 June 28 - July 4, 2008 Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net 25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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Investors targeting Ao Phuket project

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Two men representing a Norwegian marine engineering firm on June 19 met Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit to show their interest in the Ao Phuket development project.

The Norwegians were just two of a host of potential investors who have been inquiring about the development, Gov Niran said.

Geir L Kjersem, Managing Director of LMG Marin, met the governor at 1:30 pm, accompanied by his associate Carl Sverdrup and Thai advisor Natthasak Songserm.

The Norwegians' main objective was to introduce their firm's offshore piling technology for use in the Ao Phuket project's marina and convention center, which might be "floating islands" affixed to the seabed.

The method proposed does not involve conventional land-reclamation techniques that require dumping sediment directly into the sea, but rather the construction of huge platforms onto which sediment is placed. This allows natural currents to flow beneath the structures and minimizes environmental impact, they explained.

Another advantage is that the structures can be built onshore then towed into place and attached to the piles, they added.

The pair also expressed an interest in investing in the project.

Gov Niran told the men he was impressed with the technology and encouraged them to make the same presentation to the board of the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta) in Bangkok.

They visited Dasta officials



Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit listens to the presentation by Norwegians Carl Sverdrup (right) and Geir Kjersem (left).

in Bangkok on June 20, the *Gazette* has learned.

Dasta, a public organization under the Tourism and Sports Ministry, held a public hearing on the project in Phuket on May 29 and appears keen to move ahead with the 100-billion-baht plan.

There has been considerable investment interest in the project among foreign firms, Gov Niran said.

"We have been contacted by many potential foreign investors. We have already had a similar presentation by Korean firms Lotte Group and Kookmin Bank, who are interested in joint-investment in the project. With the right kind of promotion, I think we can expect more investors to show interest," Gov Niran said.

Another firm had recently contacted the Governor's Office to inquire about investing in a light rail project, he added.

Dasta board member Rajatin Syamananda, the driving force

behind the project, recently called Gov Niran to inform him that Dasta is still studying the Ao Phuket project and looking into the idea of listing all of Phuket under Dasta as a special development zone, as requested by many people who attended the last public hearing.

"Dasta needs more time to study the issues involved and will hold more public hearings, but the dates have yet to be set," Gov Niran said.

"Actually Phuket is still very attractive to foreign investors. I have just had a visit from one group who are going to take over a hotel in Phuket, while another group based in the Middle East also recently visited to discuss investing in a free-trade zone at Ao Makham. They first brought up the idea during the previous government," he said.

"I think once we announce Phuket as a special zone, more projects will come," he added.

Kathu Police chief vows to clean up Soi Bangla

By Gazette Staff

PATONG: In a bid to clean up the garbage that accumulates every day on Soi Bangla, Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak on June 16 launched a garbage-disposal campaign to ease some of Patong's waste woes.

Col Grissak told the *Gazette* that he called on local vendors and municipal authorities to discuss the problem and develop a plan of action with the goal of ensuring that the air in Patong remains fresh for the many tourists who visit the beach resort.

According to new guidelines, between 6 pm and 2 am there is to be no dumping of litter anywhere along Soi Bangla. Vendors are permitted to put their rubbish out on the soi at 2 am for refuse collectors to take away by the next morning.

Violators of the new scheme could be fined between 500 and 1,000 baht according to existing Thai law, added Col Grissak.

A transition period is necessary so that vendors can adjust to the new schedule, said Col Grissak. Those involved in the scheme, many of whom have signed a memorandum of understanding, have been co-operative and there is now a community spirit on Soi Bangla with many vendors actively keeping the area clean, he added.

One Patong vendor told the *Gazette* that litter on the streets from fellow vendors had annoyed him for some time.

Less than two weeks into the scheme, tourists are already staying on Soi Bangla longer and in greater numbers than before, added the vendor, who chose to remain anonymous.

Russian found dead

PHUKET CITY: Mystery surrounds the death of a Russian man who missed his flight out of Thailand on June 18 and was found dead in his apartment June 19.

Lt Col Wijak Taron, Phuket City Police Inspector for Investigations, identified the deceased as Oleg Syrus, 38.

Col Wijak was alerted to Mr Syrus' death at 4:30 pm by the management of Thanaporn Apartments on Suthat Rd Soi 2, where Mr Syrus lived in a one-room apartment.

"We didn't find any evidence of robbery or assault. His packed suitcase was still in his room and there was no evidence that anyone had tried to tamper with it," Col Wijak said.

Other tenants in the apartment block said that Mr Syrus had lived in Thailand since 2005 and was an alcoholic, Col Wijak said.

A local source told the *Gazette* that Mr Syrus had worked with two Russian tour companies during his time in Thailand, including Royal Andaman Express, where Mr Syrus was marketing manager years ago.

Police hunt 'mock monk' thief

By Sompratch Saowakhon

RASSADA: Phuket City Police are on the lookout for a man who wears a monk's robe but is wanted for the theft of about 100 amulets with a total claimed value of more than 100,000 baht.

Phuket City Police Investigating Inspector Lt Col Wijak Taron today told the *Gazette* that police responded to a call from a man on the evening of June 23.

The man claimed to have been robbed by a man dressed as a monk who had stolen about 100 amulets from his house.

Col Wijak declined to name

the victim and the victim did not give the name of the supposed monk in his complaint to the police.

The victim told police that on June 22 a "monk" who was walking past his house on Prompan Rd in Rassada asked to stay the night. The next morning, the visitor was to continue on his way to Phuket City, Col Wijak said.

The man went to work in the morning, leaving his guest to sleep peacefully in his house. But when he returned in the afternoon, he found that about 100 amulets were missing – and so

was his guest, Col Wijak added.

"The 'monk' has a tattoo on each arm. He is a little overweight and has light skin. That is all we know; we don't even know which temple he is apparently from," Col Wijak said.

"In fact, we cannot even confirm whether he is a real monk. I have ordered police officers to be on the lookout for him," he added.

"I cannot confirm the owner's claim that the stolen amulets' total worth is more than 100,000 baht, as the prices of amulets are always fluctuating," Col Wijak said.

Appeal to help babe needing heart operation

PHUKET: British International School (BIS) Phuket is calling for donations to help pay for specialized medical treatment for three-month-old Ruby, daughter of the school's art co-ordinator, Claire Lester.

Ruby has been diagnosed with DiGeorge's syndrome, a genetic disorder that has left her with a partially collapsed lung, pneumonia and requiring a heart operation.

As Ruby was born with her condition, no insurance company will cover the cost of any of her treatment.

Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) will host a fund-raising dinner and silent auction at Skipper's bar at Royal Phuket Marina on July 17. Tickets are 600 baht each. Contact Carole Dux (Tel: 085-7821332) to buy tickets.

"We are looking at ways to make heart lapel badges to sell to raise funds, and we welcome other fund-raising ideas or initiatives," said BIS headmaster George Hickman.

"We are looking to raise 600,000 baht for the operation and then hope to support Claire Lester with the costs of Ruby's ongoing care," he added.

Patong hotel tenants face 30-day eviction

By Prathomporn Kaenkrachang

PATONG: Long-term tenants staying at the Vises Hotel on Sainamyen Rd on June 18 filed a complaint at Kathu Police Station after finding out that they had been served an eviction order requiring them to leave the hotel by July 15.

A court notice attached to the hotel door warned that the hotel had been repossessed by Photipoom Co Ltd. The notice also warned that there was to be no damage, sale or transfer of the assets without written permission from Punyatida Krosap of the Phuket Provincial Legal Execution Office.

At 10 am, about 38 long-term tenants of various nationalities met at Kathu Police Station to file the complaint. Some had paid for their rooms two years in advance, some for a year and some had paid for six months. Some guests had contracts, others had only receipts for their rent payments.

The total amount of rent al-



Long-term tenants at Vises Hotel (pictured) on Sainamyen Rd in Patong have been given until July 15 to move out.

ready paid that the tenants stand to lose is about one million baht.

However, Lt Weerapong Rakkhito explained to them that the case had already been heard in court and that they would have to hire a lawyer to negotiate their rights with the building's owner, Photipoom.

Photipoom's legal representative, Bandit Sirsawa, told the *Gazette* that Photipoom had acquired the building through another company headed by Dr Pranee Pha-eonchoke, who is also an executive at Thairung Union Car Co, at a public auction in 2003.

However, Sumitra Vassanakomut, who was working as sales manager at the hotel when it was bought, had stayed on collecting money from tenants, K. Bandit said.

"We offered to sell the hotel to Sumitra, who agreed in principle but made no payment," he said.

K. Bandit said that in 2004 a case was filed against Sumitra for damages totaling 100 million baht. The court finally ruled that she was to vacate the building in December 2007, he said.

However, Sumitra ignored the judgment and continued to collect rents keeping the issue secret from the tenants, K. Bandit said.

He added that he had spent one day with a translator explaining to all the tenants, one by one, that they would all have to move out by July 15.

Private lawyers acting on behalf of guests are now contacting K. Bandit for documents to be used as evidence in their cases.

The tenants are also considering filing a case with the Phuket Consumer Protection Board.

Police, staff at the hotel and the disconcerted tenants all told the *Gazette* that they did not have K. Sumitra's current contact details.

Sumitra also left behind an unpaid electricity bill totaling more than 400,000 baht, said K. Bandit.

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Thai guides angry over imported Russian substitutes

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: A group of about 10 Phuket tour guides on June 17 filed a complaint with Phuket Senator Thanyarat Atchariyachai, claiming that Russians were stealing their jobs by working as guides for Russian tour groups.

K. Thanyarat, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Tourism, was in Phuket with fellow committee members to sound out local businesspeople and report to Cabinet what they feel are the major problems facing the tourism industry.

The tour guides claimed that more and more Russians are being hired to work as guides for Russian tour agencies in Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket.

The letter explained that Russian tourists generally buy plane tickets to Thailand and book their accommodation from their home country. Once in Thailand, the tourists buy travel packages to other destinations within Thailand through Thai companies that use Thai guides.

However, as local tour companies specializing in Russian tour groups are now hiring Russians as guides, Thailand is losing out, the letter said.

"Those travel agents bring Russians to work as tour guides and they no longer hire Thai guides who can speak Russian," the letter said.

The letter also said that many travel agents hired Thai guides as "sitting guides" to avoid being caught breaking the law.

One of the guides, who asked not to be named, said there are about 100 Thai tour guides who can speak Russian. Many are now unemployed, even though some graduated with master's degrees in Russia and others have been conducting tours for Russian groups for more than 10 years, she said.

Some of the Russians working as guides are qualified doctors or teachers, but have come to work in Thailand because they can earn much more money here, she added.

The letter also claimed that illegal Russian guides told Russian tourists that Thai guides were unable to speak Russian and that many Thais were cheats and thieves.

Some Russians brought their relatives to work in Thailand, creating a bad reputation for the country as some of them stole valuables from clients, the letter stated.

Restaurateur gunned down on Patong Hill

By Sompratch Saowakhon

TUNG TONG: Police are investigating the shooting murder of a seafood restaurant owner early evening on June 17 that caused a multiple-car accident at the bottom of Patong Hill.

Thung Thong Police Superintendent Col Arayapan Pukbuakao identified the victim as 38-year-old Sirichai "Yod" Chaikoo, part owner of the 99 Seafood Restaurant opposite the Royal Paradise Hotel complex on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong.

Initially reported to police as a traffic pileup, police and several vehicles of rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation arrived quickly at the scene.

Inside a metallic-gray 4WD Toyota Hilux Vigo pickup that rolled to a stop near the intersection of Soi Bangtong, just north of the Go Kart Speedway, they found K. Sirichai unconscious but still breathing.

He had sustained a single 9mm bullet wound.

Fired from the driver's side, the bullet had entered his right ribcage and ruptured his spine.

Four other bullets fired at the victim missed their target, hitting the driver's seat, windows and door.



A motorcycle taxi driver was among hundreds of curious onlookers inspecting the vehicle of Sirichai 'Yod' Chaikoo, who was gunned down on his way to Patong on June 17.

K. Sirichai was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead at about 10 pm.

From an initial investigation of the crime scene, police believe the shooting was carried out by two assassins on a motorbike, though they have no witnesses to confirm this.

"It must have been a difficult hit given the location and traffic conditions in the area," Col Arayapan said.

After being hit, the victim lost control of the vehicle, which was heading toward Patong Hill after turning left from Soi Bangtong.

The car collided with a minivan heading towards Phuket City that came to stop in front of

a row of shophouses.

The number and extent of other injuries has yet to be reported.

Police noted that the victim's female business partner was shot in an assassination attempt at Soi Kathu Waterfall two months ago, but survived.

K. Sirichai, acquitted by Petchburi Provincial Court of charges of raping a minor many years ago, had no criminal convictions, Col Arayapan said.

"We know who the group of killers who shot K. Sirichai are. They were employed by one person in Phuket to kill him," he said.

"We think the motive behind the killing was related to business or romance," he added.

Unidentified body found off Koh Bon

RAWAI: The unidentified body of a "white" man was found floating near Koh Bon about 11 am on June 22. The body was discovered by hotel staff working in the area.

Lt Ratthakhet Manmuang, duty officer at Chalong Police Station, told the *Gazette* that the corpse was found about 300 meters off shore. The man is believed to have been around 40 years old and about 170 centimeters tall, with white skin.

"The body has some wounds, but we still cannot determine whether they were caused by a weapon or crashing against rocks in the sea.

"We believe he died about

three days ago. He was only wearing blue shorts and was carrying no form of identification," he said.

"We asked the hotels around the island to determine if they were missing any guests, but they said they weren't," Lt Ratthakhet added.

Initial accounts in local Thai media reported that the body was that of an unidentified foreigner. However, a coroner who spoke to the *Gazette* on condition of

anonymity explained that an examination of the body indicated that the corpse was that of a small, dark-skinned Burmese male who had been floating in the sea for about four days.

The coroner pointed out that seawater had blanched the man's skin and caused him to almost double in size, leading the coroner to suspect that the man had fallen or was thrown from a fishing boat a long way from shore.

- Janyaporn Morel

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In its advisory role to Cabinet, members of the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism has in recent weeks been visiting key tourism provinces in the country and holding meetings with local government officials and tourism industry leaders. When their tour is complete, they will make recommendations to Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat and other members of Cabinet.

The Phuket meeting, held at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 18, brought together many familiar faces, all discussing very familiar familiar topics. In addition to its Chairwoman K. Thanyarat, whose family operates the Kata Group of hotels, the committee's deputy chairman is none other than former Phuket City Mayor Phummasak Hongsyok, whose list of credentials could hardly be longer. The long-time former Mayor of Phuket City, he also served as an appointed member of National Legislative Assembly and as head of the Phuket Real Estate Club, a position he resigned following his appointment to the Senate to represent the business sector.

With the committee extremely well represented at the local level, there were few surprises when it came to listing the obstacles to the Phuket tourism industry – most of the participants have been talking about them for years: improved infrastructure, better security for both residents and tourists, the need for an integrated waste management system and so on.

Suwalai Pinradub, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) South Region 4 office in Phuket City, started in typical fashion by presenting tourism arrival figures for the three provinces under her office's con-

Phuket tourism: the

No-one doubts the importance of tourism to the Thai economy, nor the fact that Phuket and the rest of the Andaman region is a key generator of revenue for the entire nation.

The Senate Standing Committee on Tourism, chaired by Phuket's elected Senator Thanyarat Atcharyachai, recently met with local officials and industry leaders in Phuket to hear what they think are the main obstacles to the industry – and efforts to make it not only more profitable but more sustainable.

Gazette Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel reports.

trol: Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

Phuket, with 37,543 rooms in 628 registered accommodation establishments as of December 2007, had about 5 million tourists visit in 2007, an 11% increase year-on-year over 2006. The TAT estimates the province generated about 94 billion baht in revenue last year, she told the committee members.

TAT estimates for Krabi, which has seen a rapid expansion in its international air links in recent years, had a record 2 million tourists in 2007, generating an estimated 24 billion baht in revenue, she said.

In 2007 Phang Nga hosted about 1 million visitors who, according to TAT estimates, spent just under 4 million baht, she said.

The TAT and related agencies are working hard to help promote tourism throughout the Andaman region, she assured the committee. These efforts include publicizing many activities and

sporting events organized during the low season to keep hotel rooms filled, she said.

K. Suwalai described as "urgent" the need to improve tourist facilities and infrastructure to keep up with the growing arrival figures, but stressed that everyone has a role to play in that effort.

"As we await funding and new plans from the central government, we should try to limit new construction and make the island verdant and clean by planting trees, picking up rubbish and removing all those roadside advertising signs that create such an eyesore," she said.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Maitree Narukhatpichai, said there are many problems facing the island that have yet to be addressed, even as tourist arrival figures continue to rise. He listed inadequate infrastructure and facilities, security issues, lack of budgeting, road traffic and other transport problems as examples.

"We have summarized all the problems and submit them to your committee today in the hope that you will raise all of these issues with Cabinet and help us find solutions as soon as possible," he said.

Eam Thavornwongwong, Chairman of Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PPC) and long-time supporter of sports tourism on the



island, said people were placing a good deal of hope that the committee could spur the government to action.

The committee members also asked for an update on services at Phuket International Airport, where passengers have complained to them about slow Immigration procedures that result in long queues and lengthy delays.

Pol Lt Col Paweena Boonsutthi, Superintendent of Phuket Airport Immigration, said the problems were the result of an insufficient number of officers and inadequate facilities.

"We have a total of 48 immigration officers working in passport control. Of these, half are assigned to arrivals and the other half to departures," he said.

As the staff need to be divided into shifts, they face a manpower shortages during peak arrival times in the high season, when they can be overwhelmed when a succession of six or seven flights touching down with 400-500 passengers each, he said.

"I have informed the Immigration Bureau of the problem and put in a request for more staff, which we expect to get soon. We are also trying to improve our management system and better co-ordinate landing schedule information with the Airports of Thailand (AOT). This will help us to work faster," he said.

Phuket Airport Director Wicha Nernlop reported to the committee that airport expansion plans are a work in progress that should see the airfield capable of

serving up to 15 million passengers annually by 2020.

"In early 2007 we finished 300-million-baht renovation work on the main terminal building that began before the tsunami. Because of Phuket's very high tourism growth rate, the number of passengers increases more than 15 % annually, but we now have AOT approval to expand facilities further. The first phase of the two-phase expansion will increase capacity by 5 million passengers annually or more over the next three years," he said.

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

First-phase work could take up to two years of careful planning because of the limited amount of land AOT has to work with.

"Once we begin the work, there is no turning back and all available space will be used up when the project is completed," he said.

Sukho Vuddhijoti, an elected senator from Samut Prakan who also serves as a deputy chairman on the committee, suggested that Phuket's private sector use its resources to address these problems because waiting for central government action on them "will take some time."

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possibilities for an island



Despite being a constant source of complaints among visiting tourists, the issue of jet-skis monopolizing the coastline at popular beaches was not broached during the Senate committee hearing in Phuket.

land has more pressing issues to address, such as increasing traffic congestion, waste management and water supply and distribution.

"I think the most important thing is to help us solve existing problems that have developed along with the growth of the tourism."

"I am worried that if the Ao Phuket project gets underway too soon, before these other problems are addressed, it will make them more difficult to solve," he said.

The Ao Phuket mega-project is currently under the responsibility of the Bangkok-based Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (Dasta), a public organization under the Tourism and Sports Ministry that is headed by a board appointed by the Prime Minister.

Panopol Thummacharniyom, President of Phuket Professional Guide Association, told the committee that he thought the TAT should put more emphasis on attracting "quality tourists" than maximizing arrival figures with its promotional campaigns abroad.

K. Panopol also said that even though Immigration officials are forced to work under a great deal of stress, it was important that they be understanding with foreigners who come here on holiday.

He cited the August 2006 case of two drunken Korean package tourists who were refused entry by Immigration Police and had to fly back to Korea after a confrontation with officers at the Immigration checkpoint.

"This is the type of thing we should try to prevent if possible," he said.

He also questioned the accuracy of tourism statistics as

currently compiled [by the TAT].

"We count only the number of tourists transiting through the airport, then use this figure to calculate income from their estimated daily expenditure. In reality, many tourists are not spending much here. For example, many Korean tourists come here, but they pay in their country and then use Korean-run businesses while they are here. Thailand doesn't earn anything at all from them. I think this is another one of many issues your committee should study further and try to solve," he said.

Also on the topic of Korean tourists, he said that the failure of Korean tourists to accept Thai guides needs to be addressed by a national-level meeting and that Thailand needs to produce guides fluent in several different languages.

After many people complained about Immigration and services at Phuket Airport in general, Methee Tanmanatrakul, President of Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter, lightened the atmosphere. He told the committee that a recent survey of about 400 tourists in Patong, Kamala and Kata-Karon found that most respondents were satisfied with their holiday in the Land of Smiles.

He explained that the 400 were asked to rate 12 aspects of their experience in Phuket from 0% (complete dissatisfaction) to 100% (complete satisfaction). Seventy percent would be the benchmark for "good performance", he said.

manance", he said.

In this regard, tourists gave their airport arrival experience – including Immigration and transport to their hotels – a passing grade of 76%. They rated their hotel experiences even higher, at 93%. Tourists' dining experiences – including food quality, service, hospitality, value for money and hygiene – also received a good grade: higher than 80%.

Tourists' shopping and entertainment experiences also made the grade, with both falling into the 70%-80% range, he said.

Some 86% said they felt safe traveling in Phuket in the daytime, with the figure dropping only slightly (82%) after dark.

Hovering around the passing grade of 70% were tourists' experience with tour and travel services, including the variety of programs available, guide knowledge, security, value for

money and overall quality.

Failing to muster a pass were public transport, beach cleanliness and water quality, all of which fell into the 60%-69% range, he said.

After the meeting, K. Thanyarat said the committee would push Cabinet to establish Phuket as a "special economic zone" so that it can deal more independently and rapidly with pressing development issues. Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit agreed that Phuket be given status as a special economic zone.

'As we only have about 1,000 police officers, all of us must maintain high levels of responsibly to provide security,' said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Apirak Hongthong.



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Children's fun fair at Sunshine Village

KOH SIREH: To celebrate the one-year anniversary of its opening, the Phuket Sunshine Village (PSV) on Koh Sireh will hold a children's fun fair on June 29, starting at 1:30 pm.

"This will be an open-door day for visitors to come and see first hand our project and witness the difference we can all make when each of us puts in a bit of time to serve others," said PSV's Frank Couture.

"You will be able to meet the people behind the project, learn more about how we function, play with the kids and even perhaps help us in the future to do some good for Phuket's less fortunate," he added.

The Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation was set up about a year after the tsunami with the objective of helping local children, orphans, children with families in difficult situations, single parents and others in need.

Construction was completed in May 2007 and the village officially opened its doors on June 29, 2007.

For more information, call Mr Couture at 081-8235410 or visit www.phuketsunshinevillage.org

Aussie, Kiwi education expos this month

PHUKET CITY: The "IDP Education Australia Expo 2008", offering guidance to young people considering studying in Australia, will be held at Central Festival Phuket on June 28.

The event, to be held in the Events Hall on the 2nd floor, will run from midday until 8 pm.

There will be displays and representatives from more than 100 educational institutes of all levels as well as information about how to apply for scholarships from the Australian government.

Run by IDP, a global company offering student placement and English-language testing services, the event is supported and promoted by the Australia Embassy in Thailand, Australian Trade Commission, IELTS, TOT and Thailand's Government Saving Bank.

