

# Phuket Gazette

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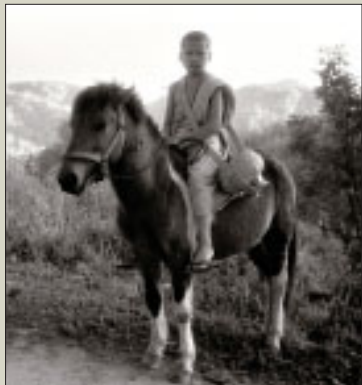
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## Power lines to go underground

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET CITY: A decades-old plan to bury electric cables in the heart of Old Phuket Town took a big step forward on December 22 when the Provincial Electrical Authority (PEA) and Phuket City Municipality signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide over 10 million baht in funding for the project.

Phuket City mayor Somjai Suwanasupana said the signing of the MOU followed a lengthy public hearing process, during which over 100 local property owners were consulted.

A primary concern of property owners in the project area was that the vibration from the construction work might cause damage to the old buildings. These fears were allayed when they were shown detailed plans of how the work would be carried out under the main road, with minimal impact on existing structures.

Cables have already been successfully laid along Soi Romanee, which runs off Thalang Rd, with co-operation from local agencies and property owners. Soi Romanee, reputedly home to a row of Chinese brothels during Phuket's tin mining days, is now host to a number of tourist-related businesses.

The project will involve moving electric power and tele-



The municipality hopes to eventually extend the cable burying project to cover much of Old Phuket Town, with the aim of boosting tourism in the area. Photo by Sakhorn Saengtongsamarnsin.

phone cables into conduit piping beneath the surface of Thalang Road, famous for its Sino-Portuguese style shophouses.

Attractive streetlights will also be installed as part of the project, intended to improve the appearance along the main stretch of one of Phuket City's most famous tourist areas – for many years the center of the island's retail trade.

Kriangsak Chuchartpong, a director of the Phuket City Mu-

nicipality told the *Gazette*, "The Electricity Authority will organize more than 300 meters of underground cable to be laid along Thalang Road, starting at the Thepkrasattri intersection down to the Yaowarat-Thalang intersection."

Mr Kriangsak added that agencies will have the opportunity to bid for construction rights. Work will begin around the end of February and will take approximately six months to com-

plete. Of the total project budget of just under 11 million baht, the PEA will invest the lion's share of 8.6 million baht.

Additional funding of almost 5.0 million baht from the municipality includes about 2.6 million baht for the installation of streetlights.

The city also hopes to expand the project to other parts of Old Phuket Town, including Krabi Road, Yaowarat Road and Dibuk Road.



## Extra police and volunteers on patrol

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET: Amid hopes that the new year will see a large influx of tourists to the island, the Phuket Provincial Police held a ceremony on Soi Bangla on the night of December 29.

Beginning at 7 pm, rows of law officers including those from Kathu Police, the Highway Police, Marine Police and Tourist Police and volunteers were joined

by emergency medical workers in listening to an address by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong

As in the three previous years, checkpoints – both on roads and in walking areas – will play a prominent role in the crime suppression effort.

In addition to the nine major checkpoints set up by the Provincial Police, there will also be

two checkpoints manned by Highway Police officers in the north of the island.

Phuket Highway Police chief Jittapol Kessarak said the checkpoints will be manned around the clock from December 30 until January 5, offering refreshments to motorists. They will also have mechanics, ambulances and fire-fighting equipment ready for emergencies.



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# Police to boost security during the high season



Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong talking to reporters outside Phuket City Police Station.

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Provincial Police have unveiled a new campaign aimed at reducing crime during the high season.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong announced the campaign at a press conference at Phuket City Police Station on December 24.

Citing the global economic downturn, problems in the Thai economy, the unstable political situation and the recent release of a large number of inmates from Phuket prisons, Maj Gen Apirak warned of possible increased criminal activity on the island. He urged police to step up patrols and investigations in their attempts to curb crime in Phuket.

Tourists come to Phuket with a positive outlook, but need to remain vigilant. Some criminals might target foreigners, such as in the tragic murder of Swedish tourist Hanna Backlund in Mai Khao in March this year, he said.

While that case created headlines around the world, Maj Gen Apirak believes that such violent crimes are now very unlikely because police have been

extremely active in crime suppression activities and checkpoints are in operation all over the island with the high season underway.

Maj Gen Apirak assured the public that local police chiefs who fail to control crime in their districts would face severe punishment, including possible transfer.

In addressing the issue of crime by foreigners, police will continue to co-ordinate with embassies, foreign police and Interpol in gathering intelligence on known criminals via the internet. Police will investigate all criminal behavior, including that of billionaires and influential figures if necessary, said Maj Gen Apirak.

With rapid growth in the local property market, landowners who encroach on government land will also be arrested and prosecuted, he added.

The Justice Department's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) is now working closely with Phuket City Police in investigating a number of alleged encroachment cases in the district, he revealed.

## Police Blotter

Phuket Provincial Police crime statistics  
January – November

**Murder:** There were 84 reports of murder (+23.0% year-on-year) with 40 arrests.

**Manslaughter:** There were 320 reports of manslaughter (-1.5% year-on-year) with 186 arrests.

**Theft:** There were 760 reports of theft (+0.1% year-on-year) with 469 arrests. Reports of bike theft stood at 62 (-49.2% year-on-year) with 35 arrests. Reports of fraud and embezzlement numbered 293 with 44 arrests.

**Gambling:** Statistics are divided into two categories: general gambling and illegal lottery. There were 649 cases of general gambling resulting in 2,098 arrests (-4.4% year-on-year). 307 people were arrested in connection with the illegal lottery (-5.8% year-on-year).

**Drugs:** Arrests stood at 1,410 (+26.5% year-on-year), out of a total of 1,233 cases. Drug seizures for November were as follows:

Dry marijuana: 92.33 grams.