The Phuket event will be the fourth and final stop after similar events held in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen.

Students attending will be able to lodge applications for free as well as access free information about studying and living in Australia.

For more information visit www.thailand.idp.com or contact K. Watinee (Tel: 02-3446491; Fax: 02-3446303).

ON TOP OF THE WORLD



A truck driver loads up a 10-wheel truck with used beer bottles at the Wongpanich Recycling Center in Kathu, which pays much more for bottles returned in cardboard crates than separately. Phuket generates about 100 tonnes of glass waste daily, about 20% of the island's total waste stream, but still lacks an integrated plan to deal with the problem.

Queer News

Police need a hand to solve grim mystery

BANGKOK: As the international media has been puzzling recently over the mystery of why five dismembered human feet have washed up on the beaches of British Columbia over the past year – the most recent find being on June 16 – Thailand now has its own body-part puzzle to ponder: a severed arm found on the tracks at Hualamphong Railway Station in the heart of Bangkok on June 12.

After spotting the rather rotten arm lying on the track at 2:10 pm, a passenger notified station officers.

A closer inspection by police, a doctor and rescue volunteers determined that the missing limb was a right arm severed at the elbow, most probably from a woman.

From the decayed state and foetid stench of the limb, police believe it was severed from its owner about five days before its discovery.

The arm, blackened and covered in oil, had no tattoos,

jewellery or other markings that might aid identification.

Maj Sirirat Kongthanajirakul, an inspector with the Railway Police, said the original owner was most likely a woman

owing to the size of the arm and the shape of the fingers.

As for how it found its way to the station, Maj Sirirat said that she didn't believe the limb's owner was murdered.

No attempt had been made to conceal the arm or hide its identity, so it was unlikely that someone had chopped it off and thrown it on the track in order to dispose of it, she explained.

A more likely explanation, Maj Sirirat explained, is that the owner was hit by the train. The force likely severed the limb,

which got stuck to the train's undercarriage – where it remained until it stopped in Hualamphong, where it finally fell onto the tracks.

Despite this hypothesis, police have not ruled out the possibility that the body part's owner was an assault victim. Police have contacted all of Thailand's train stations to check for any reports of recent accidents on the tracks.

When he was asked for a comment on the grisly find, Maj Gen Chokchai Deeprasert, commander of the Railway Police, said that he wouldn't like to speculate because the incident had not been reported to him and he didn't know all the details.

Source: Daily News

laguna
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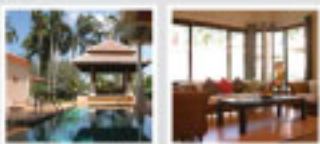
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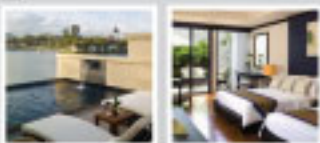
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People are becoming fed up with life because of the current political tension, a survey by the Abac Academic Network for Community Happiness Observation and Research (Anchor) has revealed.

Anchor Director Noppadon Kannika said that 78% of respondents who were asked how politics was affecting their day-to-day lives said they were bored with politics.

Another 25% said the current political situation depressed them.

Some 20% said they felt "constrained" by the current political stalemate, while about 18% said it was a cause of personal stress.

Almost 9% said they found the political situation was annoying.

On the looming censure debate, 49.7% said it was being held too early in this government's term, while 22.4% said it was being held too late. Some 27.9% said the timing was just right.

Almost 55% said it is too early for the government to be ousted, while almost 60% disagree with using police force to end the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) rally in Bangkok and other gatherings.

More than 18% of respondents said it was time for the demonstrators to quit to ease national tension, while more than 40% expected the anti-government protests to have an adverse effect on the country. More than 2,800 people aged 18 and over were surveyed in the poll.

Air hub holdup. Two robbers brandishing a pistol and a knife made off with more than 3 million baht from a Bangkok Bank branch at Suvarnabhumi Airport on June 22.

The robbers gagged and bound nine staff, injuring one, before making off with the cash.

After 40 minutes they fled on a motorcycle, taking the bank's security-camera recording cassette with them.

The robbers followed one employee into the bank as she arrived at work at 7:30 am, waiting for other staff to arrive before they had the two sets of keys needed to open the safes, staff said.

Staff were able to give a partial description of the robbers' appearances and the license plate number of the motorbike used in the getaway.

Police suspect the robbers are airport workers as they appeared familiar with the airport's internal road network and the time bank staff would arrive. Police were still hunting for the pair as this news went to print.

Smarty pants. Academics say a new agency should be established by the Education Ministry to teach and test mentally "gifted" children, of whom about 1,000 are born in Thailand every year.

At present, Srinakharinwirot University is said to be the

Public weary of political divisiveness



FACE OFF

As a way to promote tourism, villagers in Loei's Daan Saay district demonstrate a collection of *phii ta khone* masks they will use at the annual festival for which the area is famous. The event takes place July 4 to 6.

only venue with a program for teaching such children.

Lecturer Ussanee Anuruthwong told a seminar on June 19 that ordinary teaching methods often resulted in gifted children becoming bored troublemakers.

The new agency could help develop individual skills and give official IQ classifications, K. Ussanee said.

Amulet scam. A millionaire businessman accused of public fraud through sales of overpriced Buddha amulets was placed under court custody on June 20 after a judge turned down his request for bail.

Sitthikorn Bunchim is on remand as a suspect in the production and sale of the Somdej Nue Hua amulets, which have since October brought in orders worth 167 million baht.

Sitthikorn has been charged with public fraud, criminally misleading advertising, use of Royal emblems and government-approved designs without permission and peddling shoddy wares.

Criminal Court Chief Justice

Withoon Khlongmeekhun said that although Sitthikorn's bail guarantee was adequate and he had not absconded while investigations were in progress, his misconduct had been "of a severe nature and he did not deserve temporary release".

As this went to print his lawyers were drawing up a new bail request.

Rural medicine boost. The Education Ministry will revive a scheme to graduate medical professionals for rural towns. Education Minister Somchai Wongsawat said the scholarships would be awarded only on the condition that recipients agree to return to work in their hometowns after graduation.

A similar scheme, now several years in hiatus, provided scholarships to promising students from low-income families.

Under that scheme, each district received one scholarship in medicine and another in nursing. After graduation, the holders were required to work in their hometowns. The new scheme

will see more scholarships made available.

Initiation by fire. Three second-year students of Rajamangala University of Technology, Bangkok campus, have pleaded guilty to assaulting a first-year during an initiation activity.

Suradej Suwannarat, 20, sustained burns to his back after the three set fire to him in an attempt to brand him with their faculty emblem.

Suspects Opas Timklongtham, Manop Kerdsiri and Kirati Rerng-art will appear at Bangkok South Kwaeng Court on July 22 for a background and probation report.

Police said six other senior students who took part in the initiation ceremony and allegedly burned the pubic hair of 31 other juniors and told them to dip their penises in chili paste, would soon give themselves up.

Rung, told police that K. Narong, the eldest of his two children, had rented the house with another taxi driver for a year.

The family was grieved by K. Narong's loss because he was a cheerful person who never mentioned any problems and was to be ordained as a monk next year.

Describing K. Narong as a frequent football gambler, K. Rung said Narong's friend had told him that a few days earlier K. Narong said that if he won this time, he would win a lot of money.

Surrender by squad. Nine Border Patrol police on June 18 surrendered themselves over the alleged abduction and detention of

Police said six other senior students, who allegedly told students to dip their penises in chili paste, would soon give themselves up

a woman last October at a Bangkok motel, where they forced the victim to admit to possession of *ya bah* (methamphetamines) for trafficking.

The officers are attached to

the same unit that had a notorious gang of officers recently involved in several abductions and forced confessions, and are now remanded in a Thon Buri Prison.

The nine were listed as Capt Wathana Khaonual, Lt Pakasit Nooim, Sgt Major Suranart Thanawuth, Sgt Majors Jaruy Olarnphruek, Krissada Khomkham, Sanchai Seraprik, Jamlong Meesuwan, Somphis Iam-ong-art and Anat Rattanaburee.

Grave stakes. Gambling losses on the Euro 2008 football tournament drove a Bangkok taxi driver to hang himself on June 18.

Police found the body of Narong Yodthong, 24, in his home in Chom Thong district at 9am on June 18 with a suicide note apologizing to his family and relatives. Beside the suicide note was a list of the Euro 2008 results.

K. Narong's father, K.

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Councilor, relatives gunned down in triple homicide

In what police believe was a silence killing, a member of Na Wa Tambon Administration Organization, Chana district, and two of his relatives were shot dead in broad daylight in Songkhla's Muang district on June 17.

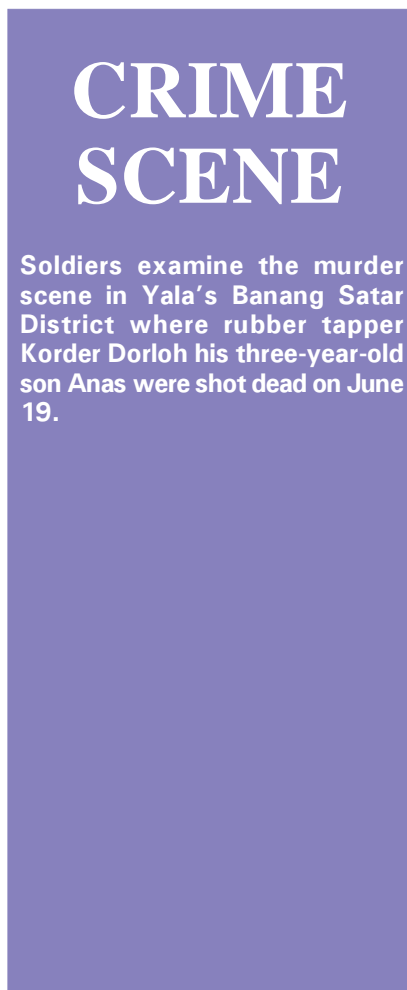
Suwit Chainu, 42, was driving on the Songkhla-Nathawi Rd with his younger brother, K. Thawee, 36, and cousin Suphit Phutharatana, 30, at about 9:30 am when a pickup pulled up alongside and three men in the back opened fire with M-16 assault rifles and a 9mm pistol.

K. Suwit's pickup truck veered off the road and crashed into a lamp post. All three occupants died at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds.

The driver of the gunmen's truck lost control during the incident and crashed into a roadside ditch. The four occupants, all wearing balaclavas, abandoned the vehicle and flagged down a passing pickup truck, forcing the driver at gunpoint to drive them to Khuan Khayang Hill in Tambon Thung Wang, in Songkhla's Muang district.

Police at the crime scene collected five empty M-16 magazines and more than 50 cartridge cases from the back of the gunmen's pickup as well as seven 9mm cartridge cases from inside the cab.

Songkhla Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Wirun Iamfajit said he believed that K. Suwit was the main target of the attack as he was the key witness in the trial of five men suspected of stealing a Krung Thai Bank



CRIME SCENE

Soldiers examine the murder scene in Yala's Banang Satar District where rubber tapper Korder Dorloh his three-year-old son Anas were shot dead on June 19.

ATM from outside Haad Yai Social Security Office on January 24.

The pickup truck abandoned by the gunmen, which had been stolen from Krabi's Lamthap district and had fake registration plates, was the same vehicle used in the ATM heist, Gen Wirun said.

Police will request that the court immediately withdraw bail for all five suspects in the ATM case so that they can be taken

into custody and questioned over the murder case, in which they are now suspects. They were identified as Charoen, Athit and Prayat Phengsuwan; Phakdee Chaphlee and Loa Kasemsuriya.

High alert. Schools in Nakhon Sri Thammarat have tightened security after a series of sexual assaults on female students in primary and secondary schools across the city, all allegedly carried out by the same perpetrator.

In the latest attack, a teacher at the school told police that a young man had tricked a junior-high student into leading him to a deserted classroom by telling her that he knew one of her teachers, whom he mentioned by name.

Alone in the room, the man allegedly tried to rape the girl, but she fought him off and fled, the teacher said.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police Superintendent Col Yannaphat Narasing ordered a composite sketch of the suspect to be drawn and copies distributed to all schools in the area.

The suspect is male, aged 18 to 20, about 170 centimeters tall, has light skin complexion and speaks with a Southern Thai accent, Col Yannaphat added.

Somphong Yuthao, head student inspector of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Educational Area 1, said that all educational institutions in the area have received a copy of the sketch and are on high alert.

The latest incident included the discovery of a tunnel dug under a school fence.

When police questioned neighbors and showed them the sketch, they confirmed that the tunnel was dug by the same suspect, K. Somphong said.

The suspect has been responsible for a number of assaults on students this month, but many schools have tried to prevent news of the attacks from getting out to protect their reputations, he added.

Urging any victims to come forward, K. Somphong said that every effort was being made to apprehend the suspect.

One man who had been detained was later released after victims said he was not the attacker, he added.

Under pressure. A Border Patrol Police officer shot himself dead at his post in Yala's Banang Satar district June 17.

Sgt Maj Somchai Chayaphakdee, 36, was found still clutching his M-16 service rifle with a gunshot wound to the chin.

Police said there was no evidence to suggest that Sgt Maj Somchai's death was not a simple suicide.

Sgt Maj Somchai, attached to the Border Patrol Police Unit 42 in Krabi, had been sent to Yala. He was under orders to protect government officers at the Banang Satar District Land Office at the time of his death.

The day before, another

soldier was rescued from the balcony of the third floor of a shophouse in Yala's Muang district after he threatened to jump to his death.

After an hour of negotiations, police managed to bring the soldier, whose name has not been released, to safety in a cherry picker.

Such incidents, blamed on the stress of daily life for soldiers and police in the insurgent provinces, have become an increasing problem for the security forces in the Deep South.

Overkill. A year into an ambitious project to churn out 3,000 professional nurses to overcome a shortage in the three southern-most provinces, Health Ministry officials say the goal may have overshot its objective.

Prof Tada Yipintsoi, chairman of the Public Health Ministry's working committee to solve health problems in the South, said he feared the program would create an oversupply of nurses.

"We don't know where they can all find work after graduation as we don't need that many nurses," Dr Tada said.

The violence-plagued provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat require only 300 nurses to fill vacancies, mostly in community hospitals, and to replace nurses who have transferred to other provinces, Dr Tada said.

"I don't understand why [former Public Health Minister Dr Mongkol na Songkhla] gave us 3,000 nurses, as we only asked for 300," he said.

The current enrollment exceeds the number of students at all 25 branches of Boromarajonani College of Nursing that are under the ministry, he noted.

Currently, these 25 colleges turn out 2,500 nurses each year.

Dr Supat Hasuwannakit, director of Chana Hospital in Songkhla's Chana district, said the ratio of nurses to people in the South was actually much higher than the Northeast.

Dr Supat said that Dr Mongkol, who had a reputation for devoting his efforts to rural communities, had his own reasons for the project. "I can't think of any reason other than security. He might have wanted to train youths in the region and open opportunities for them to be state officials," he said.

Dr Supat agreed with Dr Tada that the project was not well planned or organized.

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

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Environmental project launched on Samui

Organizers of the Samui leg of last year's Global Mala Project held a launch party for their latest initiative, the Green Island Project, which is hoped will nurture positive action towards environmental issues on Koh Samui.

The ceremony, which was held at the Fairhouse Hotel in Chaweng Noi on July 18, brought together residents and representatives from local businesses to sign a memorandum of understanding to encourage a more environmentally aware society.

After the opening ceremony, a group was taken by private boat to the full-moon party on Koh Pha-ngan for a first-hand look at the effects of heavy commercialism and tourism on a fragile ecology.

The project leaders are hoping to expand on the Global Mala Project, which created environmental-education programs on the island.

The ceremony brought together residents and representatives from local businesses to sign a memorandum of understanding to encourage a more environmentally aware society.

Thaworn wins

golf tourney. The Bangkok Airways Open 2008 international golf tournament was held at the Santiburi Samui Country Club from June 5 to 8, with golfers from around the region competing for a share of the US\$300,000 prize purse.

The tourney, Bangkok Airways' fifth annual international tourney on Samui and part of the Asian Tour, was one of the most competitive golfing events on Samui for years, with many well-known Thai professionals taking part, including Prayad Marksaeng, Chawalit Plaphol and Thongchai Jaidee.

Star Thai golfer Thaworn Wiratchant won the top prize of US\$47,550, which moved him into 14th place on the Asian Tour's order of merit.

K. Thaworn conquered the course with a 13 under par score of 271, giving him his 10th win on the tour.

After dropping a shot early on the final day of play, K. Thaworn came back with three birdies on the front nine. He was three under par after 13 holes before a bogey on the 15th. His putting was solid throughout the

week and he sunk his fifth birdie of the day on the 17th hole before finishing with a par putt for the win.

"The win did not come easy as I had to really work hard out there. I know my age is not a factor as I have won on this course, which is very challenging and takes a lot out of a golfer physically. I kept it steady throughout and I'm extremely happy," said K. Thaworn.

Japan's Shintaro Kai shot three birdies to give him a score of 70 on the final day and second place overall. "My form has been good and I was giving chase, but I struck a few bad patches, which pulled me out of contention. Overall, I'm very happy to finish in

second place," he said.

American Han Lee shot a strong final-round 64 to finish in a three-way tie for third with Prayad Marksaeng, who was even-par for the day, and Chapchai Nirat, both from Thailand.

The tournament was broadcast live on ESPN.

Dope discovery. Police in Chumphon seized 182 kilograms of marijuana earlier this month after a subdistrict chief became suspicious of a strong odor coming from a pickup truck that had been abandoned near a pier.

Tha Yang Subdistrict Chief (Kamnan) Thawee Boonyakorn told police that he found three large plastic cases of dope in a compartment on top of the truck.

The stash, which has an estimated street value of 10 million baht,

is thought to have been intended for distribution on Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan or Koh Tao.

No villagers reported seeing any suspicious activity near the truck, which was subsequently impounded and the marijuana seized.

The investigation continues.


Thai golfer Thaworn Wiratchant poses with the winner's trophy at the Asian Tour's fifth annual international golf tournament on Koh Samui.



FROM THE
GULF OF
THAILAND

By Max Rogers


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By Nick Davies

There is a tranquil garden in Kamala where a small group regularly gathers under the shade of a circular sala. Barefoot on the hardwood floor, the tai chi novices move gracefully, mostly in unison, flowing through the poises they have been shown by their instructor.

The mood is friendly and relaxed. One of the students grins as she wobbles on one foot, her other raised as she takes a pensive step. Another smiles as she loses her flow and hesitates to see where the others are putting their feet. A moment later, their unified flow returns. The group becomes one again and calmness returns to each of them as the familiarity of the moves puts them in a relaxed state.

Their instructor, Californian Rick Attix, a martial arts and tai chi practitioner for almost 20 years, occasionally steps in to lead the group through their newly acquired moves or to help a student hold the correct stance with a gentle nudge.

"It's all about letting go," says Rick. "I studied martial arts for many years before I began learning tai chi. Although tai chi is derived from martial combat arts, it was a long time before I really understood the significance of the flowing moves of tai chi and that to perform tai chi correctly – in order to reap the physical and psychological benefits of it – one has to 'let go'."

"I was actually doing tai chi wrong for many years, until I later studied under a Chinese tai chi master who showed me that I was doing the moves far too rigidly," he adds.

To demonstrate the nature of tai chi moves, Rick stands opposite one of the students, Ina, and they take turns gently pushing each other's shoulders in a circular pattern that begins to flow similar to a choreographed dance. Ina's concentration eventually breaks and she loses balance when she tenses up, demonstrating the instinctive response that tai chi trains the mind and body to ignore.

Rick explains that people instinctively resist when they are pushed. "Men, especially, will push back, but the idea is to overcome the instinct to resist and allow yourself to completely relax in mind and body. Doing this helps people understand the principals



Rick Attix (front, left) guides tai chi students in the specially built sala in his garden.

Taming the tiger with tai chi



of tai chi and enables the practitioner to gain the full benefits of the exercises," he says.

Rick has a small group of regular tai chi students who meet at his home two to three times a week.

Other students come and go sporadically. Some come to learn the basics while they are on holiday or during a business trip, while others may turn up once every

few months on regular visits to the island.

Rick explains that students of all levels can perform tai chi together. There is no distinction made between beginners and experienced practitioners.

"Sometimes people planning to learn tai chi will ask me how long or how many sessions it will take to become proficient. Someone once asked me if I gave col-

ored belts like they do for karate," says Rick. "It's impossible to predict when someone will master tai chi, if at all. The focus is on physical and spiritual development, bringing the two together – Yin Yang."

"The ultimate goal is to channel and harness the energies around us to live with an enhanced sense of wellbeing," he adds.

Three expat resident students with time on their hands, Tracy, Ina and Margret, elaborate on how regularly practicing tai chi has improved their lives. Tracy says tai chi makes her feel better grounded and more accepting of everyday situations, such as when waiting in a queue.

"Remembering the principals of tai chi helps me calm down when I begin getting frustrated about something," she says. "I'm a lot calmer now when I drive. In fact, tai chi helps you deal with everyday life a lot more

peacefully by accepting things the way they are. It's good to know how to center yourself when you feel yourself becoming angry or frustrated at something," she adds.

Ina says she has noticed a marked improvement in her physical health and her outlook on life since taking up tai chi. "I used to suffer from back pain from osteoporosis but since I've been doing tai chi I haven't had any more pain. It's like an addiction now. It's just something I have to do."

Margret studied tai chi for several years before moving to Phuket with her husband. Finding a group to continue doing tai chi with was one of the conditions that had to be met before she would agree to move to here.

All three of them agree that regular tai chi sessions have helped them develop into better people by putting their minds in touch with their bodies; individual levels of ability or experience are not an issue in the group.

Rick explains that the movements of tai chi are based around creating and manipulating a ball of energy (chi) that flows through the palms of the hands and is channeled through the body. Tracy recounts a time when she felt the powerful effects of the energy conjured up by performing the slow and gentle martial art.

"I suddenly felt a surge of energy through my hands when I was performing tai chi once. I realized then that I had just had a real taste of what attracted me to tai chi in the first place, but I've only felt that rush once. I've been trying to experience it ever since and I think that's what it's all about, really."

Rick may be considered a tai chi guru, but he is not an overzealous fanatic. He understands that tai chi is not for everyone, so he doesn't push it on all the people he meets.

He admits that although many would benefit from the stress-reducing exercises, the people who need it most are rarely the kind who even contemplate exploring tai chi.

The large sala in Rick's garden is ideal for classes of up to a dozen students at a time. Students can learn as part of a group or individually.

Rick is also having a pyramid structure erected in his garden, which will have a raised platform where people can meditate.

The following is taken from an ancient Taoist saying that Rick uses to help others understand the principles of tai chi:

Your chi, in stillness, clear as a fountain, peaceful as a stream.

In motion, turbulent as a river, strong as the ocean.

With your whole being, develop your life.

Rick Attix conducts tai chi classes at his home in Kamala Natong House, near Phuket Fantasea. For more information about Rick's tai chi classes call 081-728-9980. Email serenethai@yahoo.com Website: www.taichiphuket.com

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Pad Thai at midnight

Five-star food at a three-table restaurant

We all know that looks can be deceiving, especially the looks of certain “ladies” in the Land of Smiles, but the same thing applies to food – *Pad Thai* in this case. That’s what the Cheap Eats column is all about: where in Phuket can you find good-quality food at reasonable prices?

This week’s venue is the quintessential Cheap Eats restaurant. If

you’ve ever been past the run-of-the-mill-looking *Pad Thai* restaurant with just three tables in Samkong that I’m going to tell you about, you’d be forgiven for passing it by without a second glance. Drive past it in the day and you won’t see anything because this *Pad Thai* place on Yaowarat Road is open only in the evenings.

CHEAP eats

By Sompratch Saowakhon

The stir-fry dishes at Pad Thai Hoy Tort Phang Nga (Phang Nga-style shellfish *pad Thai*) restaurant are like no other. This is the real thing – Phang Nga style. All the ingredients are hand-picked each day by Thianchai “Pu Odd” Nockchalad and his wife Maneerat “Nui” Prakongsin, who both cooked at several of the island’s hotels during their careers as chefs before setting up their own restaurant.

Pu Odd, Khun Nui and their stir-fry dishes get two thumbs up for uniqueness. The secret is in the careful selection of the ingredients and the sauce used for the *pad Thai hoy tort*. It has a mellow sweetness that I’ve never tasted before – and believe me, I know my *pad Thai*.

“The sauce is made from a secret formula. *Pad Thai* is usu-



‘Fresh shrimps and a secret sauce make the stir fries at Pad Thai Hoy Tort restaurant a mouth-watering experience for between 30 and 40 baht a dish.’

ally served without any sauce, but it’s too dry like that, so we developed our own sauce to make it tastier,” said Pu Odd.

“Our *Pad Thai* is made by combining two versions of the dish; the traditional way of making it in Petchaburi province – which I learned when I visited there – and my wife’s Phang Nga style from her hometown,” he added.

“We make the sauce just a little spicy and not too sweet, the way most foreigners like Thai food – and many foreigners come to eat here, even though we have only three tables,” he said.

Pu Odd said that his regular foreign customers include Poles, Italians and Americans, who often start with a standard 30-baht dish but always come back for more, often taking the *piset* (special jumbo size) home for 90 baht.

Pu Odd’s experience as food and beverage manager for hotels in Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Libya and Hong Kong has served him well. “I know how to cook the kind of food that foreigners like. I used to have a restaurant in Karon, but it wasn’t easy to find staff so I closed it,” said Pu Odd.

The husband-and-wife

chefs know they are onto a good thing and are careful about keeping their methods secret, preparing the sauce during the day behind closed doors. What they do let on is that the sauce takes patience and care in selecting the right combination of ingredients.

“We use a big brass pan for making the sauce, which is cooked slowly for about three hours. This way, the full flavors of all the ingredients have time to come out and interact with each other,” explained Pu Odd.

The noodles come from Ratchaburi province, which is famous for its special type of noodle, and the wheat powder used for coating the fried oysters is unique, said K. Nui, adding that they have their own special blend and method of preparation for this, too.

Pad Thai Hoy Tort Phang Nga restaurant is between Vachira Phuket Hospital and Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Closed during the day, Pu Odd and K. Nui open up shop at 6 pm and serve their Fried Oyster Pad Thai until 2 am.

Dishes range in price from 30 to 40 baht.

Pu Odd speaks good English and he can take orders by phone. Tel: 089-6817585.

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Rhythms of the South

At 77 years old, Pattani violinist **Waekhaeder Waedeng** is driven by a youthful passion for traditional music, making him one of the few old-school musicians still playing to audiences, with an infectious determination to keep traditional performing arts from Southern Thailand alive and beating.

K. Waekhaeder has been leading cultural performances for the past 30 years and was awarded the official title of National Artist in 1993. *Gazette* reporter **Pathomporn Kaenkrachang** spoke with the aging artisan earlier this month when he performed with his band I-Laa-Ma-Us-Li at Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus, as part of his Cultural Tour of the region.

Waekhaeder Waedeng, 77, discovered his passion and talent for music at an early age. "It started when I was very young. I enjoyed watching the local musicians near my home and eventually plucked up the courage to ask one of them if I could try playing his violin. He allowed me and I was immediately able to produce some notes by imitating the way I'd seen them play," he said.

"I was excited that it felt natural to me to be able to play it. From then on, my friends and I followed the band's performances whenever we could," he added.

"Later on, I started to play seriously with two musician friends and we became a backing band for a troupe of *rong ngang* dancers, who perform traditional folk dances incorporating movements from old-fashioned Western dances. Musical accompaniment to these dances is played on violins, Arabian drums, Chinese gongs and Raman drums, all with Malaysian lyrics," K. Waekhaeder explained.

"I played the violin and the other two musicians played *rammana* drums [one-sided drums with a shallow body] – one



'I also tried the violin, but I eventually found that the accordion best suited me,' said Suchart Waedeng, K. Waekhaeder's eldest son.

small and one large. I didn't get married until I was 40 years old, so I was always free to play my music, but unfortunately, the two *rammana* players don't play anymore, so it is up to me to keep the traditional music alive by play-

ing with musicians from the younger generation," he said.

K. Waekhaeder recounted tours and concerts from 10 years ago, during the peak in popularity of his band, I-Laa-Ma-Us-Li, who once performed with *rong ngang* and *likae hu lu* dancers for the Sultan of Malaysia.

They toured Malaysia and Indonesia for awhile. "As time has passed, finding *rong ngang* dancers to accompany has become more and more difficult.

"Most youngsters nowadays are unfamiliar with traditional music and instruments. They play the music of the new generation," he said.

The decline in popularity of



Bangkok native Sarasit Nilchaisri plays the mandolin in the I-Laa-Ma-Us-Li band.

traditional performing arts, however, does not deter K. Waekhaeder from performing in the hopes that he will inspire others as he was once inspired.

"Our traditional performing arts are unique and I really want people, especially the younger generation, to understand how valuable they are to our culture and how these arts should be preserved. I feel lucky that there are at least some kids out there who take it seriously, keeping it alive," he said.

"I will never quit, even if there are no dancers to accompany. Yes, I am a little upset that today's youngsters are not so interested in traditional performing

arts, but my sons play and there are some people out there who still love it," he added.

I-Laa-Ma-Us-Li now comprises five musicians. K. Waekhaeder plays the same violin he has owned for 30 years, his eldest son, Suchart, is an accordion player, Sarasit Nilchaisri plays mandolin, Waeusang Bennar plays the large *rammana* and Muhammed Taman Esor plays the small *rammana*.

The band's cultural tour of the region was commissioned by Tourism Authority of Thailand and is managed by K. Suchart, who shares his father's passion for keeping Southern Thailand's musical heart beating.

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The maestro himself, K. Waekhader, leads the band with his trademark fiddle.

"My younger brother and I used to go with our father whenever he played in Pattani and other nearby provinces. I started playing the *tam-tam* [gong] when I was 12 years old, then I learned to play other instruments, such as the *rammana*. I also tried the violin, but I eventually found that the accordion best suited me.

"My brother started with the *tam-tam*, too. In fact, everyone starts with that instrument because it teaches the basic rhythms

of the songs we play. He has learned to play all the instruments we use in the band, but he is also our singer," said K. Suchart.

Like his father, K. Suchart hopes that future generations of his family will continue to embrace traditional musicianship.

"My younger sister used to be a singer for the band, then my brother took over. My sister married and moved to Chiang Mai. She has a son who is learning the violin. I hope he will learn our music," he said.

The I-Laa-Ma-Us-Li band members are no strangers to fame, having twice appeared on the Channel 9 Thai music Show *K. Phra Chuay*, including a joint performance with an orchestra from the US.

They also tour with Todd Thongdee every year for the World Music Festival.

K. Waekhader is called on to perform at the Taksin Rajanives Palace whenever HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej visits Southern Thailand.

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket



Panida Musikrak and Sutat Koydul were married at Phuket Ballroom of Royal Phuket City Hotel on June 21.



Suparaporn Na Takua-thung and Pipop Surasiang were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metro-pole Hotel on May 18.



Uraiwan Choopan and Minghao Ni were married at Fortuna Pavilion Restaurant of The Metropole Hotel on May 25.



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This week



PHUKET STARS: The Star talent show celebrities Wichayanee "Kam" Piaklin (2nd from right), Suparuj "Ruj" Techatanond (left) and Chayathorn "Ton" Sethachinja (right) are welcomed at Royal Phuket City by the hotel's Assistant Front Office Manager Onsiri Bhudhakarn (second from left) on June 7.



ALL PRESENT AND CORRECT: Jutamas Pittayanaruman (holding flowers, right), sales manager of Merlin Phuket Group, welcomes Director General of the Department of Corrections Wanchai Rujanawong (also holding flowers) along with officers from Phuket provincial prison. The officers stayed at the Merlin Phuket Hotel during the 5th Corrections Fair of 14 Southern provinces held at Saphan Hin.



BREEZE EASY: Ocean Breeze Resort and Suites executives and agents celebrate completion of the Layan resort's construction recently with a party and the launch of a promotional campaign giving apartment buyers the chance to win a Toyota Yaris. Pictured are Managing Director of Ocean Breeze Peter Jensen (left) and Jeremy Khan (right) of Phuket Land Search.



FIVE ALIVE: Five seniors from Quality School International, Phuket, celebrate the completion of the school year with a graduation ceremony at the Metropole Hotel on June 13. The graduates are set to enroll in universities and higher-education institutes in France, Thailand and the USA.



WARM WELCOME: Executive officers from TTM (Thailand Travel Mart) 2008 are welcomed by Panjaporn Limpanavisit (front left), manager of Cheraim Spa Village, and Marketing Officer Nattinee Namsuriya (front right), when the officers paid a visit to the spa recently.



LOUNGING: Amanpuri Villa Manager Nuno de Susa (center) says goodbye to colleagues at his farewell party at Liquid Lounge, Surin Beach. Nuno is transferring to Aman Resort in India. Also pictured are Len Caparas (left) and Tessa Gorman.

Baba

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From the director's chair

As this article goes to print, the Andaman Players will be gearing up for June 29, when they will take to the stage at The Playhouse in Patong with their new production. The show will feature two original one-act comedies about life, love and lust in Phuket: *Night in a Bar Room*, about a battling husband and wife's evening out at a quiet bar, and *Adjoined*, a new piece about the madness that ensues when two couple's are disturbed by unusual noises in their hotel rooms.

While *Night in a Bar Room* has had plenty of rehearsal time over the past months, *Adjoined* is a very new piece – hardly a month off the printer – and it has been a wild ride pulling it together in this short time period.

Not least of the challenges, two of *Bar Room*'s lead actors, Elizabeth Westgate and Tony Kelsey-Stead, also have principal roles in *Adjoined*. But such is their professionalism and dedication that they have both kept their heads while changing their characters daily to fit in with the rehearsal schedule.

All of the actors involved in *Adjoined* have shown remarkable enthusiasm for tackling this new challenge and the whole show seems to have come to-



BACKSTAGE: The Andaman Players are warming up for another double bill of on-stage entertainment, all in the best possible taste.

gether in a whirlwind. It's been an amazing process to observe. Schoolteachers, architects, artists and writers all putting away their daily lives to play completely different characters – and for no other reason than because they thoroughly enjoy being on stage.

As the weeks have passed, the characters themselves have become fully rounded individuals in their own right. There was a point during rehearsals at which I could tell that the actors were comfortable with their roles.

I've seen it before in our

other productions. It is when they no longer refer to each other by their real names – Steve becomes Dean, Michael is Norman, Vicki answers only to Tanya. Their characters have become such a part of their lives that lines from the play become part of their daily vocabulary.

After rehearsals at the Green Man about a week ago, publican Howard Digby-Johns asked me if *Adjoined* was coming out as I had imagined it would when I was writing it. For a moment I had to think hard to re-

member when Dean and Jenny, Norman and Tanya had only been a few lines of notes on the computer screen.

Alberto the hotelier had started out as an amalgam of prejudices against a couple of restaurateurs from back home, while the two couples were composites of several people I've met over the years. And yet, I honestly couldn't imagine them being played in any way different from the way the Andaman Players have brought them to life.

Ultimately, I had to admit to Howard that, on my part at least, it's all a bit of a cheat really. Directing a play that I have also written means that my interpretation of it isn't going to differ much from the way I first planned.

Throughout the rehearsal process, however, I have been fascinated at the way these characters have come to life; the actors adding new wrinkles and back stories to flesh them out.

They look and sound exactly the way they were written, but there's so much more to them

than what I put in the script. The Players really are that good.

So what did I do, other and sit back and enjoy a month a "character-building" rehearsals? Well, as the director, I think my

greatest talent is my partial deafness. "You need to be a bit louder on that line, dear heart," I call out from time to time. It's distracting for the actors, but at least it ensures that everyone in

the audience will be able to enjoy the show, even at the back of the theater.

Up north, following their recent success with *Evening of One Act Comedies*, The Pattaya Players have now turned their attention to *A Murder Mystery Evening*, scheduled for September 6.

All details, including ticket sales can be found at www.pattayaplayers.org

The Andaman Players welcome budding thespians of all ages and experience. If you enjoy theater or simply want to lend a hand backstage, email: andamanplayers@hotmail.com



Backstage

By Simon J Hand



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By Akbar Khan

Now that smoking is banned in public places around the island, including pubs and restaurants, many people are making the decision to finally kick the habit, as it's just not cool to get up from the table and leave your friends in a club so you can go outside and grab your nicotine fix.

It's not the cigarettes that people are addicted to but the nicotine in them. Cigarettes are simply nicotine delivery devices. Some studies have even shown that nicotine can have positive effects on the brain but getting that hit through cigarettes is obviously detrimental to health.

As the demand for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products, such as chewing gum and skin patches, has increased, local pharmacies have added to the variety of NRT products on offer to include both locally manufactured and imported products.

Until recently, there was only one drug on the Thai market – bupropion marketed in Thailand under the brand name Quomem – to substitute cigarette addiction, but it is quite expensive (2,300 baht for 60 tablets) and some users have reported physical and mental side effects after taking it.

One expat resident who has been using NRT products for a while said he used to order his gum or patches from abroad and pick them up from the post office, where he had to pay import duty on them. Now, however, he can buy the same or equivalent products from local pharmacies at more reasonable prices.

So what exactly is NRT and what does it involve? Most NRT products contain the same amount of nicotine that a smoker would get from his or her daily rations of “cancer sticks” without the tar, carbon monoxide, ammonia and a plethora of other poisonous substances found in cigarettes.

As well as skin patches to deliver nicotine through the skin and nicotine chewing gum, there are also nasal sprays and fast-dissolving tabs that are placed under the tongue, but these kinds of



Staff at a local pharmacy show off the latest Nicotine Replacement Therapy products, which include chewing gum and skin patches.

Cheating the delivery man

NRTs must be prescribed by a doctor.

NRT helps with the hard part: the nicotine craving. In order for it to work correctly the correct dose must be taken. Although NRT is much safer than many other pharmaceutical options, precautions must be taken not to overdose. The symptoms of nicotine overdose are very similar to the effects of smoking too many cigarettes, such as nausea, queasiness or even vomiting.

Other side effects that may occur are usually not related to the NRT but more often related to the poisons remaining in the body from cigarettes. These can take months to be eliminated from the body.

The initial dose of NRT is related to the number of cigarettes the addict usually smokes

per day.

Nicotinell by Novartis are nicotine patches that come in three different sizes. The small patches (7 x 10cm) contain 17.5mg of nicotine, medium (7 x 20cm), 35mg of nicotine and the large patches (7 x 30cm) contain 52.5mg.

They come in seven-patch packs, each patch lasting 24 hours. For a rough idea based on suggestions by Novartis, someone who smokes over 20 cigarettes a day would need to wear the large patch for a month, followed by the medium for another month and finally a small patch for the third and final month.

Smokers trying to wean themselves off the weed any quicker than that will often find themselves becoming irritable or restless, although, smokers of less

than 20 smokes a day would be able to start with the medium patch, wearing it for two months followed by the small patches for another month.

Patches are convenient in that they are applied only once every 24 hours and they slowly release a small amount of nicotine through the skin into the blood. The amount of nicotine that actually makes it into the blood is in fact much less than the amount in the patch. Those unsure of their nicotine intake can try the smaller size patch and supplement with nicotine chewing gum.

Although patches are convenient, many prefer the chewing gum option, because it enables them to have greater control over their nicotine intake. In general, a piece is chewed every time the urge for a cigarette arises and the nicotine will pass through the skin inside the mouth and into the blood.

If acidic drinks such as orange juice, coffee or fizzy drinks are consumed then the addict should wait 15 minutes before chewing a piece of gum.

Most addicts require 8-12 pieces a day to begin with and then gradually reduce the amount as the addiction subsides.

There are two common doses for a piece of nicotine gum: 4mg and 2mg, depending on the smoker's habit. By the second month of substituting cigarettes with gum, the time between each piece of gum is twice as long as

during the first month. By the third month, the smoker uses just a couple of pieces a day.

There are three brands of NRT gum available in Phuket; two imported and one locally produced. The imported gums are Nicotinell and Nicorettes. Nicorettes come in packs of 30 pieces of 2mg or 4mg and cost about 300 to 500 baht per pack.

The Thai brand nicomild-2 is just as effective and costs a lot less than the imported gum, making it quite difficult to find in Phuket as it is the most popular and sells out quickly. Nicomild-2 costs about 50 baht for a pack of nine pieces of gum, but testers at the *Gazette* found that the imported brands tasted better.

To chew the gum effectively, first chew it until the hot taste of the nicotine is released, then stop chewing for a while, allowing the nicotine to be absorbed through the skin. When the flavor subsides, start chewing again. This can be repeated several times with each piece of gum lasting about 30 minutes.

Addiction to nicotine is not only measured by the number of cigarettes smoked but also from other factors, such as the time before first cigarette after waking up and the amount of frustration one feels when banned by law from smoking in public places. Some people can quit smoking by using NRT for about a week, but most smokers require two to three months.

When giving up smoking, food usually begins to taste better and more is eaten to compensate for the cravings.

Eating lots of vegetables and drinking fruit juice helps with the detoxifying process without the ex-smoker gaining weight. Exercise, of course, is a good way to fight off any extra pounds gained.

NRT is suitable for most people, however you should check with a pharmacist or doctor if you are pregnant, have a

heart or circulatory condition or if you taking other medications.

While some discomfort will be experienced when giving up cigarettes, it is insignificant compared with the pain, suffering and bad example given to others by continuing to smoke.

NRT helps overcome the physical withdrawal symptoms and Phuket's tranquility, cuisine and entertainment can help overcome the mental aspect.

By breaking the addiction to nicotine, most people find their bodies rejuvenated and feeling younger day by day.

Blood pressure normalizes between 24 and 48 hours after starting NRT and after three days epicurean appreciation improves with more refined taste and smell.

After three weeks, the lungs begin to start working more efficiently. After three months, males will have increased fertility with a higher sperm count.



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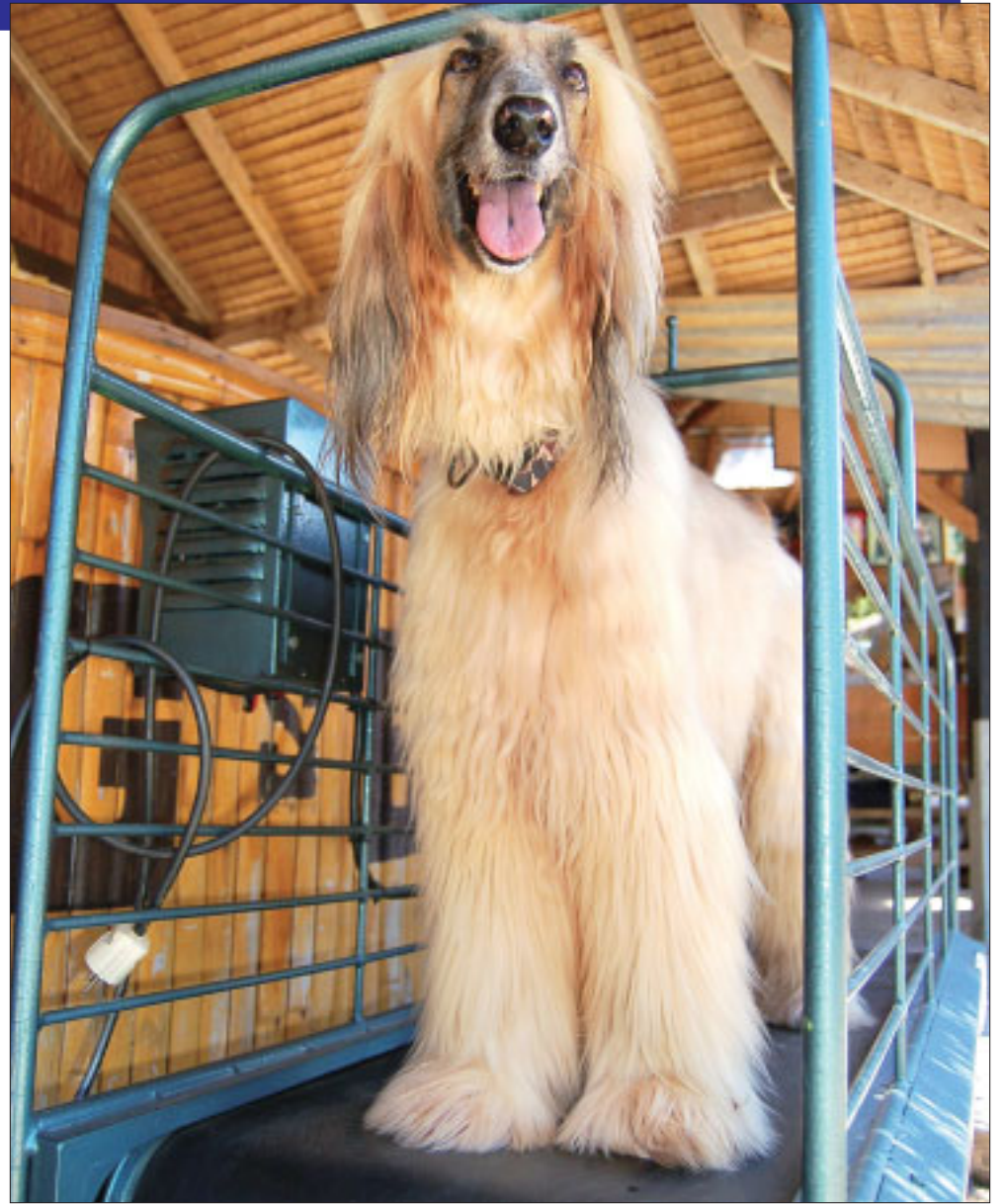



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Just do it - doggy style



DOG POUND: Four-legged fitness fanatics pound the moving ground of specially designed treadmills at Phuket International Dog School.



By Sompratch Saowakhon

As development in Phuket continues to eat up open spaces, dog owners are finding it increasingly difficult to locate areas to walk their pooches. Add to this the lack of time a busy schedule leaves people to take care of their dogs and you have an island in need of a solution.

After years of fine tuning and tinkering, one inventive

Phuket dog-lover has come up with the answer: a treadmill for dogs.

A mechanic by trade, Nutthawut "Soon" Cholchawalit has spent the past five years developing his dog-training treadmill. It has an adjustable speed setting that can make the ground beneath a pooch's paws whiz by at up to 10kmh – much faster than most dog owners can keep up for any length of time, but just the right speed to give a fit Fido the equivalent

to a good jaunt in the park.