Krathom (Mitragyna Speciosa): 163 leaves, 0.25 liters of extract.

Ya bah (methamphetamine): 2,587 pills.

Ya ice (crystal methamphetamine): 296.58 grams.

Alprazolam (Xanax): 350 pills.

## Teenage gun crime victim recovering

KOH KAEW, PHUKET: A 16-year-old male is being treated for gunshot wounds at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

The boy was shot in the chest and right arm in the early hours of December 28, a local Thai-language newspaper has reported. Phuket City Police received a 191 report of the shooting at about 2 am.

By the time police arrived at the scene, at the intersection of Thepkrasattri Rd and the Sapam-Samkong Rd, the victim had already been rushed to hospital.

They found the young man's motorcycle lying in the middle of the road, surrounded by onlookers.

Police questioned another youth at the scene who identified himself as a friend of the victim.

The friend told police that he had rushed to the scene after hearing about the shooting from his girlfriend, who was carrying a mobile phone.

The youths had all been out together that night and after eating noodle soup had just split up to return home, he said.

The victim left on a motorcycle with another friend, who might be able to tell police who had carried out the attack, the youth added.

Assigned to investigate the shooting was Phuket City Inspector for Investigations Wichak Tarom. The lieutenant colonel has been given the nickname "The Magnet" by the local media for his ability to crack tough cases and bring criminals to justice.



Revellers rang in New Year 2009 with a spectacular fireworks display above the Phuket City Clocktower. Photo by Sakhorn Saengtongsamarnsin.

## Beggars tarnish Phuket's image, says governor

PHUKET CITY: Beggars are out of control and damaging Phuket's image, Governor Preecha Ruangjan said at the monthly meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee at Provincial Hall today.

According to a report by *Manager online*, Gov Preecha

said there were large numbers of beggars working a range of areas, including markets, temples and beaches.

The governor said he had witnessed the problem with his own eyes many times.

As beggars irritate both the general population and tourists,

relevant agencies should solve the problem quickly, he added.

At the same meeting, Phuket Provincial Police Station Superintendent Grissak Songmoonark identified Patong as the most popular area for beggars to target tourists.

Col Grissak, formerly Kathu police superintendent, said beggars there comprise both disabled and able-bodied people.

They work between 5 and 10 pm every day, changing coins in banks when they have collected enough.

Beggars there can earn as much as 3,000 baht per day, depending on the time of year.

Beggars are unafraid of arrest because they always have enough money to pay fines when caught by police, he said.

The beggars go out as a group before dispersing to various points around Patong, returning together to their homes in Phuket City by taxi after their night's work is done, he added.

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## Singers say 'No' to drugs



WICHIT, PHUKET: The Phuket Public Health Office and Big C Supercenter staged the "To be Number One Music Challenge" for vocational school students on December 27.

The event was one of a number of activities aimed at encouraging teenagers to spend their time in a healthy and productive way. The music challenge was held in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 81st birthday.

The event also encouraged young people to help their peers "just say no" to drugs. The contest series, now in its fifth year, has two age categories: under 17s and 17 to 25 year-olds.

Contestants were asked to sing songs written by HM the King.

The winner of the under-17 competition was 'Robocop', while the award for "best vocals" went to Nuticha Suparat of 'Colour Band'. 'Immortal' triumphed in the 17-25 category, but Chiwin Kanjanasimapan of 'Mission' scooped the prize for top vocalist.

## Environmentalists mark Earth Hour

MAI KHAO: As the sun set on Mai Khao Beach, December 17, at least 200 environmentally conscious people gathered to appreciate nature and the turtles that once came to nest on Mai Khao Beach.

The Earth Hour Picnic was the final event in the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation's Environmental Awareness & Solutions Project 2008. This gathering brought together Thai nationals and foreigners at two different locations in Mai Khao Beach. The JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, along with the newly opened Anantara Phuket, arranged picnics for guests on the beach in front of the resorts.

Lights were extinguished and torches and candles used along with minimal lighting for the guests' safety.

Activities included sand turtle painting and using seashells to decorate three huge Leatherback turtles sculpted from sand. Fifty-nine guests purchased picnic baskets for the event and all profits from the sale of the baskets were do-



nated to the foundation.

At the same time, a local picnic for the villagers took place three kilometers south of the resorts in the village of Mai Khao, Moo 4. Around 50 students and teachers from Rajabhat University, along with 50 associates and managers from West-Sands, enjoyed a delicious dinner wrapped in banana leaves provided by West-Sands.

The senior vice president of Thalang district, government officials, teachers from district schools and other foreigners living in the

area also joined the picnic.

The purpose of the picnic was to revive the traditional "Marine Turtle Walks" that were once a popular outing for Mai Khao villagers.

At the time, giant Leatherback turtles came to lay their eggs during the months of November to February. The aim of Earth Hour was also to reduce energy consumption in the Mai Khao district for just one hour to raise awareness regarding how we can all help to reduce global warming.

## Resorts come together in campaign to attract tourists

PHUKET: In an effort to boost tourism in Thailand, more than 24 boutique resorts and hotels around the country, including three Phuket-based resorts, have joined forces to offer a range of incentives to tourists.

The campaign dubbed "One Price All Destinations" was spearheaded by Burasari Resort in Patong and has garnered support from the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

"Following the recent drop in tourist numbers due to political problems, we recognised that it is important for Phuket hotels and resorts to club together and help each other to encourage more tourists to visit Phuket in the new year, so we initiated this drive and asked other hotels to join us," said Miss Jidapa, Marketing Manager at Burasari Resort.

"There are now 24 other hotels participating in this campaign, which offers a range of incentives to hotel guests from December 23 until June 30 next year," she added.

Miss Jidapa said that this was the very first time that Thailand's boutique hotels have collaborated to launch such a promotion, which includes a fixed price of 2,000 baht per person for a night's stay at any of the participating resorts.

"The objective of this campaign is to simplify things for tourists and make it easy for them to book holidays in Thailand with participating hotels offering the same daily rate," she added.