For dogs aiming for tip-top conditioning, the treadmill can also be tilted at an incline of up to 10°. K. Soon had the idea for a dog-friendly treadmill after a friend became fed up with trying to negotiate the hazards of Phuket's notoriously dangerous roads when taking his dog for a walk.

He has made three treadmills so far, one of which has been installed at Phuket Inter-

national Dog School on Koh Sireh. Another is at his vehicle-repair shop, Hirunkanchang, on Srisuthat-Koh Sireh Rd. The third treadmill was given to the friend whose initial grievance gave birth to the idea.

"The treadmills are solid machines, weighing 170 kilograms and using a 220-volt motor. They are strong enough to support dogs of all sizes.

"Most of the dogs at the dog school love getting on the tread-

mill. It makes them happy and it helps them stay fit and active," said K. Soon.

K. Soon accepts orders for dog treadmills and he can make one in around 10 days for about 40,000 baht depending on the owner and the kind of dog that will be using the treadmill.

For more information contact K. Soon (Tel: 081-5379745) or Phuket International Dog School (Tel: 076-216336).

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Tiida offers a tidy package



By Jeff Heselwood

After the runaway success of Honda's diminutive Jazz and Toyota's Yaris, Nissan has introduced its Tiida compact to Thailand, priced at less than 600,000 baht. The name is derived from a Japanese word meaning "ever-changing tide".

Available as a four-door sedan or a five-door hatchback, the Tiida's styling takes a contemporary slant on the traditional three-box design. There is a choice between two engine options, both gasoline: a 110bhp (81kW) 1.6-liter or a 1.8 126bhp (93kW). There is also the option of a five-speed manual gearbox or a four-speed automatic.

With three trim and equipment levels to choose from, the Tiida will appeal to customers who place comfort, quality and space above other requirements.

Nissan has distinct target customers for the Tiida. These are loyal Almera and Primera buyers "who value traditional



Nissan qualities of reliability and value for money; conquest buyers who are expected to come from within the segment and who place high importance on comfort

and quality".

By focusing on the needs of customers, Nissan's design engineers have ensured that the Tiida is easy to live with. Large, wide-

opening doors and optimal hip points mean ingress and egress is as effortless as possible. Even the seats are larger than the class average.

In the authoritative Euro NCAP crash tests, the similar Nissan Note achieved a respectable four stars for occupant safety and an equally respectable two stars for pedestrian safety.

With versatility and comfort prerequisites, the rear seats on hatchback and sedan versions fold forward to increase luggage space or recline to increase comfort. The little Nissan is spacious and comfortable. Extra-large seats provide a seating area that's almost as wide as that found in the larger Nissans. The seats have a main inner section made of high-density foam with a soft urethane top layer.

A novel feature that maximizes interior space is the positioning of the recline and height-adjustment levers on the inside of the front seats beside the center console. This allows the seats to be mounted closer to the door pil-

Available as a four-door sedan or a five-door hatchback, the Tiida's styling takes a contemporary slant on the traditional three-box design.

lar to provide maximum width at shoulder level without compromising either the ease of operation of the levers or passenger safety. All Tiidas have seat-mounted side airbags.

Like the Jazz and Yaris, the Tiida is a compact sedan, but it need not feel as such. "Downsizing can sometimes be an unpleasant experience – there's usually too much to be given up. But that's not the case with the Tiida," said Brian Carolin, senior vice-president for Nissan Europe.

"As well as having the roominess of much larger cars, it has all their features and more. The Tiida is one of the best-equipped cars on the market, regardless of size," he added.

Trunk volume is also generous for a car of its size, with its 467 liters of space comfortably leading the class and, again, embarrassing many larger cars. Extra versatility can be found in the hatchback model, which has a sliding rear seat that can be moved up to 240mm back and forth.

Standard or optional equipment is based on big-car features, such as satellite navigation, climate control, leather trim, automatic wipers and lights, Xenon headlamps and Bluetooth mobile phone connectivity.

Safety features include ABS with brake assist, four airbags and, depending on the version, curtain airbags. ESP (electronic stability program) is available as an option throughout the range.

The hardback five-door model is priced between 678,000 and 770,000 baht, with the four-door coming in at between 564,000 and 594,000 baht. Both can be ordered from AR Siam Nissan dealership on Thepkasattri Rd in Rassada (Tel: 0-76-239801-2).

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

Playhouse Theatre Restaurant presents an Andaman Player Production of two one-act plays

Night in the bar room and Adjoined



Tony

Erik

Stephen

Baz



Gem

Liz

Vicki

Michael

Playhouse Theatre Restaurant Sunday 29th June 08 Dinner and Show 1000 Baht (excluding drinks) limited seating show start 7.30 p.m.

Reservation at jrapom@manathai.com
tel : 076270900 ext 102

Playhouse Theatre Restaurant : 120 Rad Uthit Road, Patong Beach Phuket
www.phuketplayhouse.com

Phuket Gazette

Safety features include ABS with brake assist, four airbags and, depending on the version, curtain airbags.



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 30 June.

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

June 29. One Night in Phuket.

The Andaman Players are back to proudly present an evening of comedy dinner at The Playhouse, Patong.

As well as exceptional cuisine, you get two one-act comedies specially written for this occasion by Simon J Hand.

A pleasant setting and hilarious comedy drama.

From 7 pm until 11 pm.

Contact Tony Kelsey-Stead for details. Tel: 085-7903652. Email: t_kelsey_stead@hotmail.com

June 29. Mac Group Therapy - Chalong.

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

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

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

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

Celebrate Bastille Day

July 14

First up, there will be a free French wine tasting and a themed French buffet and barbecue at OrientAsia, overlooking the beach, at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.

The evening begins with wine tasting from 6 pm until 8 pm, followed by great food, company and music.

The celebration dinner is 888 baht including two further glasses of wine during dinner.

Contact Patrick de Staercke for more. Tel: 076-396139-442/430.

Email: patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com Website: www.moevenpick-phuket.com

Also, Wine Connection Chalong will host a Bastille Day French Buffet from 6:30 pm until 11 pm.

Celebrate Bastille Day with a sumptuous French buffet dinner and cheese buffet at 650 baht per

person. Includes one bottle of wine at 1,250 baht per person. Live band and fireworks.

Contact Pascal for more information. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th



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

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.

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

July 4. Live Music - Bands' Night at Watermark.

Watermark presents the next of its live music nights, which happen on the first Friday of each month, 5 pm until midnight.

July 4 kicks off again with two acts that will have you rockin' all night: the Timberhut Band and the Fuzztonez.

Killer tunes means murder on the dance floor. Happy hour 5 pm to 7 pm

Contact Stuart Bird for details. Tel: 081-7736184. Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com Website: www.watermarkphuket.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 processions are staged in all of Phuket's Thai Buddhist temples. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 will come from a variety of countries, such as the US, Australia, the UK, South Africa, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia. All the beach boys and gals will be hoping to catch some rad waves.

Entry forms can be found at www.phuketboardriders.com

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

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.

This event is being sponsored by the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter and Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International. This seminar is essential for anyone in the hospitality and events industries.

The registration fee of 1,200 baht includes the seminar, refreshments and lunch.

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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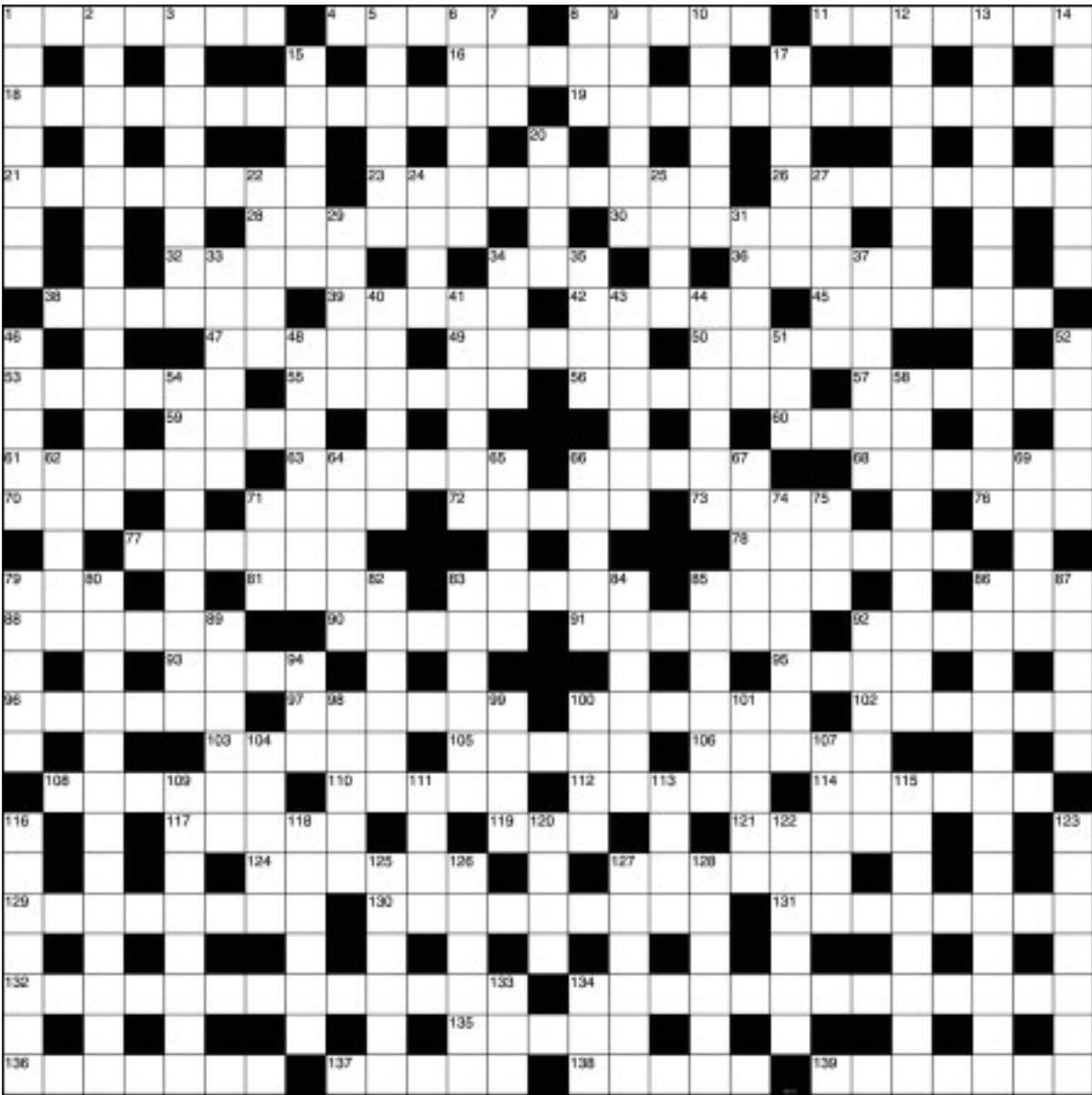


The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

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

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



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- Across

1. Resupply (2-5)

4. Felt angry

8. Outlaw,...James

11. Inheritance

16. Fact

18. Lookalike sibling (9,4)

19. Compassionate

21. Lacy dressing gown

23. Enlightenment

26. Citrus fruit

28. Reside at workplace (4,2)

30. Elder

32. Steak cut (1-4)

34. Livid

36. Famous actress,...Garson

38. Binds (4,2)

39. Unworldly

42. Sing alpine-style

45. Anybody

47. Thaws

49. Smoothed the way,...the wheels

50. Slightly wet

53. Beverage vessel

55. Rearward

56. Amusing TV genre

57. Informed (on)

59. Dork

60. Infant's carriage

61. Drained (udder)

63. Stepped painfully

66. Purchaser

68. Conditional dis charge

70. Swine enclosure

71. Singer, ...Turner

72. Photographs bones (1-4)

73. Potato bag
- Down

76. The Simpsons' neighbor,...Flanders

77. Holy place

78. Large families

79. Radio frequency (1,1,1)

81. Taj Mahal city

83. Construe

85. Introduce to solid food

86. By what means?

88. Song's words

90. Trace

91. Cruelty

92. Restful

93. Point of perfection

95. Groan

96. Abundantly

97. Handled roughly

100. Socialize at party

102. Womb

103. Dull thumps

105. Caesar or Waldorf

106. Oppressed

108. Inca city, Machu...

110. Raises temperature

112. Britain's Scilly...

114. Substantially

117. Revived (music)

119. Was compelled (to)

121. Lock of hair

124. Hidden stores

127. PLO hero,...Arafat

129. Not looked-for

130. Intentionally (2,7)

131. Detoured round

132. Feeling of uneasi- ness (6-7)

134. Dishonesty

135. Demon

136. Repaint (car)

137. Abrupt

138. East England county

139. Helps
76. Council taxes

69. Duped (3,2)

71. Popular liqueur,...Maria

74. Squeezed (into)

75. Closest relative, next of...

79. Extreme

80. Crabbiness

82. Awaken

83. Chilliest

84. Turbulent stretch of river

85. Waggle

86. Callousness

87. From Wales

89. Reaping blade

92. Steam-rooms

94. Flightless bird

98. For a specific pur- pose (2,3)

99. Destroy (hopes)

100. Cleaning girl

101. Carries on

104. Guinea pig cage

107. Manicure board ma terial

109. Casino worker

111. Prayer ending

113. Meadows

115. Tel Aviv natives

116. Coupon

118. Fairly

120. Crooked

122. Disproves

123. Bare-skin enthusi- asts

125. Walk lamely

126. Drives too fast

127. Bumpkins

128. Drastic

133. Behold

134. Perish

Solution on next page

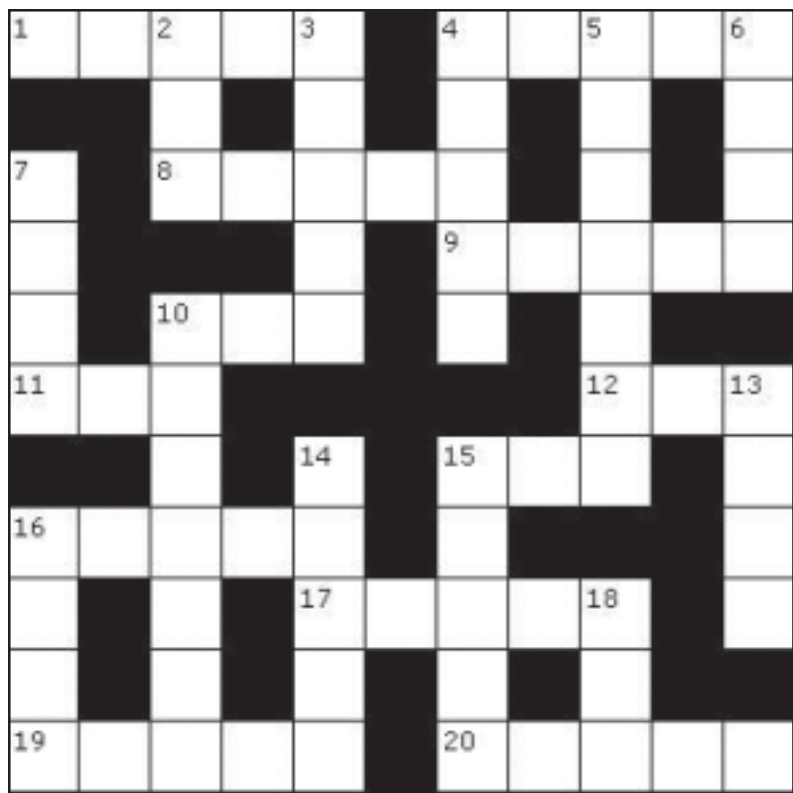
su | do | ku

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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

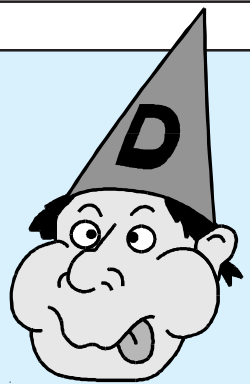
1. Mission
4. Kick out
8. Mistake
9. Finished
10. Fire remnants
11. Not me
12. Fresh
15. Carpet
16. Heading
17. Column
19. The Holy...
20. Warbly singing

Down

2. Santa's helper
3. Contact
4. Go in
5. Dessert
6. Noisy
7. Jewel
10. Country
13. Clean
14. Element
15. Raucous
16. Bully
18. Color

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

1. Which UK band in 1991 won critical acclaim for the first single from their album *Blue Lines*?
2. What was the song?
3. What are the names of the two hecklers in the box seat in *The Muppet Show*?
4. Who made the most appearances on *The Muppet Show*?
5. Who in 2004 broke Dan Marino's 20-year NFL American football record for most touchdown passes in a single season?
6. Which team did he play for?
7. Who holds that record now and when did he break it?
8. How many touchdown passes did he make in a single season?
9. In 1968, Samak Sundaravej began his political career with which party?
10. Can pigs swim?
11. Who sings classic David Bowie tracks throughout the 2004 movie *The Life Aquatic*?
12. What 2002 international hit movie, made in Brazil, did he also star in?
13. Where is the world's reportedly oldest tree?
14. How old is it believed to be?
15. Who captains the Thai national football squad?
16. How old is he?
17. What is the name of the world's tallest building?
18. Which man-made structures in Peru are one of the "New 7 Nature Wonders of the World"?
19. Iago is featured in which Shakespearean play?
20. What was his fate?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

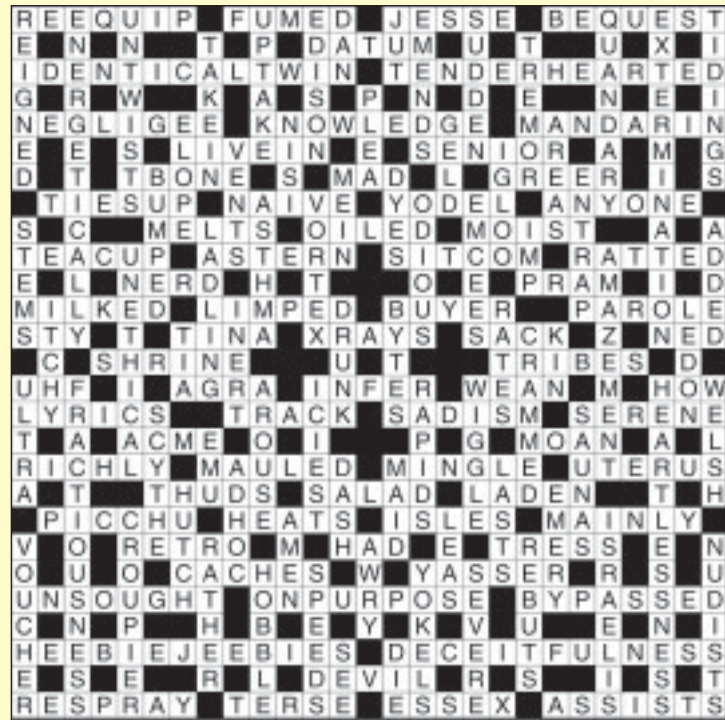
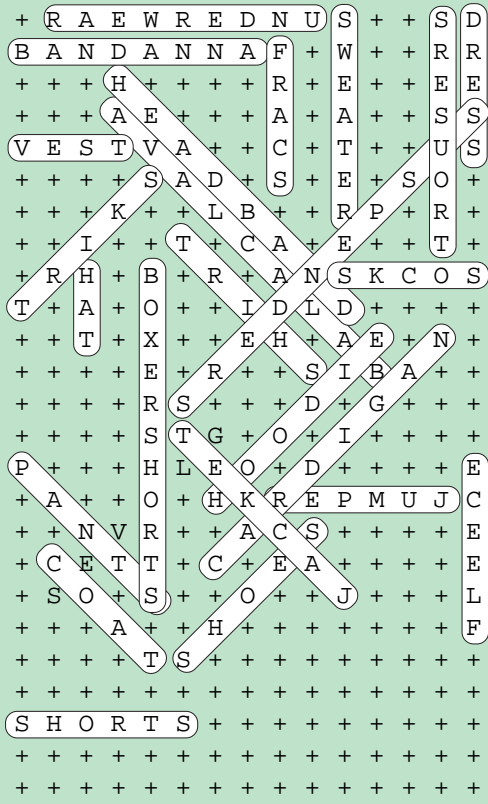
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Massive Attack; 2. *Unfinished Symphony*; 3. Statler & Waldorf; 4. John Denver (3); 5. Peyton Manning (49 touchdown passes); 6. Indianapolis Colts; 7. Tom Brady, New England Patriots, 2007; 8. 50; 9. Democrat Party; 10. Yes; 11. Seu Jorge; 12. *City of God*; 13. Fulu Mountain, Sweden; 14. About 9,550 years old; 15. Tawan Sripa; 16. 36 (born Dec 15, 1971); 17. Burj Dubai; 18. Machu Picchu; 19. *Othello*; 20. Unknown, last reported in *Othello* as led off stage.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



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We're the Cliché Police and Phuket is under arrest

Say what? That billboard over there. What does it read? "Own your own slice of paradise." I'm sorry sir, that's just one cliché too far and you'll have to accompany us down to the police station to answer some very serious questions.

That's right, the Phuket Cliché Police, led by the tireless Sgt Nop, have been out and about once again in an all-out attempt to bring some semblance of shame, or at least originality, to the island's worst cliché offenders.

But it's a thankless task, undermanned as we are (ahem, that should be "under-personned") and lacking the backing of the powers that be... oh sorry the "authorities".

So off we go to Patong then.

"Katoys R Us" we like. This backstreet transvestite bar shows a sense of devil-may-care élan in its truthful nomenclature, combined with a rather breathtaking sense of reality that is rarely glimpsed in these parts.

Full marks there and no problems as far as the CP are concerned.

However, all the "Foxy Ladies", "Angel Girls" and "Dream Babes" bars are going to have to go, not only on the grounds of cliché littering, but also since they are all in grave contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act.

Have you ever spent an hour of your evening with the denizens of the "Dream

Babes a go go bar" as poor Sgt Nop has had to do? With any luck he should be out of rehab next month.

And we're sorry, but all this governmental talk of "coyote dancing" is just going to have to stop.

Not once did we see any sort of prairie-dwelling critters gyrating on stage, just the regulation crop of under-aged Isarn farmers' daughters doing their bikini-clad thing.

Why this has recently become described as coyote dancing is anyone's guess. But the Cliché Police have spoken and from now on this particular activity is to be referred to as common or garden "go go dancing" as has been the form in these parts since time immemorial.

Now let's get on to more serious matters: the real estate sector.

All this "buy your slice of paradise", "secure your personal Shangri La" and "realize your tropical dream" nonsense that we see in just about every advertisement of brochure for over-priced, shonky real

estate is totally out. We've had just about enough of this... it's all clichéd out.

Firstly no-one, not even your average Kazakhstan car factory worker, is buying this type of hype any more. And clearly everyone's idea of "paradise" is different and resides very much in the eye, or possibly the trousers, of the beholder.

Why do Phuket real estate sellers think they have the right to go about telling each and every one of us that we all have the very same idea of paradise and – surprise, surprise – it matches exactly the piece of real estate they happen to be trying to sell?

In addition, the words "privilege", "prestige" and "elite" are from now on banned from real estate advertising. No, don't whine, you'll just have to get out your thesaurus like the rest of us and find something else that's a bit more original.

Next, let's take a look at the so-called "wellness" industry. Well again, we're sorry but why every little mom-and-pop holiday hotel has suddenly morphed into a "health and wellness, detoxing and organic wholeness spa treatment retreat" is beyond us.

Or maybe it's not. We note that with their dive into health-industry cliché mode their prices have gone up correspondingly.

Could this be a marketing ploy designed to part visitors from their hard-earned currency by dressing up a perfectly normal little beachside cottage or two into a full-blown spa treatment center?

As these establishments often feature the sort of sauna and massage you can get at, say, Poo's on Rawai Beach, but at a cost of five times or more, Sgt Nop and I have our suspicions.

Pricing is, of course, another major area of great concern for Phuket's Cliché Police. We've seen "beautifully priced", "wonderfully priced" and "priced to sell" around the island. To whom, we ask is a particular item "beautifully or wonderfully priced"?

The vendor probably thinks his pricing is a thing of extreme beauty and wonders if he can charge the unsuspecting punter five times the going rate, but we're not sure the duped punter would necessarily agree. To use another cliché... *ca-veat emptor*.

So there you go. The Cliché Police have spoken and we'll stay hard at work trying to make Phuket a safer, more original and honest place to live.

Mind how you go, have a nice day and whatever you do try to avoid clichés like the plague.



ANDAMAN
BY SOAPBOX SID
RANT

Believers in such things as alien spacecraft, the power of crystals, ghosts and other supernatural phenomena are usually pretty amenable to the idea of parallel universes. There are some people who believe in Fun Town, a place that Wishaporn Astar, a famous prognosticator, suggests exists as the mirror image of Pattaya. Fun Town is an interesting spot where some unusual events occur.

The first mayor of Fun Town was Laksthemoney Tobewealthy, who was originally the headman of the village of Bungladung, on the outskirts of the current city. Known as an honest man, his critics were disappointed with the general lack of progress as far as building con-

Through the looking glass

crete structures and entertainment venues were concerned. He was subsequently moved to an inactive post in the Traffic Department.

The second mayor, Toughbasturd Hardasnuts, cut his teeth in the rough and tumble of local affairs in and around Fun Town and went on to a glittering career in national politics. He was the power behind 17 successful coups, 12 unsuccessful coups, three border wars and one currency-exchange crash, in which it was rumored he made about 900 million baht.

The International Monetary

Fund imposed severe austerity measures on Fun Town after the 1997 Asian-parallel-universe financial crisis. One of the key planks was a rule restricting the digging up of the beach for four months each year. The Department of Hole Construction's budget was slashed from 700 billion baht to just 590 billion baht. To this day, no-one is sure what happened to the savings accrued by the budgetary measures.

In 2001, an attempt by then-Mayor Purely Puritanical to restrict the operating hours of chrome pole palaces and to introduce bromide to drinking wa-

ter failed when it was pointed out that (A), no-one has ever survived drinking Fun Town's tap water, and (B), the annual policemen's benefit, the Tea Money Ball, could not take place as the bar owners would not be in a financial position to make their monthly contributions. The mayor was moved to an inactive post in the Traffic Department.

Similar to the national government, local City Hall administrations changed faster than amoebic dysentery through a British Prisoner of War. In an attempt to stop this constant hemorrhaging, the next mayor, Pirate Singasongofsixbaht, formed a coalition of all 103 political parties.

This proved a great boon to the logging industry in and around Fun Town and resulted in City Hall having the longest table of any administration in the nation. The resulting national publicity surrounding the huge table led to City Hall politicians having the idea of erecting even greater constructions all over the city.

The tallest condominium complex in the world was built. The problem with this comes in the need to helicopter water and food to the highest floors when there is a blackout leaving the el-

evators stuck. The only plus as far as the national administration is concerned has been the invaluable training the rapid-response teams have received – usually once a week.

As for the hotel with the world's most rooms, this has been challenged by some pedants on the basis that 400 broom closets and 227 en-suite bathrooms should not be classified as rooms.

Not content with simple buildings, the collective brains hit upon the grand idea of suggesting and sponsoring a number of other projects. Unsurprisingly, they came up with food as the perfect arena for Fun Town-based chefs to try and create the odd world record.

The first was the world's biggest hamburger. It took three people four days to eat and it was a week before they stopped involuntarily passing wind.

The spiciest *somtam* dish ever made was next on the agenda. The 25-kilogram monster salad was consumed by 500 Thais.

The city's sewage system was overloaded afterwards. WHO issued a general warning to foreign travelers about a long brown slick that appeared in the sea off the coast of Fun Town.



FROM THE
STREETS
OF
PATTAYA
By Duncan Stearn



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Young does it again... wonderfully

David Young has written six bargirl novels. The first was *The Scribe*, about a down-on-his-luck expat who pens love letters for scheming bargirls in Bangkok. His latest is *No Problem Girl* (Hostage Press International, Ayutthaya, 2008, 308pp), set mostly in Pattaya.

Just what we need, another bargirl novel, right?

But David Young is different from the legion of other expatriate authors. He can write.

His characters are sympathetic, the plots are fresh and fast-paced and the dialog often hilarious. He is in fine form in *No Problem Girl*.

The girl in question is Aree from a typical poor farming family in Korat. She's a high-school graduate who speaks fair English and has just lost the job she's held for six years in a factory near her home. So she comes to Pattaya and lands a job as a barmaid.

She is, emphatically, not a hooker. In fact, Mr Dwight, the American owner, does not want hookers in his bar. He interviews one job candidate by asking her name, age, marital status, children, and then: "*Sprechen sie Deutsch?*"

"Ja."

"Get lost."



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

The plot has many quirky twists. The novel opens this way:

"The girls were naked. Naked and purple."

"All right, perhaps not entirely naked, but they were, unarguably, purple. Their hair, their arms, their breasts and the short Romanesque skirts that each of them wore. Purple. At first Peter Slodell believed he was watching some sort of erotic tribute to Prince."

But we're not in Pattaya, but Chicago, where Peter Slodell is watching an arty nightclub review. Slodell is a ne'er-do-well heir to a mayonnaise fortune. He refuses to work and prowls the clubs at night to pick up girls. The hitch comes when his father dies and specifies in his will that

Slodell must be married before he can collect the family fortune. Slodell decides on a sham marriage.

Slodell goes to his friend, Victor, a graduate student and computer expert, who recommends an international match-making service. Victor has a friend who explored both Thailand and Russia before settling on a temporary wife. Victor warns Slodell:

"He toured Southeast Asia before heading to Moscow. He said the Thais were the warmest, friendliest, and most beautiful people on Earth. He also said they were the most distant and shallow bunch he'd ever encountered."

"Victor. I'm distant and shallow."

It takes half the book before Slodell arrives in Bangkok.

Meanwhile, Aree needs the money. She has received a letter from her sister summoning her home to become the minor wife of the local godfather who holds her father's gambling debts. Siam Dreams Matchmaking Agency in Pattaya is a logical option.

Slodell is met at the airport by agency rep Mr Nick, a Brit who has fallen hopelessly in love with Aree.

"Peter regarded his escort in nothing short of astonishment. He was a thin man whose entire being seemed in bad

need of a shave. He had light-colored hair made dark by all the bottom-shelf supermarket gel that kept it in place. The clothes he wore made Peter think of a 12-year-old being dragged to church. Blue pants, a plaid short-sleeved shirt and a necktie that should have been taken out behind the barn and shot."

Mr Nick will act the Iago to deter the budding romance between Slodell and Aree.

Slodell submits Aree to a quiz about famous historical figures and finds she does not know who Hitler was. He reports this back to Victor who responds, "There are still plenty of Russians. I'll bet most of them have heard of Hitler."

Slodell does make it up to Aree's family village in Korat. He winds up with her crazed teenage brother and his motorcycle gang.

"They became part of the gang and rode, free wheeling, born to be wild, yippie kay-yay, through the darkening roads and endless rice fields. Peter could see that they really did have command of the streets... This wasn't a gang; this was an army. They could probably restore democracy in Burma once their acne cleared."

Will Slodell and Aree rescue each other? I recommend that you find out for yourself.

The long and short of Thai vowels

When it comes to Thai vowels, length really does matter. I remember in grade school that the teacher taught about "long" and "short" vowels in English, where the i in "bite" is long, but the i in "bit" is short. Or something like that.

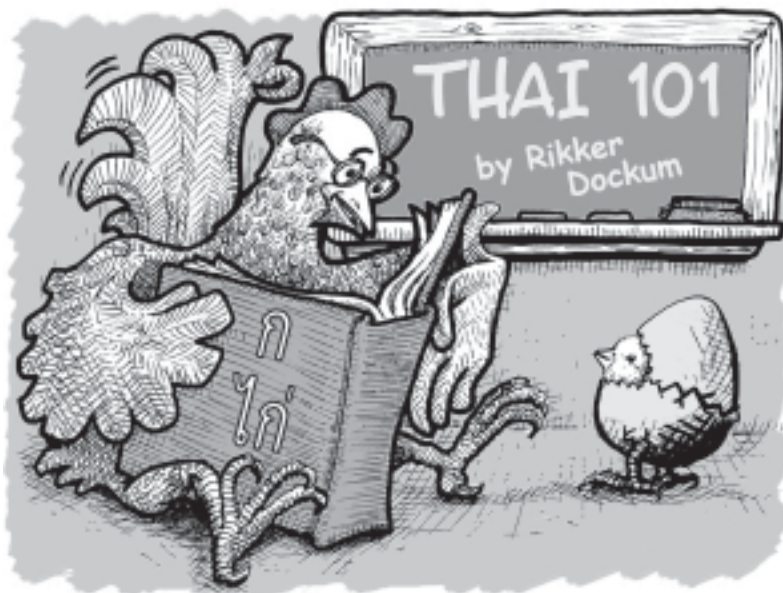
This terminology has been around a long time, but in modern English there is nothing phonetically long or short about these vowels. These are just terms to differentiate two ways of pronouncing the same written vowel.

In Thai, on the other hand, vowel length refers to actual duration – the length of time it takes to pronounce the vowel. In previous columns I've written about contrasting and non-contrasting sounds. Now I'm here to tell you that vowel length is contrasting in Thai. That means two words that are the same in every respect except vowel length will mean two different things. For example, หัด (hàt) means "practice", but หาด hàat means "beach".

This subject reminds me of something that happened to a Thai friend of mine. Like many small restaurant owners, he hired a Burmese fellow to help out around the kitchen.

Finding himself out of potatoes at a busy time, he sent the man off to the market with a couple hundred baht and instructions to buy as many potatoes (mun faràng) as he could get.

His employee quickly returned, eager to please, with a big smile on his face and a sack in



his hand filled with 40 packs of chewing gum (màak faràng).

My friend felt like making him chew the whole lot at once.

There's more to that mix-up than just vowel length. Because Burmese has different contrasting sounds than Thai, it was hard for the well-meaning kitchen boy to tell the words apart. While this seems to us like a silly mistake, we often get into the same situation with pairs like b and p, or d and t.

When two words sound the same, often vowel length can help to pick out the difference.

Each Thai vowel has a long or short form. I won't include every single possibility here, just some of the most common ones (see table, at right).

For a couple of these pairs, the tone of the two words is different. I did that so I could stick to more common words. But

apart from tone, vowel length is the only difference.

There is one exception: the last pair. In normal speech, Thais don't always distinguish between r and l, so it's a common mistake for foreigners to say เลว leew "vile" when they mean เร็ว rew "fast". Be careful, since เลว leew is rather rude. It's a misunderstanding waiting to happen.

Ask a Thai friend to read these words pairs aloud to you, and help you practice distinguishing between them.

You're armed with the basics of vowel length now, so get out there and have a conversation. If you come back with a black eye, though, don't say I didn't warn you.

Rikker Dockum writes regularly at thai101.blogspot.com and can be contacted at: rdockum@gmail.com

Short

a
ขัด khàt "scrub, polish"

e
เห็ด hèt "mushroom"

i
คิด khít "think"

o
อบ òp "bake"

u
ซุ๊ป soop "soup"

ew
เร็ว rew "fast"

Long

aa
ขาด khàat "torn"

eh
เหตุ hèht "cause (of an event)"

ee
จี๊ด kheet "100 grams"

oh
โอบ òhp "encircle, embrace"

uu
สูบ soop "smoke (cigarettes)"

eew
เลว leew "vile, bad"

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Reading the signs

The recent Senate Standing Committee on Tourism hearing in Phuket (see Inside Story, pp 4-5) brought together a number of familiar faces discussing familiar problems. The solutions to many of them are well known, but require central-government funding that has been denied for far too long.

It started with the now-defunct if-they-don't-vote-for-me-they-shouldn't-expect-any-favors Thai Rak Thai government of Thaksin Shinawatra. This was followed by the neutral-gear administration of Surayud Chulanont. Now Phuket's fate lies at the mercy of the embattled Samak Sundaravej government, whose current top priority is simply to stay in power.

With one administration after another failing to address Phuket's increasingly onerous developmental problems, this island is slowly sliding into an abyss of environmental degradation, unsustainable development and stark social inequality.

The effects of the latter have already been highlighted by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, which earlier this year announced that Phuket ranked dead last among Thailand's province in terms of the personal-security index.

The recent Thai Hotel Association poll of some 400 west coast tourists revealed that most gave their visit here a passing grade on most aspects, with 96% reportedly saying they would recommend the island to friends.

This comes as little surprise to those who have first-hand knowledge of how these polls are usually conducted – in non-random fashion, typically by students. In most cases, the tourists being questioned don't know that they are taking part in a serious poll and give positive responses simply to be polite.

At other times, the poll conductors approach long-stay tourists and expat residents who confuse them with the "timeshare" touts and refuse to have anything to do with them – thus their views are not taken into account.

Given political instability and that the Senate committee's role is advisory only, we can expect few tangible results from the hearing – short term or otherwise. Perhaps the best we can do in the meantime is follow the advice of TAT South Region 4 Director Suwalai Pinpradub, who recommended we do what we can locally.

She recommended that something be done about the eyesore created by the ugly proliferation of roadside advertising. While noting that the TAT – and yes even the Gazette – supports many of these promotions, we agree that it is an island-wide problem that can and should be dealt with jointly by both the Provincial Office and the new Phuket Provincial Administration Office.

– The Editor

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

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In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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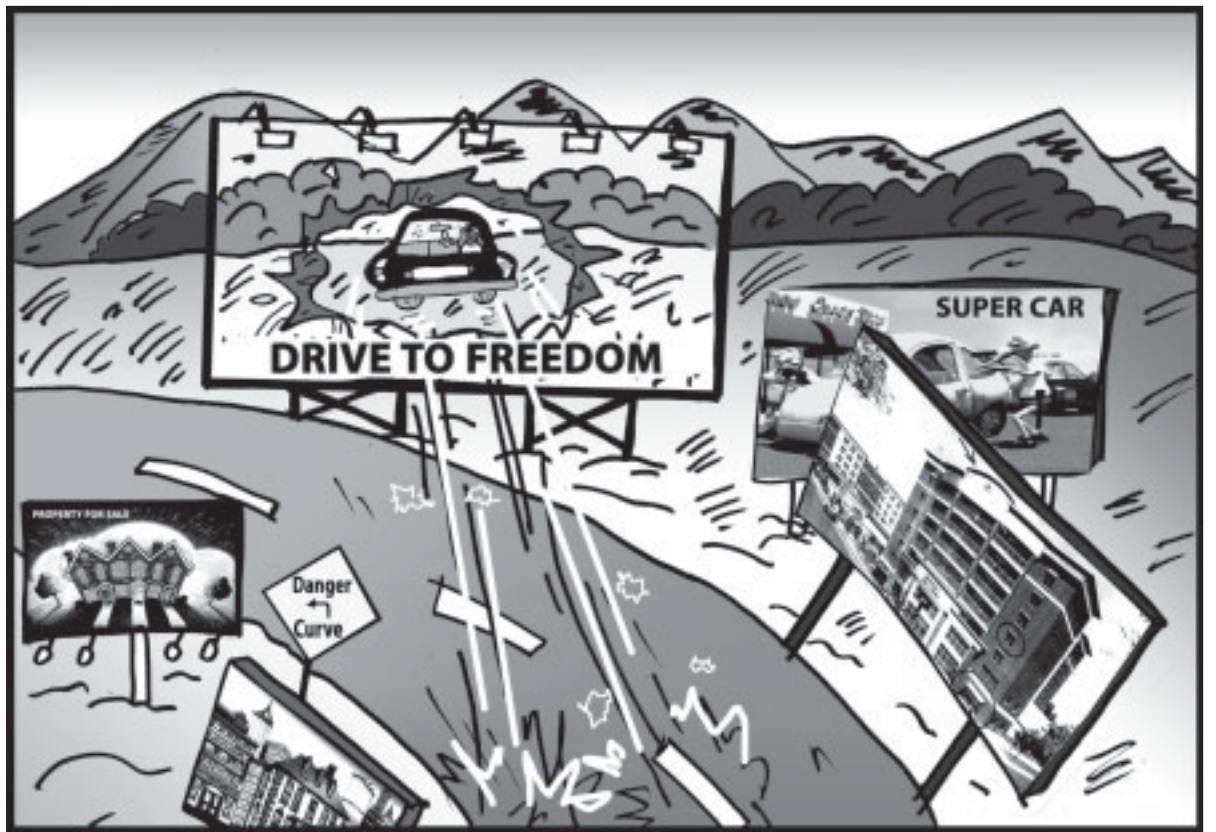
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Letters

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

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

Close encounters of the third sex

Having read that some places around the country are installing toilets for katoey, it got me thinking about the whole tri-gender arrangement.

For the record, I'm not gay, nor am I homophobic, although my boyfriend is. I really don't know where to stand, sit or crouch on this issue of defining the third sex.

At what stage does the "woman trapped in a man's body" become a human of the third kind? Is mincing in a skirt, wearing a bright hair band and constantly applying wads of foundation powder enough to give you passage rights to the third door? Or does a man have to be better endowed on top than below to qualify?

This also raises the question of the fittings in the third gender's toilet. Is there a row of stalls like in the ladies' or will there also be urinals?

Perhaps the Japanese can come up with a new kind of self-flushing toilet that's somewhere between a urinal and a throne. It could be called the Gen-3. This would also give Wan "Mr Happy Toilet" Chalerm a free trip to Japan to see the new range of toilets for himself. Upon his return, he can set up a company to make the Thai version of the Gen-3 toilet and have it endorsed by Miss Tiffany with a pink sticker on the side.

An international legal wrangle would ensue, and members of the third gender who haven't made the full transition to womanhood will be filing lawsuits against the fake Gen-3 manufacturers because of some

overlooked technical detail in the self-cleaning mechanism that leaves them scarred for life.

Dick Lessithertz
Cherng Talay

Burma's DNA code

When reading the story about the unidentified body found off Koh Bon, I'm amazed at how far forensic science has come in this day and age.

The anonymous coroner said their investigation found that the body was that of a dark-skinned Burmese male.

Since all that was found with the body was the shorts he was wearing, is that to mean that through DNA or some other kind of testing, a person's nationality can be determined?

If so, let's give this coroner the Nobel Prize!

Jane
Kathu

Thai guides missing their slice of pie?

We could all hear the same old song playing in the "Thai guides angered by Russian substitutes" story (Gazette online, June 21). How frustrating it must be to have busloads of cash driving past every day and not having it stop at your door.

Even funnier was the Thai guides complaining about Russian tourists being told by their fellow countrymen that some Thais were cheats and were not to be trusted. Outrageous! Please read "Legal wrangle may leave Visas tenants homeless", posted on the Gazette website just three days later.

Of course the Thai guides would take their Russian guests to trusty Uncle Daeng's gem

shop and a restaurant or two belonging to a friend – maybe even stop off on the bypass road to see if the tourists really wanted to stay in the resort they booked online three months ago.

The story is nothing short of a Korean guide re-run. Thai guides: welcome to an economic slowdown. If you've got the skills, the tour companies will hire you. And if foreigners are cheaper to hire, then take a pay cut.

Dave Simmons
Chalong

Death by puddle

There was a story the other day about a British dude who was walking through the streets of Bangkok when he stepped in a puddle and was electrocuted. He stepped out of his hotel and *wham!* he fried and died. What a way to go. Killed by a puddle. It could only happen in Thailand.

With the neverending supply of rain that Phuket seems to have at the moment, I've noticed hundreds of puddles dotted around the island. I've also started noticing the masses of electric cables that are bundled together here, there and everywhere.

I'm always rather terrified by the electric cables that Phuket has. Not only do they look mean, but they sound mean, too. They are surely out to get someone.

That poor guy in Bangkok was only 32 and he was in Thailand to visit a friend who had bought a bar. Will anyone step up and take the blame for his death? Word on the street, though, is that the puddle has disappeared, with police in hot pursuit.

So, Scott Mitchinson, this one's for you.

Ted Shed
Chalong

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

Political instability adding to mega-project delays

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) demonstrations in Bangkok have not had too much of an effect on Phuket's tourism industry, which typically experiences a drop in tourist arrivals during the May-to-October green season.

There are 280 registered PAD members here in Phuket. They sometimes get together to watch the Bangkok rallies on a large-screen TV set up at Saphan Hin and they have the right to do so.

While the political instability may not have had a direct effect on Phuket tourism, it has had an impact on Thailand's overall investment climate.

Potential investors are waiting for stability and positive signs from the government, such as tax reductions and improved Board of Investment (BoI) benefits, before committing themselves.

Political uncertainty also affects our ability to get funding for large-scale infrastructure development projects – “mega-projects” – that Phuket needs but cannot fund without help from the central government.

If there is another change in government, investment policies will also change and we will again be forced to present the same projects to the new government ministers, giving them time to study and understand all the issues involved.

We really need a MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) center in Phuket and we have already had

The Governor's Letter

Governor Niran Kalayanamit was promoted to his position in October 2006 by a military-installed caretaker government that chose to leave important funding decisions to their elected successors.

Despite a new Constitution and subsequent election, political instability continues to hold up central government funding for the large-scale projects Phuket needs.

In his monthly letter to Phuket's expat community, Gov Niran discusses this and other issues affecting the island.



land put aside for one in Mai Khao.

Then there is the Ao Phuket project, which would be the largest of all the mega-projects under consideration. This project would also include large MICE facilities, but I don't see any reason why both projects couldn't be developed in tandem to make Phuket a destination that could host very large events, such as world symposiums.

Unfortunately, the largest MICE facility on the island at the moment only has 1,500 seats.

Census. I recently called many officials to a meeting and asked them to work together to find ways of improving our ability to keep track of how many people are actually living in the province.

We need to improve our ability to count not only all the non-registered Thais, but also the resident expat population. This is difficult because the Thai Immigration Bureau Police currently allows entry of foreigners under 15 different tourist and non-immigrant visa classes.

The number of foreigners with work permits issued in Phuket currently stands at about 7,000. The country whose nationals hold the highest number of work permits is the UK, with 600, followed by Korea, Sweden, Germany and Russia. Most foreigners working here are in the real estate or hospitality industries.

Right now we are limited to using visa and work permit statistics, which are insufficient because they fail to account for a

large number of people living here who enter the country on visa exemptions or enter in other provinces, and then come here by bus, such as people who do visa runs to places such as Ranong.

We have no way of knowing their numbers. There are also many foreigners who arrived here by yacht, or who work for charitable foundations or in other capacities, whose presence in Phuket is not officially recorded. An improved system might include better links with Immigration offices outside the province.

As the committee responsible for looking into this has just been established, I am waiting for their initial report to see what obstacles need to be overcome. This committee will submit a progress report to me each month.