## Vachira Hospital announces drive for blood bank donations

PHUKET: The blood bank at Vachira Phuket Hospital will hold mobile blood donation sessions around the island at the following locations and times in January:

**January 4:** Big C Supercenter on the bypass road, Wichit, from 11 am to 7 pm.

**January 14:** Robinson Department Store, Jungceylon, Patong, from 10 am to 4pm.

**January 16:** Radi Medical Systems, Ao Kung-Ao Por Rd, Pa Khlok, Thalang, from 11 am to 4 pm.

**January 22:** Phuket International Airport, main terminal, from 10am to 3pm.

**January 29:** Satee Phuket School in Phuket City, from 10 am to 4 pm.

As the above itinerary is subject to change, people intending to make donations at any of the mobile collection clinics are advised to contact the blood bank two days in advance.

The blood bank also accepts donations daily at its office in Vachira Phuket Hospital on Yaowarat Road, Phuket City, open Monday to Friday (8:30 am to 8 pm) and Saturday and Sunday (8:30 am to 3 pm).

For more information call the blood bank at 076-361234 (ext 1285) or the Phuket Red Cross office at 076-211766.

## No fake notes in Phuket banks

PHUKET: Phuket Finance office has announced that recent reports of fake bank notes in circulation around the country are not a major cause for concern in Phuket.

Chief of the provincial Finance Office Jarunee Jinanukulwong announced on December 30 that there have only been two reported cases of fake 1,000 baht bank notes being used in Phuket.

Those cases occurred in Patong, Ms Jarunee said, adding

that following checks, no fake bank notes have slipped into the systems of the Government Savings Bank and Krung Thai bank.

The announcement came following several news reports of fake bank notes in circulation and the Finance Office receiving calls from the public asking how to ensure they are not victims of the forgeries. Many vendors stopped accepting 500- and 1,000 baht notes following the news reports.

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Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan makes merit in Patong.



A crowd at Loma Park at a merit-making ceremony in the morning.

PHUKET: Four years since the tragic events of December 26, 2004, sad memories of the tsunami still cast their shadow over Phuket. In memory of the more than 300,000 people who lost their lives in the disaster, official events were held on Boxing Day 2008

at Patong, Mai Khao and Kamala beaches as well as at Phuket International Airport.

The ceremony at Patong's Loma Park began with the reading of a letter from Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. In his message, read by Phuket Governor

# 2004 tsunami remembered



Students light candles of remembrance on Patong beach on December 26, four years after the disaster.

Preecha Ruangjan, the prime minister called upon those in attendance to pause and remember the 5,300 people in Thailand who lost their lives or were injured in the disaster.

Prime Minister Abhisit reminded the crowd of the destruc-

tion suffered by the people in the Andaman region – not just to businesses and property, but also to the beaches, coral reefs and other natural resources that make Thailand's Andaman coastline special. Mr Abhisit's letter finished by adding that in the wake of such a disaster lessons must be learned so that the people of the Andaman region will be prepared should another catastrophe strike.

To minimize loss of life and damages from future disasters, the government has designated December 26 as National Disaster Prevention Day. The initiative is not only to remind people of the tsunami dangers, but also to educate people on how to protect themselves from all possible disasters, natural or man-made.

In one of the many activities marking National Disaster Prevention Day, guests and staff

at the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa in Patong joined members of the general public in donating blood, which will be stored for use in case of any future emergencies.

That evening, dignitaries including Foreign Affairs Minister Kasit Piromya, Gov Preecha, and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising joined the crowd in laying wreaths and flowers on the beach and lighting candles in memory of those who lost their lives.

At the tsunami victims' cemetery in Mai Khao, Phuket Vice Governor Tri Augkaradacha joined local officials, businessmen and members of the public in Christian, Buddhist and Islamic memorial ceremonies. The gathered crowd observed a minute of silence as a mark of respect for those who perished.

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## Queer News

# Full body massage by a real



Phalo, the wild boar piglet that gives humans full body massages with his snout, giving a lucky client the unique treatment. Phalo is a pampered house pig whose favourite dish is mackerel with

CHIANG MAI: Villagers in Sansai District's Tambon Nong Jom have been rushing to try the services of the village's newest masseuse – a wild boar piglet named Phalo.

In exchange for occasional mackerel or a few sweets, Phalo uses his snout to massage tired limbs – reportedly with as much skill as the most expert human hands.

The unusual talent was discovered by the little boar's owner, 30-year-old Wachareewong Somchai, when he took Phalo to play in the bedroom and the piglet began to use his snout to rub his owner's calves. Mr Wachareewong then pointed to other parts of his body and Phalo duly obliged, giving him a complete body massage.

When word spread around the village, neighbours came to try out the piggy masseuse for themselves.

Mr Wachareewong calls

Phalo's name, points to the person and the piglet starts the treatment. Phalo duly continues until Mr Wachareewong tells him to stop.

The pig came to live with Mr Wachareewong and his wife, 30-year-old Sao Somchai, after Mr Wachareewong found him at a friend's house in Fang District. The friend explained to Mr Wachareewong that Phalo's mother had given birth to a litter of five piglets, but she then trampled four of them to death.

Phalo, also trampled by his clumsy mother, somehow managed to survive. Feeling sorry for the creature, Mr Wachareewong asked his friend if he could take the piglet home. Mr Wachareewong and his wife raised Phalo on baby formula, then weaned him onto solid food.

However, unlike normal boars, Phalo does not like typical pig fare such as rice bran. Rather, he insists on human food.

His favourite dish is mackerel with rice.

Also quite strangely, given his species, Phalo does not like playing in the mud – he is a house pig through and through, even sleeping in the same bed as his owners. Phalo, who, incredibly, has never wet the bed, wakes the couple up with his snout to go outside every morning. He also likes to go for rides on the back of his owners' motorcycle.

As Phalo's fame spread, offers started coming in to buy the boar – some for more than 10,000 baht. But Mr Wachareewong and Mrs Sao, who have no children, said that they love Phalo like a child and could never sell him.

Mr Wachareewong said that he believes that in a previous life Phalo was a human and that the two of them must have made merit together so they could be reunited in this life.

Source: KomChadLuek

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# Concern growing over counterfeits



Police in Nakhon Ratchasima show equipment recently seized in connection with a counterfeit banknote operation.

Due to rampant forgery, 1,000-baht banknotes have literally lost their shine among small-scale vendors across the country. Many have been refusing to accept them, giving the excuse that they do not have enough cash for change.

Somchai Setkornnukool, a senior director at the Bank of Thailand's Northeast Branch, explained that people can distinguish fake notes from authentic ones by differences in texture.

The words "Thai Government" (in Thai language) are embossed on real bills and not on the bogus versions. The difference can be felt with the fingertips, he said. Also, when a real banknote is held against the light, a watermark of His Majesty The King's portrait should become clearly visible.

Another thing to look for are small translucent numerals and letters indicating the value of the banknotes on the metallic color thread, Mr Somchai said. When tilted, numerals showing the values of each 500-baht and 1,000-baht note should change color when viewed at different angles, he added.

Printers of fake banknotes are liable to life imprisonment if caught. Deliberately using the

fake banknotes, meanwhile, is punishable by a jail term ranging from one to 15 years.

However, vendors risk being punished too if they reject a banknote without verifying whether it is real or fake.

"Banknotes are legal tender for all debts, public and private. If you are not allowed to use your banknotes, you can lodge a complaint with the police," Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Maj-General Amnuay Nimmano said.

Thai Bankers' Association secretary-general Thawatchai Yongkittikhun confirmed that bank customers now asked for 500-, 100- and 20-baht banknotes much more than usual. He said he feared a shortage in smaller denominations might ensue if the trend continues.

Mr Thawatchai called on the authorities to urgently educate people about how to distinguish fake from authentic banknotes. There is "no possibility" of a fake 1,000 baht note being dispensed from an ATM machine, he added.

According to a source at Bangkok Bank, notes with serial numbers starting 9A650 and 2D150 should be examined very carefully.

# Animal stem cell warning

Millionaires who undergo animal stem cell therapy to erase wrinkles at beauty clinics or treat diseases could die from sudden cardiovascular system failure, Dr Tanom Bunaprasert of Chulalongkorn University Medical School has warned.

The internet, television and print media are full of advertisements for animal stem cell therapies claiming to give people a more youthful look.

In the belief that such treatment could remove facial wrinkles, people are needlessly paying up to 1 million baht per session. However, the feeling of a younger face and fresher skin is caused by the placebo effect, not the stem cells, Dr Tanom said.

There is no scientifically approved mechanism for animal stem cells to be used in human treatment and animal stem cell therapy is illegal in all developed countries.

Serial injections of animal stem cells into the body cause the immune system to produce antibodies that quickly destroy doses of injected animal stem cells.

Someone injected with animal stem cells who then receives an organ transplant, such as a kidney or liver, will face high risk of rejection and the memory of the immune system to foreign stem cells is lifelong, he added.

Stem cells are not a chemical substance, but just living cells. Such cells only produce benefits while they are alive. The injection of dead stem cells is useless, he explained.

# Next step for Nectec



HM The King's dog, Khun Gaeng Kio Wan (Mr Green Curry) jumps through fire hoops as part of Thailand Pet Festival 2008, held at Rose Garden Riverside Hotel in Nakhon Pathom. Another of his dogs, named Julius Caesar, also performed at the festival.

The National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (Nectec) is to be reorganized, changing its role from that of a center for government policy on information and communication technology to become a research and development center with the primary aim of creating new technology platforms to support local industry and government organizations.

Nectec director Pansak Siriruchatanapong said the agency would manage about 16 research and development laboratories working on the development of new technology platforms. These will include sensors, security, knowledge engineering and networking technolo-

gies, and nano-electronics.

The goal of the agency will be to build Thailand's capabilities and support the private sector so that businesses will have new technology with which to create new commercial products and services.

Mr Pansak said the reorganization would take place next year. In the process, the agency would create three flagship projects aimed at transforming analog content to a digital format, improving data storage in the healthcare sector and developing new technologies for agriculture under the Agricultural Land Reform Office's Cyber Brain project, he added.

# Six killed in road accident following graduation party

Two new university graduates were killed along with four friends after their car fell from an elevated highway in Pathum Thani at 2:30 am on December 27, police said.

The accident happened at the Chiang Rak-Bang Khan elevated highway in Pathum Thani's Klongluang district.

Police said that Jinatta

Daengthammachart and Wongkorn Wanapongtipakorn, the new graduates, were killed along with four friends inside Jinatta's sedan.

The car hit the barrier wall, with the impact hurling it over and causing it to land upside-down on the road below.

All six people were killed at the scene. The four friends were

identified as Kittinan Boonyaworakul, 24, Titiporn Boonyaworn, 24, Supatcha Anuwarn, 24, and Piyada Mangkhonkriangkrai, 23.

Their friend, 23-year-old Salitip Sitthimalakul, said the six friends were returning to Jinatta's home after drinking at a pub to celebrate Jinatta and Wongkorn's graduation.

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On December 23, around 500 Buddhist and Muslim villagers, led by Pattani Provincial Governor Thirathep Sriyaphan, gathered near a store where a bomb killed a mother and injured her two young children to condemn violence in the province.

## Calls for peace as violence casts a shadow over the Deep South plan

DEEP SOUTH: One day after Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva announced the formation of a civilian-led agency to oversee the situation in the violence-plagued Deep South, insurgents detonated a bomb that injured three security guards for local schoolteachers in Pattani's Sai Buri district on December 23.

The bomb, hidden near a small garden in the school grounds, was set off remotely as the three soldiers came in range. The explosion was the latest incident in a recent upsurge of violence in the region.