This could also help increase security for foreigners living here and help us liaise better with foreign diplomatic missions, many of which have consuls or honorary consuls on the island.

Ideally, I would like to integrate this information into the satellite-based geographic information system (GIS) that the Interior Ministry is developing to keep watch over forest reserves and other natural resources nationwide.

It is a flexible system that we could also use to map out areas where there are many luxury resort developments, residential areas or locales with high rates of arrest for illegal drug use, for example.

Feeling the pinch. The fuel price hikes are affecting everyone. Personally, I try to adapt by conserving energy and following the principles of HM The King's sufficiency economy theory.

Since it is hard for someone like myself on a fixed salary to increase income, I have to limit expenditure. There are many

ways to do this, such as by not using the air conditioner unless it is really needed.

Also, people should constantly remind themselves of how much money they have and budget accordingly.

Russian tour guides. This week I was informed that Thai tour guides are complaining that Russian nationals are working here illegally as tour guides, a profession reserved for Thai nationals.

We have already been through this in our experience with Korean tour guides. I fear the next problem may be with Scandinavians, as I have heard there is a large influx of long-stay Scandinavian tourists expected.

We hope to deal with this problem by upgrading abilities in these languages locally by expanding language course curricula at local colleges and universities.

Koh Lone development. I recently had a visit from a group of English and Indian investors who are interested in starting a luxury villa and resort project, similar to the Amanpuri, on Koh Lone.

They came to consult with me first to ask how to apply for permission to build a pier on the island. They are also interested in developing a rainwater-collection system on the island.

It is good that they are planning things out well in advance. I gave them the advice they sought on which offices they would have to contact to apply for building permits.

X-ray specs. The trade in *ya bah* (methamphetamines) in Phuket appears to still be limited to small-time dealers, but the police are working hard to carry out the Interior Ministry policy of reducing it even further.

I think it would be great if we could get an X-ray scanner similar to the one at the airport set up at the new Tah Chat Chai checkpoint, because there are still a lot of illicit drugs coming onto the island by road and through the mail.

Unfortunately, these machines cost about 40 million baht each and I don't think it would be easy to get the budget for one.

– Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Niran Kalayanamit, Governor of Phuket

Will mowing the lawn get me in trouble?

I am retired and living in Thailand with a non-immigrant O visa. My visa clearly states that employment is prohibited, which I am quite happy with since I never intend to work here.

Some of my friends, however, tell me that we are not even permitted to carry out minor jobs, such as cutting our own grass, gardening, house cleaning and so on. Can you please define the term “employment” as used by Thai Immigration because I understand it to mean any work carried out for financial reward.

Ray Brown
Krabi

Issues & ANSWERS

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Janya Yingyong, an officer at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office Work Permit Section, replies:

The retirement visa prohibiting employment means that you cannot do any kind of work “for anyone else” even if you don't receive pay or any other reward for it.

For example, you cannot be a writer who sends your stories

to publish in journals or newspapers, even if you don't get paid, or work as a volunteer translating documents free of charge.

However, this doesn't mean that you cannot do work for your daily life at your home. You are still able to clean the dishes, cut grass, cook or whatever in your home, just as anyone does in their normal daily lives.

Landing in the middle of a nasty divorce

Mrs X, a Thai citizen, moved to Phuket from abroad with her husband and bought some property through the "Auction House" in Phuket, officially called the Legal Execution Department (LED). The land was up for auction because of the failure of the previous owner to repay the bank's loan.

After Mrs X bought the property and paid all the funds to the LED, she was given the documents needed to transfer the property into her name at the Land Department office.

When filing the transfer application, Mrs X discovered that the property was frozen by a court order because the previous owner was in a dispute with her ex-

husband, a foreigner, over the ownership of the property.

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

Although Mrs X could move into the property, she could not register it in her name until the court case involving the previous owner and her husband had been completed.

The initial court eventually decided the case in favor of the previous Thai owner and Mrs X received her land ownership, which was officially registered with the Land Department.

Having done this, Mrs X was relieved and thought the problem was behind her.

Some time later, she received a court order delivered to the house, informing her that the ex-husband had won the case in a Supreme Court appeal and had filed

a new lawsuit against the bank, the LED and Mrs X.

The lawsuit ordered that the property be returned to him, with the accusation that the sale through the auction and the loan to his ex-wife by the bank in the first place were both illegal.

Mrs X is now forced to spend her time and money in fighting this case, for a dispute that started long before she had even bought the land in question.

The case is not yet resolved, but the most likely outcome is that the bank and the LED will file documents from the court and Mrs X will file her documentation from the purchase

through the LED and the case will be closed after hearing all the witnesses.

Once the case is closed, the other party will still have the right to file an appeal in the courts and may also file to temporarily freeze the asset. If this happens, Mrs X will not be able to sell her property – yet another burden for her to bear.

This case highlights the need for buyers to do due diligence in checking the fine details of a property's status with the land department before completing the purchase. Even

when buying through an auction house, one should never assume that a desired plot of land is free and clear for sale until a thorough check is done.

Although Mrs X could move into the property, she could not register it in her name until the court case involving the previous owner and her husband had been completed.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

Surprises are around the corner, Cancer

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You will have the opportunity to reserve a rain check this weekend. Your busy schedule won't allow you to accept every social invitation, but one from Aquarius should be kept on hold. If you have a birthday this week, you will be relieved when friends and family suggest delaying celebrations until the coast is clear. The year ahead is forecast to bring surprise romantic events and likely commitment for those who are still single.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Many of you will find yourselves at a crossroads this weekend. Even if you knew that this situation was imminent, the choices available will come as a surprise. Taurus

has been taking notice of your skills and is certain to make an offer that will be hard to refuse. Tuesday is the best day for making the right decision. The number 7 can bring good luck this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You will receive a boost from Cupid during the last days of June. Your romantic overtures have not gone as unnoticed as you imagined; an event on Sunday should provide proof of this. Where work is concerned, your inability to juggle too many responsibilities needs to be acknowledged. Try radically streamlining commitments during July and the advantages will be apparent. Meditating on white

lotus flowers will help clear your mind.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those of you who have recently lost an important item should discover its whereabouts this week. Another lucky break comes when you learn of probable promotion; Wednesday is the most auspicious day to show superiors exactly what you're made of. Affairs of the heart are subject to less-promising astral conditions and an unsatisfactory relationship could finally land on the rocks. Wear a piece of light jade to encourage creativity.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You are likely to be running round in circles like headless chickens during the last days of June. Life is forecast to become easier to deal with in July and a surprise visit from an old friend will cheer you up before the middle of the month. Your luck in love improves and the stars forecast a meeting of the minds with Aries. Investments are positively highlighted next Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You shouldn't believe everything you hear on the gossip grapevine this week. Libra is ready to spread rumors that have no truth and Cancer could encourage confusing crossed wires. Your money goes further than anticipated on a shopping trip this weekend and home improvements are highlighted. However, a change of location should be put on hold for the time being. The color soft gray

can encourage more positive thinking.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Recognition at work should ensure that this weekend is a time of celebration for many of you. The possible downside of this is that more commitment will be expected of you. Those who have already arranged a summer holiday may have to dig your heels in when superiors suggest putting it on hold. A family getaway will help to resolve recent disagreements concerning your dedication to work. Keep yourself dedicated and you will reap the rewards. The number 4 could be lucky on Monday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): If your plans for a special romantic date are washed away this weekend, the stars suggest that this particular relationship may have to be forgotten. Scorpio is starting to become interested and this liaison has good potential for success. Tuesday is best for approaching bureaucracy with a complicated request. Wearing the color aquamarine can help you to avoid flying off the handle.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A dip in your financial security will probably cause you to be stressed this weekend. As July begins, the stars support your efforts to become more solvent and a new job is highlighted. A Leo friend also has some useful advice regarding monetary matters. Love is in the air on Sunday when someone

you've been holding a candle for indicates their mutual interest. The scent of peppermint enhances your perception.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You could be puzzled by the surprise sting you receive from Pisces this weekend. When you understand more about this person's current situation, your sympathy will be activated. Where business is concerned, it would be wise to tread water until the middle of July. In the meantime, concentrate on wrapping up loose ends and making new contacts. The number 9 can be lucky on Monday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A sudden burst of energy comes exactly when you need it. Plans for relocation are subject to last-minute hitches and your patience will be required. Virgo can be relied on to help, but Aquarius's promises are too good to be true. There is no reason to be tight-fisted with money as the stars indicate that a windfall is due in July. Tuesday is best for successful shopping.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You will have reason to be pleased early next week. Your reluctance to take advice from friends early in June was the right attitude and rewards are now forecast. Romance fizzles out, but those who are single will see this as a positive outcome. Playing the field is the name of your game throughout the month of July. Those in a committed relationship could see sparks fly during a family visit on Sunday.

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I'm fresh back from a month in the US, and have many stories to tell about the future of Internet access, the foibles of industry giants, and the general geekification of the universe (which is a good thing, mind you). Those stories will have to wait for a while, though, while I catch up on one of the most important stories of the year: to put it simply: Firefox 3 Rules.

Mozilla just released Firefox 3, and it's an awesome achievement. If you don't yet have Firefox 3 installed on your computer (yes, it works with Windows, the Mac, even Linux), you should download it and take it for a spin. Bet you'll never go back to the old, tired, holey mess known as Internet Explorer.

First a bit of history. More than any other product, Internet Explorer reflects Microsoft's odd and tortured approach to the Web. After ignoring the Internet by and large for many years, Microsoft released the first version of Internet Explorer in 1995, as an add on to Windows 95. In 1996, Microsoft built Internet Explorer version 3 into Windows itself, violating anti-trust laws, using monopolistic tactics to overwhelm Netscape Navigator. That isn't my opinion. That's proven fact, attested to by court decisions all over the world.

Having illegally driven its competitor out of business, Microsoft made almost no improvements to Internet Explorer between August 2001 and October 2006, when the Softies finally released Internet Explorer 7. IE has become the single largest conduit for viruses, trojans, spyware and crapware in the history of computing, with major security patches appearing almost every month. Microsoft didn't make any money from IE, had no incentive to improve it, and you and I suffered.

And then there was Firefox. Dave Hyatt, Blake Ross (who was a sophomore at Stanford at the time), and hundreds of volunteers took on Microsoft, producing a fast, small and free alternative to IE that quickly grabbed a significant share of the browser market. Microsoft responded by incorporating many Firefox 2 features into Internet Explorer 7.

Not to be outdone, the folks at Firefox have been working furiously to build a better browser. With Firefox 3 – released to wide acclaim, server meltdowns, and Guinness Book of Records-shattering volume on June 18, 2008 – the browser has completely redefined the industry.

Microsoft has spent many months working on early beta copies of Firefox 3, and you can expect that Internet Explorer 8 (due in a few months) will have, uh, borrowed many of its design features.

Firefox is designed to run completely independently of Internet Explorer: the two programs don't even know that each other exist on the same machine. You can download and install Firefox 3, use it regularly, and switch over to Internet Explorer if the mood ever strikes you, with

Got the Fox?

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Firefox 3 Free Download

What's So Great About Firefox?

New Features Security Productivity Customization Firefox vs. IE

See How We Stack Up

We've told you about what makes Firefox great, but how do we compare against Internet Explorer? Check out our handy browser comparison chart to see for yourself.

	Firefox	Internet Explorer
Compatible with modern Web pages and technologies	✓	✓
Active security features and the industry's fastest response times	✓	
Thousands of free ways to personalise your online experience	✓	
Superior speed and performance	✓	
Created to promote openness, innovation and opportunity on the Web	✓	

D-DAY: Mozilla claims that its open-source browser software Firefox 3 was downloaded more than 8 million times on what was called 'Download Day', a 24-hour period starting on June 17.

absolutely no complications whatsoever.

While many people prefer Firefox's layout, speed, full feature set, adherence to Web standards, and customizability, to me Firefox's number 1 saving grace lies in the simple fact that it ain't Microsoft.

Microsoft is saddled with all sorts of baggage in the browser wars, foremost among them a corporate commitment to supporting small programs called ActiveX Controls. You may have heard the term.

ActiveX Controls are, to a first approximation, programs that sit on Web pages but run on your computer. Microsoft invented ActiveX Controls long ago, and over the years ActiveX (and its predecessors) has provided the single most fertile ground for malware infecting Windows PCs. Almost every month,

Microsoft plugs gaping security holes in ActiveX.

Firefox doesn't run ActiveX. Never has. Never will.

Firefox is absolutely, utterly free. Even if you wanted to pay for it, aside from making a donation on the Firefox site, there's no mechanism for

doing so. No registration numbers, no hassles. It's the poster child for open source software – with a few very minimal restrictions, everything about Firefox is free, including the source code. No wonder that by some estimates Firefox currently commands 40% of the browser market (see w3schools.com/browsers/browsers_stats.asp).

While it doesn't cost anything to download or use Firefox, and the majority of work on Firefox comes from volunteers, it costs a considerable amount of

money to keep the Firefox infrastructure working. Even if you're well aware of the browser wars, it may surprise you to learn that the real battle being fought isn't between Goliath Microsoft and Volunteer Firefox. Far from it. As of 2006, the last year with audited figures, Firefox received 85% of its \$66.8 million revenue from – you've got it – Google.

Mitchell Baker, Chief Lizard Wrangler at Mozilla (Firefox's

parent organization), puts it this way: "The vast majority of this revenue is associated with the search functionality in Mozilla Firefox, and the majority of that is from Google."

He goes on to explain that paid staff work on "all the underlying technology that individuals don't manipulate directly – networking, layout, understanding content from websites, security, and so on." There's also a chunk of change allocated for Quality Assurance, marketing, website support, keeping the releases straight, and the like.

If you already have Firefox 2, you're in for some very pleasant surprises. Firefox 3 loads and runs faster. Its new malicious Web site blocking engine (which I wrote about in Windows Secrets Newsletter last month, www.windowsssecrets.com) runs rings around any blacklisting program currently available – and protects you from malware while protecting your privacy.

There's a new Click+scroll wheel way to zoom in and out of Web pages. One-click bookmarking. Searchable bookmark tags. A location bar that learns your preferences as you use it – so you can type in a term (try "Phuket") and get a list of related Web sites. You can even click on the icon next to a site's address and get a full security scan.

In short, I strongly recommend that you use Firefox for your day-to-day Web surfing. You have to keep Internet Explorer patched – Microsoft has woven IE so intimately into Windows itself that you can get infected by Internet Explorer without actually using Internet Explorer – but when it comes to going out on the Web, use Firefox.

Woody (www.askwoody.com) has written several dozen computer books, including a bunch "For Dummies." He's also a Contributing Editor at Windows Secrets Newsletter, a Microsoft MVP, and a bagel fanatic.

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

PC Group Therapy

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. June 29 marks our once-monthly Mac Group Therapy session, at Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle next to Wine Connection. On July 6, the PC group convenes at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, and on July 13, we'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe near the entrance to Laguna. Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at www.khunwoody.com

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Volvo revs up its market presence

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET CITY: In an effort to increase its share of Phuket's luxury car market, Volvo has opened a showroom and service center on Thepkasattri Rd. The car dealer is also launching a number of financing deals and other incentives to boost sales on the island.

Volvo dealer Haadyai Automobile Co Ltd opened its Phuket branch two months ago. It will be officially opened in mid-August. The company has operated in Haad Yai for five years.

About 40 million baht was invested to build the showroom and buy the one rai of land on which it is located, said Suracheat Pimphanapoonporn, general manager of Haadyai Automobile. He estimates that the company will recoup its investment within 20 years, with a targeted profit of 2 million baht a year. The current target is to sell two or three cars per month.

Volvo models available at the showroom range from the S60 2.0T with a sticker price of 2,369,000 baht to the C70 2.4i at 4,299,000 baht.

The target market for Phuket is premium car buyers including foreigners. A campaign until July 1 at Jungceylon in Patong will offer interest-free financing for customers who buy the S80 model. Similar promotional activities will be held each quarter, he said.

In a bid to attract foreign customers, K. Suracheat said the dealer offers financing without the usual requirement of a guarantee



The new Volvo Phuket branch is using interest-free loans and other enticements in a bid to woo customers away from market leaders Mercedes-Benz and BMW.

person. "We can check their credit in their home country so they can buy and lease our car on the same system as Thai people, paying a deposit and then making a monthly payment as normal," he said.

Another campaign targets people in specific occupations, such as doctors, pilots and lawyers, K. Suracheat explained. This target group will be able to buy any model without a down payment.

For its grand opening in August, an event called "One Day One Trip" will be held for existing Volvo customers – a day of activities and a chance for customers to test new models.

The showroom can currently display three cars. The other section of the building houses a service center.

All four mechanics in the service center received specialized training at Volvo Thailand headquarters in Bangkok. Standard service prices are set by Volvo and are the same throughout Thailand, K. Suracheat said.

The new showroom is under different management than the previous Volvo dealer that closed its doors in Phuket. K. Suracheat said he was unaware of the reasons for the closure, adding that his dealership was now working to introduce itself to the old Volvo customers, by offering car checks, free oil changes and a 25% discount on spare parts.

Nationwide, Volvo lags behind its two main rivals in the luxury car market. Market leader Mercedes-Benz sold 4,024 units in Thailand in 2007, while BMW sold 1,821 cars. Volvo sold 619 cars last year, up 36% from 2006. Sales of Mercedes-Benz in 2007 rose by 15% over the previous year, while BMW's dropped 41%.

Volvo Thailand's president Paul Stokes said last year that, in Thailand, Volvo is shifting away from its traditional "safe family car" positioning and is now marketing a sportier image with the aim of appealing to younger customers.

RESORT ROUNDUP

Courtyard opens at Surin

SURIN BEACH: As part of its expansion in Thailand, Marriott Hotels (Thailand) Ltd announced the opening of its 256-room Courtyard by Marriott at Surin Beach on June 6.

The opening follows the launch of Marriott's first Courtyard in Bangkok in November and precedes the opening of



Family fun is the emphasis here.

its third Courtyard resort, a 243-room resort in Cha-Am, in August.

In January, Marriott International announced that its fourth and fifth Courtyard resorts, one in Kamala and another Patong, are slated to open in September.

The resorts will each feature a "Kidsworld" play area as well as a business services center and Courtyard's MoMo Café.

"Besides being a destination for family and couples seeking a holiday or corporate retreat with fine sand beaches, the hotels are great places for trekking, snorkeling or just unwinding on peaceful beaches," said Anthony Armas, Director of Marketing, Marriott Hotels (Thailand).

"Special attention is given to children at our Kidsworld, an amusement and edutainment play zone for children from four years, while swimmers can enjoy our new 32-meter to 60m-long swirling and turning configuration slides," he added.

The hotels will include indoor kids' activities as well as a range of sports and cultural activities. Kids will be able to enjoy movies and games or accompany parents on outdoor trips, Mr Armas said.

The hotels will have faxing, photocopying and other business utilities available 24 hours as well as a limousine service, a shuttle service and a fully equipped fitness center.

Theera Kanjana, General Manager of the Courtyard at Surin Beach, explained that guests can book nature tours through the hotel's Siam Adventure Club tour desk and that the new Courtyard has five medium-sized function rooms to accommodate large family reunions, celebrations or business functions.

Introduced more than 20 years ago, the Courtyard by Marriott brand is now Marriott's largest lodging brand in the world.

Phuket resorts rank highly in global polls

SHANGHAI: The Sarojin resort in Khao Lak has been voted Asia's Leading Boutique Hotel at the inaugural World Travel Awards Asia and Indian Ocean Ceremony, held at the Swissotel Grand in Shanghai on June 19.

Nearly 120 Asian and Indian Ocean companies and organizations were presented awards on the night, with Miss World Chinese Zi Lin Zhang as guest of honor and TV presenter Varun Sharma from BBC World as the event's host.

The Asian and Indian Ocean Ceremony is part of the World Travel Awards Grand Tour, which comprise regional awards throughout the world and end with a "grand final" at the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean on December 12.

Since opening in October 2005, The Sarojin has picked up a number of international awards. It was nominated for best Luxury Romantic Hotel 2008 in the World Luxury Hotel Awards, and held the honor in 2007.

The resort also won Asia's Leading Boutique Hotel in the World Travel Awards in 2007 and 2006.

Other local resorts that recently won international recognition are the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. In May, Expedia travelers ranked the JW Marriott Phuket and Le Meridien Phuket among the world's best hotels on this year's Expedia Insiders' Select list.

The list recognizes individual hotels worldwide that consistently deliver excellent service, a great overall experience and a notable value. The full list represents about one percent of the nearly 80,000 hotel properties offered on Expedia.

The JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa placed 20th on the list with a score of 96.67, while Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort placed 108th with a score of 92.79.

"We are perpetually committed to provide guests with chic, cultured, discovery at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort," said General Manager Rudolf Borgesius. "We are pleased that our efforts have been acknowledged by Expedia travelers and look forward to extending our high level of service to even more guests."

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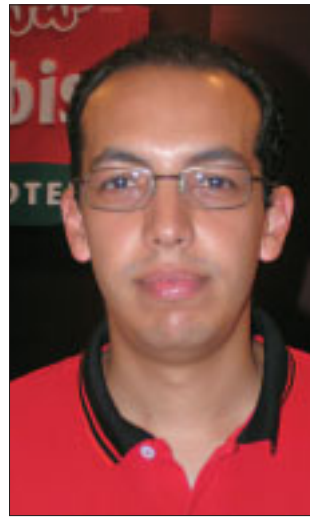
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ON THE MOVE

Jirattikran Duangdow has been appointed Resort Manager of the resort X2 Koh Samui. She has held a diverse range of executive positions in many luxury hotels and resorts in Thailand, including at the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa, Novotel Phuket Resort, Sheraton Grande Laguna Beach Resort and the Ambassador City Jomtien. Before her latest position she was Resident Manager at the Arayaburi Samui Boutique Resort.



Youssef El Khomri, 26, from Rabat, Morocco, has been appointed Operation Manager at Ibis Hotel Patong. He is a graduate of the International Business School for Hotel & Tourism Management in Vatel, France. Before coming to Thailand, he worked in Shanghai, where he held several food and beverage management positions. Before joining Ibis, he was Director of Food & Beverage at Mercure Hotel Pattaya.



Krisanaphong Thatsbut is the new IT Manager at Indigo Pearl resort at Nai Yang. With a diploma in business computing from St John's College in Bangkok, he has worked in the hotel industry since 1995. His experience in hotel IT systems includes working at the Novotel Lotus, Sofitel Bangkok Silom and the Regency Park Hotel. Before joining the Indigo Pearl, he was IT Manager at the Majestic Grande Hotel in Bangkok.



CRASH WATCH

Bankers on high alert

A troubling announcement has been made by Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), the UK's second-largest bank. It issued what business television channel CNBC called a "crash watch". RBS analysts believe that by September 2008 the S&P (Standard & Poors) 500 Index could decline by 300 points, or well over 20%, in what could develop into one of the worst bear markets since 1900.

RBS credit strategist Bob Janjuah further cautioned that "A very nasty period is approaching – be prepared". He is gloomy about bonds since he fears a renewed bout of panic in debt markets, stating cash as the safe haven. When I heard this announcement, it resonated inside. Bob Janjuah had been described by the UK daily Telegraph as a "City Star" since he had correctly predicted the credit crunch of 2007.

The shock of both stock and bond markets simultaneously being in crash mode is going to have some very nasty, far-reaching consequences. I hope this turns out to be an extremist view.