The same day in Narathiwat's Chanae district gunmen shot an election campaign staff member of the Chart Thai Pattana Party, injuring him severely.

The shooting took place at 10am on the Ragnae - Chanae road in Lubo Lasoh village, in Tambon Phadungmatra of Chanae District. Hawaetah Tahyeh, 51, was shot three times in the chest and once in the neck by a gunman armed with an AK-47 assault rifle.

Mr Hawaetah was taking part in the election campaign for Niaris Jetapirom, who is contesting a by-election in Narathiwat's Constituency 2. Mr Hawaetah was riding in a pick-up truck, the last in a 15-vehicle campaign pro-

cession. The insurgents, also in a pick-up truck, sped past the procession and opened fire at Mr Hawaetah.

Also in Pattani on December 23, an army sub-lieutenant was fatally shot by insurgents in Nongchik district.

Sub-Lt Manoon Waealee, a 50-year-old Muslim, was shot four times by a pillion rider at 8 am while he was riding his motorcycle to work at the Ingkhayuth army base. He died in hospital.

The attacks came one day after Mr Abhisit announced the formation of a new agency to oversee the three southernmost provinces.

The new civilian-led agency, to be directed by a C-10 bureaucrat, will have the power to transfer any government officials from the region.

It is not clear how the already complex security apparatus in the Deep South will align itself under the new agency. Successive Thai governments have provided the military with an overwhelming mandate extending beyond traditional security to include development and reconciliatory effort.

The new government has been greeted by an increase in violence within the region.

On December 20, a bomb

exploded in front of a department store in Pattani at 6:10 pm killing a mother and injuring her two children and five others. The moment of detonation was captured on the store's CCTV camera and widely replayed in the media, along with images of the injured children in hospital.

Police said insurgents hid a five-kilogram home-made bomb inside a motorcycle and parked it in front of the Pattani Supermarket and detonated it with a mobile phone. The dead woman was identified as Suennee Wansulong, aged 35.

Also that day, four people were injured when a bomb exploded in front a hotel in Yala province. Police said the explosion occurred at 6:30 pm in front of the Park View Hotel in downtown Yala and that the 15-kilogram home-made bomb, hidden inside a pick-up truck, only partly detonated, apparently because part of the circuit failed to be ignited.

The four were slightly injured and were discharged from the Yala provincial hospital after receiving treatment.

Security officials said that this was the first bomb attack in Yala for nearly two months and the resumption has caused a great deal of frustration for the officials and the public in the city.

## Professor's killers caught

SONGKHLA: Police have arrested two men for the murder of a retired assistant professor from Songkhla Rajabhat University who was strangled in her home December 17.

Rayong natives Somsak Chanduayjit, 39, and Chairat Bunromyen, 22, were arrested in Samut Sakhon two days after the killing of Asst Prof Yindee Sawanakhunanon, aged 60.

Songkhla Provincial Police Commander Wirun Eamphaijit announced the arrest on December 21 and took the two suspects to perform a reenactment of the murder at the victim's house in Tambon Phawong, in Songkhla's Muang District.

Asst Prof Yindee, who retired in September 2008, was found lying dead in her bedroom at approximately 8:30pm. She had been strangled with the strap of her handbag. Police said that the killers made off with the victim's Toyota Altis car, mobile phone and a large amount of jewellery.

Mr Somsak and Mr Chairat were caught after Songkhla police received intelligence that the two suspects were hiding out in Samut Sakhon. They were arrested by local police in that province. Police said that the suspects both confessed to killing Asst Prof Yindee after they had been hired to fix her roof.

## Family massacred

SURAT THANI: Police have arrested one suspect after gunmen shot dead the wife, daughter and three-year-old granddaughter of a former member of the Sakhu Tambon Administration Organization in Surat Thani's Phrasaeng District. Police Region 8 Commissioner Santhan Chayanon said on December 25 that Somchai Thawon, 34, had been arrested after witnesses identified him as one of the gunmen.

The shooting took place around 7:30 pm December 22. Witnesses said a pick-up truck pulled up outside the house of Eam Chuangmanee, 43, in Sakhu Village 6. Gunmen then opened fire on the people inside the house with automatic weapons.

Mr Eam was out at the time, but his wife, 42-year-old Sunan Chuangmanee, daughter Prisana Chuangmanee, 21, and granddaughter Sasiwimon Chuangmanee, 3, all died at the scene. Mr Eam's son-in-law, 23-year-old Kittiphon Eimduang, was also hit but survived.

Police said that they now believe Mr Kittiphon, rather than his father-in-law, was the target of the attack. Mr Somchai denied involvement in the killings, but did admit that he had an ongoing dispute with Mr Kittiphon over profits from a cock fighting ring, police said.

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# Tax relief for tourism?



The big talking point for the people of Ao Nang recently was a fire at a local gas station.

In describing this year's high season, newspaper articles are using terms like "gloomy", "unprecedented falls in occupancy", "a write-off", and "desperate". Anecdotal evidence from veteran hoteliers and business owners in Krabi confirms that for most businesses, this is the worst operating environment in history.

While hotels that contract with the large package tours flying directly from Europe to Krabi are faring better, the cutback in service by Thai Air and the un-

certain status of Krabi Air do not bode well for future occupancy rates. Many tourists are complaining of an inability to book flights as the cut back in service has left all remaining flights sold out for weeks. Some customers are flying to Phuket or Surat Thani to make it to Krabi. While oil prices have plummeted from \$147 a barrel to less than \$40, airline ticket prices have scarcely decreased.

Some local restaurants and businesses are talking of closing at the beginning of February, or

at least reducing staff levels to match the lower turnover rates. The absence of any indications of a rebound has led some to consider shutting down and riding out the long low season to come. Without a profitable high season to bankroll the less profitable months, staying open may not be possible.

Several local hotels have already started cost cutting measures by canceling their Christmas parties. With occupancy at 50% in many of the mid-range hotels for Christmas, it makes little

sense to produce a Christmas show with live music and Thai dancing and an expensive buffet. Some resorts have canceled their Christmas parties and arranged to send their guests to the larger resorts. Better to have 3 or 4 fully booked, cost-effective Christmas parties than a dozen or more half-filled events that will lose money.

The interesting question is what will the new government do to help improve business or at least reduce the stress on the tourist industry? The attitude of the tax and revenue department will also have a great influence on the outlook of small business owners. It is no secret that the tax authorities pay special attention to foreign businesses as a source of tax revenue. Some foreigners feel so hassled they have closed their companies and re-opened in the name of a Thai national to escape scrutiny.

The tax authorities could reduce the burden on small businesses as follows. In July of each year, businesses must file their half-year tax payment on their total expected income for the year. Most companies were running at a profit in July, but have since incurred huge losses, guaranteeing a large loss for the year. The tax authorities have announced that tax payments on evaporated profit estimates are non-refundable. A nice gesture would be to give these businesses that paid tax at half-year and show a loss for the full year a refund or credit on future tax payments. I won't hold my breath.

Another comment, allegedly made by a tax official, was that the maximum decline in income allowable for this year was 20%. We hope that the new gov-

ernment will re-assess this stance, as most tourist-related businesses are down 50%-70% and would love to have income down just 20%. The last thing struggling small business owners need is to pay tax on imaginary and non-existent income so the local tax authorities can hit their tax revenue budgets.

Others have proposed a reduction or suspension of VAT, but this is not a viable solution and one shouldn't get one's hopes up. This is a macro-economic tool that often faces resistance to its re-implementation when the economy rebounds and is not popular with the central gov-

ernment. What is needed is tax relief targeted at the tourist industry with the aim of helping businesses through a difficult year. The bottom line is that many small to medium businesses will not survive without a supportive role played by the central government and tax authorities. Inaction will certainly lead to increased unemployment and social instability.

Away from economic woe, the big talking point for the people of Ao Nang was the recent burning down of the local gas station in Ao Nang village. The explosion knocked out the town's power supply for 45 minutes, destroying the gas station and an adjoining restaurant. Three people, including the owner, were injured and transported to Bangkok Phuket Hospital for treatment. The cause of the fire is unclear. There were rumors of a pump malfunction which sparked the fire. Other locals point to the fact that the station was still charging 38 baht/liter while the other stations in the area had dropped prices down to 20 baht/liter.



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By Gus Reynolds

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# Rare vintage Six flavors of Italy

By Marqu Rome

Holding my glass against white paper, I could see the pungent, peppery *Negroamaro* wine inside was something special. "Super-lovely," I noted, "almost black, with a reddish circle round the edge; and what luscious legs! So well defined, and quick to show themselves."

The *Negroamaro* was one of six glasses presented during a tasting at Chalong Wine Connection centering on the productions of *Umani Ronchi*, a 51-year-old winery, operated by Winemaker Michele Bernetti, in Italy's Marche region.

Rural Marche (pronounced "mar-kay") lies midway along Italy's Adriatic seacoast; Ancona is its chief town; the chief business agriculture. It shares a northwestern border with Tuscany and a southern with Abruzzi and its winemaking has some affinities with both. But the Marche is largely unknown in international winemaking circles.

"Are there any quality wines made in the Marche?" the celebrated wine writer Andre Simon once asked rhetorically –

then answered, "None at all."

That was in the early '60s, when Italy's most notable wines were produced in Piedmont and Tuscany. Italy's long east coast was given over to production of local varieties all but unknown outside Italy and of undistinguished character. The eastern regions remain the peninsula's chief bulk producers (although quality is notably better); but with the boom in international wine sales a few vintners are implementing more modern and far better agricultural and vinifying techniques, and putting their wines in attractively labeled 75cl 'quarts' instead of nondescript gallon containers. In this regard, *Umani Ronchi* has been one of the leaders.

The vintner's vines are in 12 plots, covering 180 hectares in the Marche and 30 in the Abruzzi. As the vineyards were acquired by purchase, the winery has many old vines ranging in age from 30 to 100 years. Viticultural techniques have focused on training the vines up: the traditional Italian method of allowing vines to spread out in long *tendones*, al-

though still in use, is apparently being abandoned. As a result, Ronchi is the only producer in the Abruzzi with a *Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita* or DOCG (the highest government-sponsored control certification) rated *Montepulciano d'Abruzzo*, and has won a best of show award at the International Wine Challenge in London.

Success has been aided by the market's recent curiosity in local grape varieties, varieties with characters to set them apart from the herd of French varieties mainly Cabernet, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah (Shiraz), and Sauvignon Blanc that dominate New World production. Attention has focused especially on the myriad of varieties found in Italy. All are looking for the next Primitivo, a cousin of California's Zinfandel, planted throughout the southern peninsula and Sicily, which has turned from bulk wine non-entity into international star.

Thailand's wine aficionados are especially interested in identifying the next big thing before it is splashed across the wine press's glossy pages. That's because tax on wines is 400 per cent. If we don't find it before others do, it will be too expensive for purchase. Herein Wine Connection finds its *raison d'être*. As both importer and retailer, the chain's buyers are ever on the lookout in less looked-in places (whoever heard of the Marche?) for under-priced high-quality wines.

Along with the six wines sampled, Wine Connection's Lonnais chef Eric Lamiroux, provided *hors d'oeuvres* consisting of Parma ham, coppa, homemade terrine and rilette (shredded pork loin cooked in pork fat); Brie, Gouda and Danish blue cheeses; onion jam a speciality of the house native to Lyons; and bread: taken together, a satisfying combination with the wines.