This is an unusual accumulation of different events: a credit crunch; falling asset prices, including, in many cases, prices in commercial and residential property. There are also major currency concerns. The recent statement by European Central Bank President Jean Claude Trichet about the possibility of needing to raise interest rates in euros has put further stress on the US dollar.

Morgan Stanley, a major US investment bank, stated that current account deficits in Spain and Portugal are at 10.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) each and Greece at 14%. If these were not member countries of the euro zone, markets would have long

ago corrected these excesses in the same way as the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997.

Situations this extreme are guaranteed to give central bankers sleepless nights. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Germany has a gigantic current account surplus of 7.7% of GDP. However, the latest confidence figure (ZEW) published in Germany reflects much lower confidence than analysts had expected.

Then we add energy price rises that seem unstoppable, followed by soaring commodity prices, which of course involves food, raw materials, transport – almost everything except asset prices and often profits, are rising. Inflationary pressures can eventually only be contained by much slower global economic growth.

India's Bombay Sensex 30 Index has dropped around 25% from its peak; the Shanghai Composite

Index is more than 50% down from its highs of less than a year ago.

There are a few reasons to buy in stock markets and it is always worth remembering the old stock market adage: "Sell in May, go away, buy again on Michaelmas day".

It does not always work but it is amazing how consistent it has been – Michaelmas day is at the end of September.

Merrill Lynch states that stock market investors are the most pessimistic they have been in 10 years. Jim Paulson of major US bank Wells Fargo was quoted on Bloomberg as being very negative about markets. One ray of light came from JP Morgan Chase and Co. Its analysts believe that the high volatility we are seeing in oil prices is a sign that the bull market in oil may be close to an end, and will result in



Global financial woes have even taken the gloss off China's surging economy, shaving 50% off the Shanghai Composite Index in less than a year.

Photo: www.freeimages.co.uk

a fall in the price of oil.

Most property funds in the UK are closed as a wave of redemptions from investors left fund managers in a position where they simply ran out of cash in various funds. Property is an illiquid asset and to try to sell in a falling market to raise cash to pay investors only results in "fire sale" prices. It is not simply a matter of bad management; some of the best-managed property funds are affected.

Naturally, after mentioning Brandeaux in this column frequently over the years, I am vitally interested in how this investment fund company is finding the current market. A telephone call to Adrian Parry, Director of Sales and Marketing, revealed the current situation.

Brandeaux is genuinely sympathetic to the plight of the property market, both commercial and residential. However, the current situation has actually improved the amount of cash being invested in their funds and it has been able to allocate incoming funds to expanding capacity.

The company has rebuffed offers by both banks and other

eaux' negotiating position, it should be kept in mind that Brandeaux owns the land and most lease extensions are for 99 years.

Present real estate prices are somewhat academic. Brandeaux managers believe that the effect will be negligible, as 80% of their ground rent holdings are in the most expensive areas of London, such as Mayfair, traditionally the best locations in any downturn.

The Student Accommodation Fund is also "business as usual". Current results over the past 12 months are:

- Ground Rent Income Fund +10.29%
- Student Accommodation Fund +9.63%
- Sterling Fund +9.86%

Considering that Brandeaux targets returns on all sterling-based funds at 8% to 10%, these are excellent returns.

Future articles will cover other areas that are unaffected by current conditions.

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



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By Richard G Watson

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By Scott Mallon

SAPHAN HIN: WBC Straw-weight champion Oleydong Sithsamerchai (27-0, 10 KOs) used sharp combination punching and a masterful defense to batter Japanese challenger Junichi Ebisuoka (17-11-3, 7 KOs) before scoring a ninth-round knockout in Saphan Hin on June 18.

Oleydong, a southpaw, was in complete control of the bout from the outset, winning every round on the judge's scorecards.

In April 2007, in a bout to determine who would challenge for the world title, the Thai defeated previously undefeated Omar Soto of Puerto Rico via split decision. In November of last year, Oleydong established himself as one of Thailand's most talented boxers, outboxing Eagle Den Junlaphaen (formerly known as Eagle Kyowa) to win the strawweight title.

Going into that bout, Oleydong was a decided underdog, but he rose to the occasion, winning a hard-fought unanimous decision and gaining the respect of boxing pundits worldwide.

The challenger started quickly, winging looping left hooks and advancing without fear. Oleydong remained composed, countering with right hooks and straight lefts and sliding to his right.

The champion found his rhythm in the next few rounds and was counter-punching effectively.

Junichi continued to press forward, at times taunting the champion, but he was largely ineffective and missing often. By the sixth round, Oleydong's counter-punches were taking their toll and Junichi was standing flat-footed. Oleydong was no longer moving to his right, instead electing to stand directly in front of his opponent where he could slam his punches into the body. It was at this time when it became doubtful Junichi would last the entire bout.

Midway through the ninth round, Oleydong landed a punishing right-hook-left-hook combination to the belt of the challenger. Referee Malcolm Bulner stopped the action momentarily to issue a caution to the champion for the borderline blows.

The bout resumed and Oleydong marched in unabated and scored five unanswered punches to Junichi's body before the Japanese fighter collapsed to the can-

Oleydong retains WBC title belt



Oleydong told reporters after the fight that he had worked hard at staying low, bobbing and weaving in his training for the fight.

vas where he would stay for the full 10 count.

Oleydong is known more for his excellent boxing skills than his KO punches, but the Trang native has ended his last three of four fights via knockout. The bout was the 23-year-old's first defense of his WBC world title.

The judge's scores at the time of the stoppage: 80-70, 80-71, 80-72. The Gazette had it 80-72.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalyanamit was among the 4,000 people who turned up for the fight, organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), Wirat Wachirattananawong of Petchyindee Boxing Promotions and the Phuket Boxing Association.

OrBorJor public relations officer Jantima Teawsakul told the Gazette that there was a possibility that the province might play host to more big fights under the new administration.

Jirayut Songyot, an advisor

to new OrBorJor President Paiboon Ubatising, is a big fight fan, she said.

There were only a handful foreigners at the free-admission event and the crowd, while cheering wildly during the main bout, lost interest in several of the match-ups that followed.

Apart from failing to announce the start of each round, the emcee did a good job and kept the crowd entertained.

Improvement for future bouts include putting the ring-card girls inside the ring where they belong so that people who get carried away watching the action don't lose track of the rounds.

Other results from Saphan Hin

110lbs: Noknoi Krathingdang gym (THA) d. Henry Armol (Indonesia) (KO, Rd 3)

122lbs: Medngoen Kratingdaeng gym (THA) d. Kaichon Permethongmark (THA) (TKO, Rd 2)

120lbs: Pet-Trang Sor Yupinda (THA) d. Kansak Jor Permethongmark (THA) (KO Rd 2)

124lbs: Saksamut Sakpracha (THA) d. Thepnimitr Sor Jitpattana (THA) (decision)

Other news

A Thai promoter once asked what he could do to make his shows better. I told him to put together evenly matched bouts, the theory being fans want the edge-of-the-seat excitement that comes with a great boxing match. Unfortunately Thailand has gained a reputation in the international boxing community as a place rife with mismatches – a reputation that is well founded.

The boxing scene in Thailand has declined from one full of great champions, such as Pone Kingpetch, Chartchai Chionoi, Khaosai Galaxy and Sot Chitalada, to one with relatively few deserving champions, such as Oleydong Sithsamerchai. Now we see fighter after fighter padding their record against no-name opponents.

When a fighter gets positioned as a world-title challenger by fighting nothing but inferior opposition and then goes abroad, he is unprepared. Some might point to Devid Lookmahanak's

close decision loss to Jorge Arce in Mexico as an exception, but Arce is well past his prime.

I recently browsed the schedule of fights in Thailand. Former world champion Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (55-6-1, 44 KOs) is set to take on Korean fighter I Hyun Kim (1-0, 1 KO) in a battle for the Pan Asian Boxing Association (PABA) fly-weight title. Do you see anything wrong with this fight? Sor Vorapin has more than 60 professional boxing matches; his opponent only one.

So what made Kim so deserving of a title shot, albeit for a small-time local title. In a word: nothing. Surely there are more-deserving fighters who would provide a stiffer test for Sor Vorapin. The Thai is ranked fifth by the World Boxing Association. It's been eight years since Sor Vorapin lost his world title, knocked out by the great Ricardo Lopez. After taking five years off, he somehow managed to sneak into the world rankings despite not having fought even a single world-ranked fighter since Lopez.

Sometime in the next year, Sor Vorapin will challenge for a world title. That's the name of the game: keep winning, no matter who the opponent, build up your record, no matter who the opponent, and eventually you will be maneuvered into a title shot – deserving or not.

Scott Mallon is a Bangkok-based boxing writer and photojournalist.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: Still early in the season, there are several teams bunched up at the top and the standings don't count for much given that the two league leaders have yet to sit out on bye weeks.

Shaker's proprietor Oli was also on fire, closing out all three games he played in – the last for free beer. Mick, Timor and Steen, all from Queen Mary, shared the high score honors with 140s.

June 17 results. Shakers* 3 Queen Mary 6; Hilltop 3 Piccadilly* 6; Celtic* 2 -Offshore 7; Market Bar* 7 Simply Red 2; Beach House* 6 Sick Buffalo 3; Dogs Bollocks=bye (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings. 1.= Piccadilly, Queen Mary (24 pts.); 3. Offshore* (22); 4. Market Bar* (20); 5. Beach House (19); 6.= Shakers, Sick Buffalo* (18); 8. Dogs Bollocks* (17); 9. Celtic (15); 10. Hilltop (12); 11. Simply Red (11) (* = have played a bye week).

July 1 match-ups. Dogs Bollocks v Queen Mary; Piccadilly v Beach house; Simply Red v Offshore; Market Bar v Hilltop; Sick Buffalo v Celtic; Shakers = bye.

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LEFT: Athlete Helle Kirstein emerges from the water to tackle the 5km run. Photo by StJohn Mackay.

BELOW: Nick Dobyn tends to an injury after pulling out of the race, effectively handing Bryan Hoare victory in Race 3 of the TriBallistic series.



Brit Hoare wins TriBallistic Race 3

NAI YANG: After the weather closed in on the Indigo Pearl resort on June 22, it was thought the swim leg of the third TriBallistic race in the current series would be canceled, but the seas calmed sufficiently to allow the senior race to start with the scheduled 600-meter, open-water swim.

The athletes had to fight hard through large waves. Briton Bryan Hoare, winner of Race 2, led from the start and completed the swim leg in nine minutes.

The 20km bike route took in some of the local villages and also the main highway, where the athletes encountered some strong headwinds.

The 5km run, however, proved to be the toughest leg as the sun came out and heated up the course, making climbing the small hills a strenuous challenge.

What would normally have been a battle to the finish between Hoare and Nick Dobyn ended when Dobyn pulled up with a muscle injury at the start of the run.

The children's Splash 'n' Dash and junior-race swims were held in Indigo Pearl's 25m swimming pool.

The race was a close-fought battle throughout. After the 50m swim, Lilli Daepler sprinted out to jump on her bike with the rest of the field in hot pursuit.

The 1.5km cycle proved to be the decider as the top three jostled for position through the 750m run and onto the finish. Oranuch Sudern took top honors in the girl's race, followed by Daepler in second place.

The junior race was another close battle throughout, with positions changing continuously over the 200m swim, 6km bike and 1.5km run. Victoria Bird successfully defended her under-10s title to make it three for three, while Christopher Thompson inadvertently ran an extra 1.5km after missing the turnaround on the run back and still won his age group.

Another victim of the tough course was junior athlete Lea Devoine, who fell off her bike and injured her leg.

There were many new faces at Race 3, with local Thai children taking part along with kids from the Head Start School.

The next race will be on October 11, once again at Indigo Pearl.

For further information visit www.triballisticclub.com

Full results:

Women's

Open. 1. Michelle Hossack; 2. Margie Campbell; 3. Helle Kirstein.

Splash 'n' Dash. 1. Oranuch Sudern; 2. Lili Daepler; 3. Jenna Doherty.

Under-10s. 1. Victoria Bird; 2. Lena Daepler; 3. Casey Van Den Berg.

Under-16s 1. Timana Hossack

Men's

Open. 1. Bryan Hoare; 2. Jaray Jearanai; 3. Gary Morris.

Masters. 1. Richard Cracknel; 2. Gary Poole; 3. David Frost.

Splash 'n' Dash. 1. Valentine Pflzer; 2. Maurice Briggs; 3. Yohan.

Under-8s. 1. Tim Schwab. 2. Liam Dohert.

Under-10s. 1. Christopher Thompson; 2. Darren Edouard.

Under-12s. 1. Yohan Garonne.

Under-16s. 1. Victor Kirstein

ACYC to hold new clubhouse open day

CHALONG: The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) will hold a family open day on July 6 to celebrate the taking over of the site of the new ACYC clubhouse.

The ACYC inked the lease for the new site on June 20, giving the club the opportunity build a new clubhouse with facilities on one rai of beachfront land about 500 meters north of the existing club.

There will be a sausage sizzle and other food from 10 am.

To debunk rumors that the new clubhouse will become the new home for the ACYC and for the Phuket Yacht Club, located across the bay at Ao Yon, ACYC Commodore Mick Kealy said, "The Phuket Yacht Club in Ao Yon has been established for over 30 years and has been the backbone of junior sailing on the island for a lot of that time.

"They, like us at the ACYC, have problems with land and securing a long-term future on their present site; light discussion has gone on for years about amalgamating the two clubs.

"We at the ACYC are excited about our new premises and of course welcome all parties interested in building a proper yacht club in Ao Chalong to support the full sailing community on the island; but I personally feel we need to go slow on talk of amalgamation as there is a fully functioning sailing program for kids at Ao Yon all year round," he said.

However, hopes are high that the two yacht clubs will co-ordinate a more developed junior sailing training program in the near future.

Hunt for National Games gold begins

PHUKET CITY: Athletes from all 14 southern provinces are preparing to put on the performances of their lives in Phuket as the province prepares to host the Region 4 Thailand National Games qualifiers to be held in Phuket City from July 20 to 29.

The action will take place at Surakul Stadium, Sanam Chai Stadium and at the gymnasiums and the Olympic-size swimming pool at Saphan Hin.

More than 4,000 "senior athletes", those aged 17 years and older, from the 14 southern provinces are expected to make the trip to Phuket to compete in 33 events, including athletics, football, volleyball, boxing, badminton, tennis, judo, *takraw*, swimming, table tennis, golf female, futsal, *pétanque*, mountain biking and even snooker.

Six events that will not be contested in Phuket but will be held at the 37th Thailand National Games in Phitsanuloke, from December 14 to 24, are bodybuilding, softball, karatedo, gymnastics, bridge and Go.

Hopes are high for Phuket competitors, with more than 300 of the 372 Phuket athletes taking part in the qualifiers expected to compete in the national finals, where athletes from all 76 provinces will be going for gold.

Among them are 15 karatedo fighters from Phuket, including Parinnya Don-ubon and Janejira Muckapan, who became male and female national youth champions, respectively, earlier this year.

A total of 4 million baht has been allocated by the central government to be spent on improving playing venues, including pitches and courts, for the regional qualifier.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

QSI inks deal for new building



QSI – Phuket School Director Alain Siporin shakes hands with Nasakorn Kittipadukul, managing director of Pornsadtpoochai Co Ltd, which has been selected as the main contractor to build the new QSI - Phuket school building.

PHUKET CITY: Quality Schools International (QSI) – Phuket, located just north of the Tesco-Lotus supercenter on the bypass road, signed an agreement for Pornsadtpoochai Co Ltd on June 13 to be the main contractor in building a new classroom block at the school.

The construction is scheduled to take 65 days, with the new classrooms expected to be ready for the school term starting late-August.

Once complete, the new building will be three-stories tall and have the capacity to house 12 classrooms, each 6 meters by 8m and with a covered walkway entrance.

Initially, only a two-story building will be erected with the ground floor being open space to serve as a covered multipurpose area.

The second floor will have

four classrooms, bringing the total usable area of the building to 480 square meters.

The roof will be a prefabricated, Steel Smart truss system that can be removed years later for a third floor to be added, including four additional classrooms. The roof can then be reused to cover the new third floor, when built.

“QSI Phuket has seen a steady yet manageable rise in the student population since QSI International Schools took over six years ago, and expects the same trend to continue,” said Brad Kenny, QSI Parent Advisory Member.

He added that this school year, which ended June 13, QSI Phuket had 128 enrolled students, ranging from entry-level pre-school children two years old through to final-year high-school students 18 years old.



The 12 classrooms, each 8m by 8m, will fill three floors of the new four-story building, with teachers' offices on the second and third floors and bathrooms on each of the stories.

More classrooms for Samkong School

PHUKET CITY: Work on the construction of a new building at Samkong School on Yaowarat Rd is now about half-complete.

The four-story, Sino-Portuguese-style building will have a footprint of 16.8 meters by 38m. The first floor will comprise of an administration room, teachers' office and a large open hall with stage.

The 12 classrooms, each 8m by 8m, will fill the remaining three floors, with teachers' offices on the second and third floors and

bathrooms on each of the four stories.

Construction began in January and should be finished by February.

Walkways will connect the new structure to the three other classroom buildings at the school.

Somruay Raksakul, the Phuket City Municipality civil engineer responsible for the building work, told the *Gazette* that the building is being constructed with a budget of 18.9 million baht, with 10.6 million baht from Phuket

City Municipality and 8.3 million baht from the Department of Local Administration.

“The school has too many students and not enough classrooms. With the limited area of the school, we have had to demolish an old two-story building to make way for the new building, which will give the school the extra classrooms needed,” he said.

The construction contractor for this project is Kamrai Karnchang.

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Home of the Week

Nai Harn

Estate living at its best

This week's fully-furnished pool villa in Nai Harn offers comfortable and peaceful living within a fully-secured estate.

Part of the Two Villas development, the single-story, L-shaped villa is wrapped around an infinity-edge pool and provides views and easy access to the pool area from the living room and two bedrooms.

A third bedroom is set in separate guest quarters in the corner of the garden, just steps away from the pool.

The kitchen is fully fitted out with timber cupboards, a stove and range hood, double-basin sink, dishwasher and plenty of counter space.

The floors are gloss ceramic tiles and the color scheme throughout is neutral, accented with creative splashes of color and fabrics. All the furniture, a range of natural and locally-sourced pieces, is included with the home.

Both bedrooms are spacious with en-suite bathrooms, built-in wardrobes and air conditioning. The two bathrooms



Part of the Two Villas development, the single-story, L-shaped villa is wrapped around an infinity-edge pool and provides views and easy access to the pool area from the living room and two bedrooms.



have good-quality, modern sanitary fittings and are bright and spacious. The master bathroom features a large bathtub and a separate shower with a rainwater shower head.

The third bedroom in the separate pavilion is also air con-

ditioned and fully furnished – an ideal guest bedroom offering privacy yet close access to the rest of the home.

On a land plot measuring 380 square meters, the outdoor area is landscaped in tropical Balinese style. At poolside is a

garden sala that enhances the outdoor living space and adds a Thai feeling to the home. The wide terrace that runs along the two sides of the house facing the pool make the area ideal for relaxing or alfresco dining.

The pool is in classic blue

tiling for an overall cool effect, with an infinity-edge for a smooth, simple look.

The roof has shingle-style tiles and the property is accessed through a stone-and-timber, Balinese-style gate.

Utilities include telephone, Internet, mains water, three-phase electricity and a covered carport attached to the home.

This villa is one of many homes created in Phuket by a leading team of developers known for their high-quality construction projects around the island. With many of their projects sold out, this villa's resale potential offers the chance to secure a property in an estate already proved to be a success in the market.

The property is available leasehold at 13.9 million baht, including access to all the facilities and services of the private estate.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com

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Redesigning the Med

The architect of the Mediterranean-style homes at Saiyuan Med Village, Chaikyorn Chaikyakit, is diving into a fresh approach to the designs for the new phase, having learned a great deal about meshing an imaginative home-design concept with practical design solutions to make homes both stylish and practical.

The quirky form of Mediterranean facades of hobbled surfaces embedded with starfish, cone-topped turrets, external staircases and smooth archways of the first phase remain dominant in the second phase and retain the residential development's southern European theme, but adjustments in the designs have been made to offer larger living space for a more functional lifestyle.

"The new phase is a change for the better," said K. Chaikyorn of Phuket Sunshine Property, adding that the Mediterranean style was chosen to add a fresh look to the range of Phuket's residential properties.

"We listened to feedback from our customers, who liked the Mediterranean style as it reminded them of homes in Europe, but had some suggestions about how to improve the living spaces within the homes.

"The houses in the new phase will have three bedrooms, compared with the two-bedroom houses in the first phase, and each will cover 190 square meters. But we've made changes to the form of the structures to make them more functional on the inside by redesigning the stairs and the roofs. These changes have been made to give the home owners more space inside," he said.

"We've discovered, for example, that the roof designs of the houses in the first phase were too complex with many small details in a small area," he added.

The new approach has been to drastically cut down on the variety of materials used. Instead of having several mini-roofs, the houses in the second phase will



The homes at Saiyuan Med Village reflect the architect's vision for design solutions to make homes both stylish and practical.



be topped with a simple, single-form roof of cement. "We still use quality materials, but by doing this we have managed to create more space," said K. Chaikyorn.

Homes in the first phase feature a spiral staircase set in a rounded turret-like corner of the houses. This concept has been abandoned for homes in the second phase.

"We have reverted to stan-

dard staircases for Phase 2. They are much easier to walk up and down as they are wider and straighter, making them less steep as well," he said.

"Many people, when they first see these houses imagine that they will be hot inside, but we've used two types of brick to create double walls that prevent the homes from overheating," he added.

Another addition to the homes in the new phase is a two-meter-wide, open-sided terrace lined with floor tiles and covered with a roof.

This is a change from the original design that will also help keep the houses cool instead of the glass-lined corridor used before.

"As a safety consideration, we have also removed the pond

that is directly in front of the glass doors in the Phase 1 homes," said K. Chaikyorn.

Saiyuan Med Village is located at 136/76 Moo 4, Saiyuan Rd in Rawai. For more information call 076-289377, 081-9689550, 087-8933635. Email: info@phuketmedvillage.com Website: www.phuketmedvillage.com



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Good news for condominium seekers who will benefit from the latest amendment to the 1999 Condominium Act, which will take effect from July 4.

The changes come following a slew of complaints filed during the past year that have reached into the thousands each month.

Most of the complaints have been about developers failing to deliver projects as promised in advertising and promotional material.

Under the new law, the Land Department is empowered to penalize developers if they don't deliver what they promise in their marketing material contracts.

During project and planning phases, developers are now required to submit advertising and marketing collateral when permits are applied for. Once the condominium project is complete, a physical inspection will be carried out to ensure it complies with how it was marketed.

In the past, buyers had to rely solely on the legal mechanisms of a material breach of the sale and purchase agreement, which in many cases relied on subjective interpretations so that disreputable developers could be taken to court.

The amendment also aims to ensure greater transparency in "hidden costs" incurred after purchase by requiring property developers to pay their apportioned share of common area charges for condos not sold upon registration of the project.

This has created an equitable solution between the buyer and the developer in sharing these ongoing expenses, because in the



New condominium projects, such as Casuarina Shores (pictured), have sold extremely well as many buyers have sought out freehold purchases in the wake of last year's FBA scare.