Our first glass was a 2007 *Trebbiano-Chardonnay* blend



**Verdicchio dei Castello di Jesi is from Umani Ronchi's 150-300 meter-high vineyards.**

(650 baht) from Umani Ronchi's vineyards in the Marche, where the vines are planted in soil thick with clay. Winemaker Bernetti feels this is appropriate for growing white grapes. Certified merely *Indicazione Geografica Tipica* or 'typical of the geography' (IGT), it was light, straw colored, slightly bitter but refreshingly acidulous, and plainly intended as a simple food accompaniment.

Next up was Santa Caterina Winery's 2006 *Salento Chardonnay* (650 baht), golden winner of the 2007 Medal Chardonnay du Monde. It was an IGT from Apulia (which forms the heel of Italy's boot), another region once known only for bulk wines. 10K-gold colored, pleasantly floral and with a zingy taste, this was another excellent food wine. No trace of oak was evident. Paul Clark, Wine Connection Phuket's general manager, called it a departure from over-oaked Australian Chardonnays but there were characteristic flavor notes of citrus and vanilla. It went especially well with the cheeses.

Our third glass was one of Ronchi's DOC wines, this a *Classico* the 2007 *Verdicchio dei Castello di Jesi* (980 baht), from vineyards planted 150 - 300

meters high on hillsides around the town of Maiolati Spontini in the Marche. DOC today is the next certification rung below DOCG but for a long period was the highest rating in Italy; 'Classico' indicates it is from the traditional producing region for that grape. It was straw colored, well structured, fruity, rather herbaceous and acidic; the finish had perhaps something of almonds in it a sensible accompaniment to fish dishes.

Then came the aforementioned *Negroamaro*, a 2005 from Canonico Salento Winery (650 baht), which Paul called a big hit with customers. *Negroamaro* is typically a dark, plummy wine, big, full and extracted; it produces wines with rich black fruit flavors and high alcohol levels. This was remarkably refined, with no rough edges in the finish, and hints of cherries and licorice in the nose no wonder it won a gold medal at the Concours General Agricole de Paris last year. Excellent.

Equally impressive, perhaps even better, was Umani Ronchi's 2007 *Montepulciano d'Abruzzo* DOC (650 baht) dark, almost violet, robust, full bodied and tannin rich, it finished cleanly, had thick glycerin 'legs', and traces of licorice in the nose. Spicy, smooth and plush, the wine's flavors opened fully after about 20 minutes, and it lost all trace of youthful bitterness. Good stuff.

Finally, we sampled one of Ronchi's 'flagship' wines, the 2006 *Jorio* DOC (950 baht). Made from a selection of *Montepulciano d'Abruzzo* grapes in the Abruzzi, it is aged partly in large oak barrels. The wine is near black with a brownish edge, peppery and potent, in the fullness of youthful vigor, and shows signs of future complexity. It is really too young still to drink without decanting, but after 40 minutes' airing it opened enough to show its finer points. For laying down.

Wine Connection conducts regular tastings, often attended by the featured wines' makers. Times and dates are in the Wine Connection newsletter, available at various venues and at Wine Connection. For more information call 076-282411-2.

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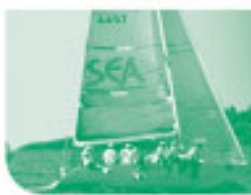


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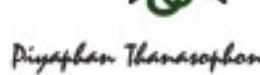
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# Swedish-Thai couple with a Tropical Plan

Lars and Boom Ydmark are well known in Phuket as a couple who combine international experience with local knowledge to create resorts that cater to a Western clientele. Dewa Phuket, lying close to the quiet expanse of Nai Yang Beach, is the latest resort project launched by Lars's Tri-Asia company.

Following military service in Sweden, Lars enrolled at the Schloss Klessheim in Salzburg, Austria, to study hotel management. After graduation in 1985, he worked for the Sheraton for five years before succumbing to the need for adventure. "I landed in Hong Kong in 1990 without a job but shortly had three offers. I chose to work with Shangri La as Executive Assistant Manager in Fiji, then spent two years as Project Co-ordinator for the opening of the Shangri La in Jakarta. This experience gave me the background to build and manage new resorts," he explains.

In 1994, Lars arrived in Phuket as part of the opening team of what is now the Royal Phuket City Hotel. It was here that Lars gained valuable experience maneuvering through the subtleties of Thai culture and bureaucracy.

Subsequently, he went on to open Accor's Mercure property in Pattaya and the Novotel Phuket Resort in Patong, all the while becoming an integral part of the community of expatriates on Phuket. During this time he met his wife, Khemika, or "Boom" as she is usually known. Boom, already a well known and popular local lady in the hospitality industry, was working in guest relations at the upscale Amanpuri Resort at the time.

Earlier in her hospitality career, she had held positions at Club Med, Le Meridien Phuket and with Bill O'Leary's Amancruises.

The 1997 marriage of Lars and Boom marked the beginning of a successful partnership.

In addition to two children,

Carl and Elin, they have managed to build several resorts, popular with tourists from Lars's Swedish homeland as well as other Europeans. "By 1999, I had the opportunity to work in Bali or Dubai, but we decided to open Tri-Asia and build our own properties as I love living on Phuket and I saw some great opportunities here," Lars says.

With Lars's extensive experience opening resorts and Boom's talent at dealing with the Thai aspects of business, the pair attracted investors, and they built the 54-room Deva Resort in Patong. This was quickly followed by the Jiva Resort, 128 rooms, at Kata Beach.

In 2003, they decided to take their own property, located on the road to Cape Yamu, and build Grove Gardens, a 36-unit mixed development of two and three bedroom apartments and three-bedroom town houses.

"Grove Gardens is our home. It's a lifestyle-oriented residential resort with low-density and large open spaces.

There are five swimming pools, a three-hole golf course and tennis courts.

The project quickly sold out," explains Lars. "But I have always been drawn to Nai Yang Beach and when the opportunity came to purchase land across from the beach, my partner, Somchai Prayotmorakul, quickly made the sale."

Lars chose Lillian Carpenter, well known as Director of Club Operations at the Blue Canyon Golf Club, as Dewa Phuket's Resort Manager.