Condo legislation and consumer rights



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

past, unscrupulous developers would pass on these costs to buyers who took over units during the initial phases of a project, forcing them to pay substantially higher monthly fees.

Also addressed has been the grandfathering in of projects already in the marketplace. Voting rights for the condominium juristic person (CJP) or owner's committee and clearer guidelines on management rights are also included. The Land Department has

been given a greater mandate to penalize infringements under the act, which now adds "bite" to the department's "bark".

This all adds up to good news and Thailand's amended Condominium Juristic Act is now adopting standards that are applied to most of the world's developed markets.

While this is good news for condo buyers, unfortunately the same protection is not available to buyers of leasehold houses or apartments, which fall under the Land Development Act.

In Phuket, leasehold continues to dominate the market, mainly as it is the nature of the luxury villa market, allowing foreigners to have a form of ownership.

Leasehold also provides a substantial tax advantage to developers who are able to amortize revenues over a 30-year period while recognizing expenses

on an accelerated basis, thus creating an extremely tax-efficient business.

Most mixed developments, where there is a hotel and a residential component, use this business structure due to the restrictions placed in securing long-term management rights under the Condominium Act and to retain a greater degree of control over land and usage of premises rights in freehold property.

The Samak-led government has indicated that it will look at increasing leasehold terms to 60 or 90 years, though the future of this is dependent on the administration's ability to retain leadership of the national government (At the time of going to

press, the Samak administration was still in power – Ed).

Last year, the coalition led by the military junta moved ahead with changes to the Foreign Business Act, resulting in a scare to the property market. For now, that seems to be a thing of the past.

What needs to be put onto the national agenda is a revised Land Development Act that addresses not only consumer rights in a manner similar to the Condominium Act, but also the ability for longer ownership and security for overseas buyers of villas and homes.

Back to the amended Condominium Act, two key items remain unaddressed and of particular interest to a resort or investment-led property market such as Phuket: specific controls over guaranteed rental returns and the ability to obtain long-term international hotel management rights for condo hotels.

In the current marketplace, while rental guarantees provide incentive to buyers, there remains a long-term issue as to whether limited liability companies with small paid-up capital can meet these payments in case of shortfalls.

In more developed markets, the use of escrow accounts or adequately controlled contingent liabilities are used to ensure promised returns in the future.

People buying a branded hotel unit have to understand that as they are buying a registered condominium.

The Condominium Act allows a majority of owners to effectively change control of management. While this might be unlikely, it is possible that a scenario under which the unit was bought could change later.

The advances of the Act have come a long way in protecting buyers but there remains work ahead to bring legislation more in tune with the standards expected by international investors.

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

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

EXECUTIVE LIVING



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HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

3km from Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, newly furnished, community-pool. 2.75 million baht. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-5358767, (US) Tel: 0011-760-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

RIVER-SIDE LAND

20 rai in Lopburi, 1 hour from Bangkok, best for resort with water sports. Quick sale. Contact Joe. Tel: 085-4055333.

BANGTAO HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, Sat TV, ADSL, fully furnished, 2 parking spaces. Tel: 084-8516121. www.phukethome.ws

RAWAI BEACH HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Sea view. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 086-3754711. Email: ben@LDSK.com For details, please see our website at: www.LDSK.com/house

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.

CHALONG VILLA



800sqm, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. Tel: 084-0645908.

NEW RAWAI POOL VILLA



400sqm. 3-4 bedrooms. 300m from Rawai Pier. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

YAMU HILLS, PA KHLOK

Private Land, fully developed. Sea view, Chanote, 4-million baht per rai. For more information contact Royal Coast Co Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-3966060. Email: earn1008@mac.com

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.

HOUSE IN CHALONG BAY

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.

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

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

TOWNHOUSE MODERN STLYE



Townhouse: 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 120sqm, near Vichit temple. Tel: 084-0645908.

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).

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.

TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19 sq wah on Phattana Thongtin Rd, near Khao Khad viewpoint. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

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

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, fully furnished throughout, complete with solar heating. Tel: 089-4720918.

CONTEMPORARY VILLA



4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms (master with double Jacuzzi), 4m x 12m pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate and nice tropical garden set on a 1,606sqm land plot with over 400sqm of living area. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

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.

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

SEA-VIEW LAND

6.1 rai in Mai Khao. Chanote title. Tel: 084-4413871. Email: savvasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

FLAT LAND

Nice flat land for sale in Pa Khlok. 49 rai, Chanote, 200m from Heroines' Monument, opposite Thalung museum. Price: 1.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-1802143.



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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 AT NATAI

Khao Pilai Beach. 20 rai with Chanote title, only 1.7 million baht per rai. 300m from the beach, road, electricity access. Urgent sale. No agents. Tel: 081-5399269.

BEACHFRONT LAND

Land for sale, Chalong. 45 rai with 300m beachfront. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.landinphuket.com

FOR SALE

Two 5-rai plots (8,493sqm and 8,46sqm) in Tambon Thepkasattri, Thalung. Almost level, dry, secluded land near Thalung 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

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

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com for full details. Tel: 081-8941994.

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

3.5 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.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condominium in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

SINGLE HOUSE

Pa Khlok, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 310sqm. Tel: 081-5365030.

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Property Gazette

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HOUSES IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn, from cheap to luxury Jacuzzi villa. 4.9 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 083-3904176.

3.5 RAI OF LAND

with Chanote title in 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

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.

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherg 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

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: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

PATONG SEA VIEW



Luxury apartments with best view over Patong. Tel: 083-1736521. Website: www.patong-view-talay.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

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, pool. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos: jihshand@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.

SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

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: chiangmailifestyle.com Website: www.chiangmailifestyle.com

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

KAMALA TOWNHOUSE



near Phuket FantaSea, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park. 3.2 million baht, negotiable. Email: png.phuket@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

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.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE NEAR BIS

3-bedroom waterfront townhouse for sale. Tel: 076-273466. Fax: 076-238948. Email: info@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, see our website: www.phuketpropertytrip.com

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

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

FOR SALE IN BANGLA

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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

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: 081-539-9269.

VILLA, THALANG

Baan Pa Khlok. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en suite). Foreign freehold. Contact Lee. Tel: 084-3078407.

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.

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

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 For further details, please see our website: www.jikkycar.com

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

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai, Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents! Please contact 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

TROPICAL POOL VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

LAND AT LOCH PALM

2.5 rai, very nice location. Can split. Tel: 086-2790837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, 2 floors on 222sqm of land. 7.95 million baht. Tel: 081-9251730.

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Property Gazette

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.kamalaparadise.com for more info.

KATA SEAVIEW VILLA



Stunning luxury villa, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool. Designer finishes and fully furnished. Asking 19 million baht ono. Contact for additional information. Tel: 076-284481, 089-4720214. Fax: 076-284481. Email: barry_weissman@yahoo.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

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.

TWIN HOUSE, 2.5 MILLION BAHT

Fully furnished, Wi-Fi, 5x8m private pool and access to 20x8m shared pool. 1.99 million baht. Contact Martin. Tel: 086-6865304. Email: martin@phuketvillage.se

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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 K. Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-719-2903.

RAWAI 3 BEDROOMS + POOL

220sqm villa, 10m pool, newly built, big garden. For sale at 7.5 million baht. Rent possible. Tel: 087-8938747.

CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

This immaculate 2-bedroom home on an excellent estate is priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

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SEA VIEW IN KAMALA



Small plots from 1 rai up to 100 rai with very good sea view. A few minutes from city center and beaches. Chanote, road, electricity & water supply. Priced from 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308 or Email: kim@kamalafalls.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

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

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

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

PATONG STUDIO

fully renovated and furnished 1.95 million baht, freehold. Tel: 089-9715664.

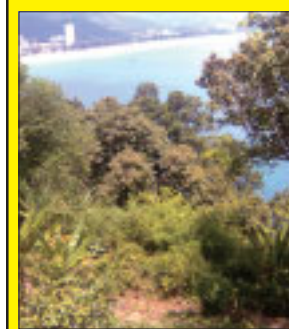
VILLA IN BANG TAO

10 mins to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. 13 million baht. Tel: 081-8976998 (English), 089-6995136 (Thai).

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

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

HOUSE, RAWAI

for sale. 4 million baht. Living room, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 terraces, carport, own water. Tel: 084-8463826.

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

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

BEACH FRONT, 5.9 MILLION BAHT



Beautiful piece of land opposite 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.

HOUSE IN TOPLAND



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, kitchen, living room. Price: 3.7 million baht. Tel: 081-0803414.

LAND IN AO NANG

4 rai in Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

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 additional inquiries call 081-7874043 (Eng) or 081-8825069 (Thai). Email: wolly.woerner@subaqua-khaolak.com

SEAVIEW SPA VILLA

Patong, large, fully furnished, private, pool, garden, spa, waterfall. Tel: 089-5908233.

PATONG BEACH LAND FOR SALE

7 rai, good location. Chanote available, roadside plot. Contact Alex for details. Tel: 089-7231682. Email: patongland@gmail.com

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VARIOUS PROPERTIES

in Kata-Rawai from 2.8 million to 35 million baht. Contact David. Tel: 084-0639223.

MAI KHAO LAND

300 rai. Chanote, 380m to beach. Urgent sale. Tel: 089-6474790.

HOUSE, RAWAI

for sale. 4 million baht. Living room, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 terraces, carport, own water. Tel: 084-8463826.

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.

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

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Properties For Rent

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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

AMAZING SEA VIEWS

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, enjoying full privacy. 85,000 baht per month. No dogs. Tel: 086-2796283.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

for rent near British International School. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

SURIN APARTMENTS

Beautiful 3-bedroom and 1-bedroom apartments 100m from the beach available for short- (3 months) and long-term lease. Please email jgstryker@gmail.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

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

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from both Rawai & Nai Harn 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.

WANT TO RENT AT LAGUNA

Allamanda apartment or reasonably-priced Laguna townhouse wanted for long-term rent. Tel: 086-9920777. Email: jbettles@emtex.com

SEA-VIEW HOUSE

Fully furnished, aircon, ADSL, quiet & secure, Chalong bay. 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-6064279.

TOWNHOUSE AT NANAI, PATONG

Delux townhouse, all services. Minimum rental of 6 months. 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-2705374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.orcella.com

NEW HOUSE (BANDON)



Sales & rent near Laguna, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, just bring your bag. 23,000 baht/month, 1-year contract. Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

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Well maintained, fully furnished, all services, parking, tropical garden, quiet. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9795755. Email: info@sawasdeephuketproperty.com

BEACH FRONT, CHALONG

4- and 2-bedroom, furnished houses. Bay views, swimming pools. 10,000 and 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-4706104.

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, ADSL. 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

APARTMENT KATA BEACH

Fully furnished, cable TV, Internet. Nice. Tel: 086-5958512, 081-9704638. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

FOR LONG-TERM RENT

Furnished duplex unit next to lagoon at Allamanda, Phuket Laguna, Cherng Talay. 3 bedrooms, guest bedroom, bathroom, living room and kitchen. Call Leo. Tel: 086-0008585.

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

FOR RENT, RAWAI



2-bedroom house, aircon, cable TV, Internet. Short-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-0912905.

OFFICE: 12,000 BAHT PER MONTH

40sqm on 1st floor. Separate toilet, Phuket city. Tel: 081-3317693. Email: chayath@gmail.com

CONTEMPORARY VILLA

4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms (master with double Jacuzzi), 4m x 12m pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate and nice tropical garden. Set on a 1,606sqm land plot with over 400sqm of living area. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

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Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing, pool & gardening service. Monthly rental: 75,000 baht. Contact Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com www.phuket-island-homes.com

BOAT LAGOON TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, roof terrace, very high standards, 55,000 baht/month, including Wi-Fi & cable TV. Tel: 081-8915546. Email: rolf@andamanproperty.com



Need help finding property for rent?

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www.phuketeasyrent.com

HOUSE RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to move in to. Tel: 089-6628733.

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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

BOAT LAGOON VILLA

Luxury villa: 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 300sqm, pool. 85,000 baht/month long term, Wi-Fi & cable TV. Tel: 081-8915546. Email: rolf@andamanproperty.com

CONDO, RAWAI

for rent, aircon, cable TV, DVD, kitchenette, hot water. Tel: 089-6483711. Email: phuketcomfortcondos@hotmail.com

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.

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.

KHAO KHAD HOUSE

Furnished, True TV, phone line, nice garden. 13,000 baht/month. Email: kwanarune@hotmail.com

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

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

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.

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

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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perfect condition, 1.5 years old, 2 engines, Yamaha V6, 200HP, 250 hours, 900,000 baht. Contact Jano. Tel: 083-5905464.

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22m/6m, 7 cabins, 3 toilets, 3 showers, 330 hp HINO, 20kW generator. Make an offer! Tel: 081-7874690.

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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

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Tel: 089-5871862. Email: mmcgrath2@hotmail.com Info at Typhoon Sails website: www.typhoonsails.com/stiletto.html

BUSINESS FOR SALE

52-foot charter yacht, successfully run by couple in Phuket for 10 years. Price: US\$95,000. Call for more details. Tel: 081-6771641.

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

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 5HP, 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

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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

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A fast, sleek and good looking Catamaran designed by Schionning. Only sailed from Indonesia to Phuket

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This boat is a very elegant catamaran with a very nice interior design, offering good living spaces and high level confort. Very well maintained and in very good conditions.

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She had a big refit for almost 6 months. Complete respray of topsides, deckhouse and cockpit. New teak deck, new rudder and more. Lovely designed by S&S.

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Power Listings >

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Yacht Haven Marina Office
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Mobile: 081 891 3237
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Contact: Mark Heath
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Island Job Mart

 **Outrigger Hotels and Resorts**, one of the fastest growing hospitality companies in Asia Pacific, are expanding into Thailand.

OUR MISSION
We will grow together as the leisure hospitality company of choice by providing:

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Working as a family in harmony with the culture and environment of the places where we do business.

Please visit our website www.outrigger.com and see the family values and commitment demonstrated by Outrigger as an employer of choice. If you would like to be part of this growing company here in Thailand then we look forward to hearing from you.

We are currently looking for Thai nationals to fill the positions below and join our pre-opening office in Phuket.

- 1) **Chief Accountant** – Set up accounting controls and procedures and oversee accurate and timely preparation of financial statements and related financial reports.
- 2) **Sales Manager** – An experienced sales professional with contacts in the local and international wholesale market.
- 3) **Public Relations Manager** – Position Outrigger properties in Phuket as a premier resort company and ensure Outrigger's family values and integration into the local culture are well publicized.

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, are interested in any of the above positions and would like more information please email to the below address, with your resume, recent photo and salary expectations: oum.suksompong@outrigger.com. A full job description can be given on request.

RJM CONSULTING GROUP Co., Ltd.
Dalaaburi Development 65/21 Thepkasatthi Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200.

RJM is a leading M&E Design and Engineering company with offices throughout the region. We are looking for intelligent, highly-motivated staff to join our expanding Thai operations.

M&E ENGINEERS AND DESIGNERS
JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Prepare engineering calculations and drawings.
- Site supervision and co-ordination with trades.
- Work closely with clients to build and maintain relationships.
- Organize approvals of designs to government regulations.
- Ensure that projects are executed and completed efficiently to schedules.

REQUIRED:

- Diploma/bachelor's degree in either mechanical or electrical engineering, an environmental background is a plus.
- Good command of English oral and written.
- Knowledge of AutoCAD essential, Microsoft project an advantage.
- Able to understand architectural and construction drawings.
- Self motivated and keen to learn.
- The position is open to all nationals and will be based in Phuket.

ACCOUNTS & ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Responsible for managing day to day financial and administrative functions of RJM.
- To manage cash flow and prepare taxation documents.
- To prepare monthly financial reports for the managing director.
- To prepare invoices and or progress billings on various projects.
- To attend to basic welfare of all staff and workers.
- Maintain basic office administrative functions.
- Do other duties as may be required by the managing director from time to time.

REQUIRED:

- Bachelor's degree in accounting, Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or equivalent is advantageous.
- More than 3 years' work experience in the position.
- Good command of English both oral and in written.
- Knowledge of Peachtree Accounting Software an advantage.
- Proficient in Microsoft applications.
- Self-motivated and highly organized.
- The position is open to all nationals based in Phuket.

Interested candidates may submit their CV with covering letter by email to: cps@online.com.kh or finance@cpscambodia.com no later than July 18, 2008.

SPEECH, LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Regular one-on-one sessions required with a 4/5-year-old English child with delayed speech development. Specialist experience essential. Email: 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.

AJAX PHP PROGRAMMERS

Freelancers welcome for large Internet project. Please contact for more details at Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

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

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. Please contact for more info. Tel: 02-4437375, 050-446-4426. Fax: 02-6655764. Email: footprint_spa@yahoo.com For further details, please visit our website: www.footprint-spa.com

 **WE ARE HIRING!**

Decor Mart the leading company for interior furnishings is now hiring for its brand-new showroom in Phuket.

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The following positions are open.

- Manager (1)
- Showroom Sales (2)
- Project Sales (2)
- Administration officers (2)

We offer an excellent salary and related benefits to suitable candidates. If you have a few years' experience in bathroom/sanitary-ware or related products and feel you are qualified and up to this exciting ground-floor challenge, drop an email to panornit@decormart.com or call 085-1633013 for an interview

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555 Soi Thonglor 19, Sukhumvit 55, Klongton-nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Tel: 0-2758-7290-9 Ext. 1800, 1802. Mon-Sat: 8:30-17:30. www.decormart.com

 **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, 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

SHARP & SMART

50m motor yacht looking for full crew, career-minded people. Excellent salary, will train. All nationalities may apply. Tel: 076-2282468, 085-2748626. Send resume & photo to contact@purist.biz

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

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful small guesthouse in Karon. Tel: 086-2718254. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

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

SECRETARY TO GM

Need female English native speaker to serve as secretary to GM of Pornthip Seastore. Email: donnong@gmail.com

Island Job Mart



Anantara Resort Phuket, Mai Khao Beach Opening September 2008

Are you a spirited individual who believes in delivering luxurious heartfelt hospitality? Do you want to ensure every guest leaves with an amazing story to tell? Then Anantara wants you to apply for a career at our new flagship property.



To be part of the Anantara story, you must like using your initiative, show genuine and natural warmth to colleagues as well as guests, act with honesty and integrity at all times, and be proud to deliver the unparalleled experience that is Anantara.

We are seeking qualified, experienced and passionate candidates who can speak English for the following positions:

Human Resources

- HR Director
- Staff Canteen Head Chef
- Staff Canteen Chefs (3)
- Staff Canteen Cooks (2)

Front Office

- Director of Villa Operations (Room Division Manager)
- Guest Services Supervisor

Housekeeping

- Assistant Housekeeper
- Housekeeping Supervisor (4)
- Housekeeping Clerk
- Villa Attendant (12)
- Florist

Finance

- Cost Controller
- General Cashier

Reservation

- Revenue Manager
- Reservations Manager

Engineering

- Assistant Chief Engineer
- General Shift Engineer (3)

Spa

- Spa Manager
- Spa Supervisor

Kitchen

- Executive Sous Chef
- Outlet Sous Chef
- Chef de Partie (4)
- Demi Chef de Partie (4)
- Commis (11)
- Chief Steward
- Steward Supervisors

Food & Beverage Service

- Bar Manager
- Wine Sommelier
- Food & Beverage Concierge/Event Co-ordinator
- Food & Beverage Secretary

Recreation & Sport

- Recreation Manager
- Sales

Public Relations and Sales Executive (Phuket based)

All associates will enjoy a 5-day work week (average 45 hours per week). Transport to and from Phuket Town will be provided.

Submit your CV by email with a covering letter stating the position you are applying for and the reasons you would like to be part of Anantara to: recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good Luck with your application!

ASIA PACIFIC SOLUTIONS

We are currently seeking people for the following positions:

- Accountant
- Customer Service Representatives
- Telemarketers (must speak English)
- Graphic Designer (must be proficient using Flash)

All applicants should be Thai nationals under 30 years of age.

Student applications considered.

Please send your CV including your expected salary to info@asiapacificsolutions.net

SALES REPS REQUIRED

to work in Patong. No experience or degrees necessary. Full training and work permits given. Help obtaining work visa given. For more information, call Alex. Tel: 085-4998656.

FEMALE NURSERY TEACHER

required. Must be a native English speaker. Tel: 076-282232, 084-3088110. Email: parryallen@aol.com

FOREIGN FAMILY LOOKING

for 1 maid and 1 babysitter (live in) in Chalong area. Must have experience and good English. Tel: 081-9872821 or 089-4744083.

EXPERIENCED SALES

lady for real estate work at our Kata office. Good English essential, good salary, good commission. Contact David. Tel: 084-0639223. Email: david.r6pd@gmail.com

EXPERIENCED COOK

needed for international bistro in Kata. Good English essential. Accommodation may be available. Contact David for more information. Tel: 084-0639223. Email: david.r6pd@gmail.com



Sotheby's International Realty is an international real estate agency with over 450 offices worldwide, represented in Phuket by Hunter Sotheby's International Realty.

We are currently seeking highly motivated candidates for opportunities within the following fields:

- Sales & Rentals
- Design, marketing and website management (web design skills not necessary)

Both positions require excellent English communication skills. Experience preferred but not essential.

Please send your letter of application and CV to admin.phuket@sothebysrealty.com

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43/1 Baan Don-Cherngtalay Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand
Admin.Phuket@sothebysrealty.com
www.huntersothebysrealty.com

Gallery Manager

- Female
- Bachelor's degree
- Strong English-language skills essential
- Strong computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be prepared to work six days a week
- Experience in Sales or PR would be an advantage

Please send CV with recent photo and expected salary to info@dgallery.co.th

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Email: info@dgallery.co.th
www.dgallery.co.th

TEACHERS REQUIRED

ECC requires teachers to work in local government schools and kindergartens. Must be TEFL qualified. Email: neilg@ecc.ac.th

SEEKING LIVE-IN MAID

Seeking long-term maid in private luxury house (Thai & farang) in Kamala. Duties: cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping and cooking. We offer: 10,000 baht for 1st & 2nd month, then 12,500 for good work. For female aged 25-38, with hotel experience and fluent English. Tel: 086-1727974. Email: surat.rattana@romsai.ch

CUSTOMER SERVICE

New Internet company is looking for female Thai national with good English and computer skills, outgoing personality. New office in Patong. Tel: 086-2706370. Email: mark@pedevilla.at

FINANCE/HEAD ACCOUNTANT

Financial Controller/Head Accountant needed to manage the accounts department of a Krabi-based property-development company. Applicants must have qualifications and experience for this senior position. The successful candidate will work directly with the owner and must report in English. Contact for more information at Tel: 081-968-3140. Email your CV to: krister@krabisunset.com

MAID REQUIRED FOR DUBAI

French couple living in Dubai require 2 ladies for house-keeping, cooking, massage. Ticket + visa + accommodation + 15,000 baht per person. Interview with Ms Sophie, Impiana hotel lobby, July 2 at 6 pm or July 3 at 11 am. Tel: +971-4-360-5360, 971-50-7701544. Fax: +971-4-4200556. Email: sophie@version-francaise.com



The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

ARTIST

- Thai national
- Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker and Photoshop
- Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- Responsible, hard working, attentive to detail
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Good communication skills, team player
- English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

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367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
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caf  and travel agency required in Patong. Tel: 081-5377137. Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

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NISSAN NV 2005 MODEL

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TOYOTA SPORT CRUISER



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2005

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