The resort/residential development has 62 residences and 34 pool villas. Only the residences are for sale and 65% have been sold to date.

Lars was involved in the design process where he could use his talents with feng shui, the Chinese art of proper arrangement of spaces.

"I positioned the Dewa Phuket as a 4-star boutique property to attract a market wanting

the quiet of Nai Yang Beach but still close to the international airport and the Blue Canyon Country Club," he says.

Lars is upbeat about the future of hospitality on Phuket. "This is a great place to live but we must ensure that we have a clean and safe environment for our visitors.

The local government must ensure an international infrastruc-

ture to keep up with the pace of development," he says.

Lars attributes his successes on the island to his personal philosophy, something he calls "Positive Attitude Changes Everything" (PACE).

Now that Dewa Phuket is open, Lars is focusing on his new project development company, Tropical Plan, with partners Thierry de Bord and Adrian

Koch. The company aims to assist resort developers in realizing the best possible results in the construction and management of their projects.

Boom is also taking advantage of the opening of the resort to spend more time pursuing her interests in personal training and yoga and to develop the Qi spa at Dewa Phuket.

By Bruce Stanley



Now that the couple's latest resort, Dewa Phuket (inset), is open, Lars is focusing on his new project development company, Tropical Plan, while Boom is spending more time pursuing her interests in personal training and yoga and developing Dewa's spa, "Qi".



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# Kris Exhibition at Art Rendez Vous



Kris explores the connection between art and the elephant.

Phuket artist Kris Surajaroenjai is currently showing a collection of his work focusing on elephants. The collection, entitled 'Oriental Fantasy', was four years in the making and is on display at the Art Rendez Vous gallery.



The exhibition explores the connection between art and the elephant. The elephant, the national symbol of Thailand, is also symbolic of a number of South-East Asian cultures.

Historically, countries having many elephants were widely regarded as places of high culture and great power.

Kris found the inspiration for his work during an internship spent with respected Thai artist Pratueng Aimcharoen, whose art work often focuses on animals.

At that time, Kris says he was not yet an accomplished painter.

One month in to the internship, Pratueng advised him that real and meaningful work could only come from within. Artist Pratueng told Kris that although others may not interpret your

work easily at first, you will understand it and through practice and learning, others will come to comprehend its meaning.

This is the second time Kris has presented his work in Phuket. His first exhibition was held to critical acclaim at the Jamjuree Arts Exhibition, Juralongkorn University.

Ever humble in the face of his current success, Kris still regards himself as a normal, down-to-earth local boy who didn't have to study at a famous university in order to pursue his dreams.

In describing his work, Kris says that painting is much the same as any other type of work with many of the same problems and challenges. "Just as with any job, you have to fight to overcome the obstacles in your path in order to achieve success".

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**JUMBO SIZED ART:** Phuket Vice Governor Tri Augkaradacha (2nd from right) presided over the opening of "The Miracles of Ganesha" exhibition featuring works by artist Veeracha Usahanun (2nd left) at his Bang Tao gallery and studio on December 18. Proceeds from artwork and merchandise sold at the exhibition were donated to Friends of the Asian Elephant Foundation, founded by Khun Soraida Salwala (left). Also pictured is batik artist Bharawatee Usahanun (right).



**ALL ABOARD:** Commander-in-Chief Admiral Kamtorn Pumhirun (center) visited the Third Naval Area Command in Ao Makham earlier this month and was welcomed by Commander-in-Chief of the Third Naval Area Command Vice Admiral Narong Tessawisarn. Admiral Kamtorn distributed gifts to navy recruits serving in the Andaman.



**COURTING HUNGARIANS:** The newly opened Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Patong Beach recently hosted a Hungarian TAT Familiarization Trip to experience the hotel facilities. The visiting party was led by TAT representative Mr Marzouki Ali and Assistant Country Manager of Eva Air Mr Christoph Horak. The trip was designed to boost Phuket tourism in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Bosnia Herzegovina.




**BUDDING BUSINESS PARTNERS:** Four florists recently celebrated the opening of Paka Florists Shop in Chalong. Pictured are the shop's partners (from left) Maple Rumpivitaya, Pithirath Na Nakorn, Niyah Gimon and Thanyapaporn Panakngarn.



**FOREVER YOUNG:** Owner of Angus O'Tool's Irish pub in Karon John Young recently celebrated his 48th birthday with his wife Yo Yo (center) and his mother Valerie (left). Angus O'Tools is popular with local expats as an entertainment venue offering traditional Irish food and live music performances.



**MOVING ON:** Chris Husted, former managing editor of the Phuket Gazette, enjoyed himself at a farewell party on December 27. The event, organized by Gazette news editor Steven Fein, was held at The Boatyard in Phuket City. Chris, who was with the Gazette for nine years, is moving on to an editorial position with the Brunei Times.




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# Photography inspired by infrared

By Nick Davies

Looking for a way to capture his subjects in a different light, British photographer Martin Reeves discovered that he could achieve stunning results by using infrared-sensitive film. Martin discovered the eerie effects of using film that was first developed during World War I when he was experimenting with artistic photography in the 1980s.

"On my first trip to Asia I took color and infrared film with me but when I developed the photographs that I'd taken I was quite disappointed. I thought I was going to reveal this mystical land, but I couldn't escape from consumerism and Coca Cola, which all came through much too boldly for my liking in the color pictures.

"But when I developed the black and white film it had this old, timeless feel to it," Martin explained.

Since then, Martin has developed his unusual technique – and his own photographs – while living in Bangkok and traveling around Asia. Now he is exhibiting his collection of striking portraits and picturesque scenes of

traditional Thai life at the Banyan Tree Phuket until the end of January.

Martin's collection, entitled "Hidden Realms", is made up of scenes from around Thailand, including Phuket, and focuses on rural life, ancient structures and nature's own geological artwork.

Each of the images seems to glow in its frame and has a dream-like quality to it; the 'mystery' that once escaped Martin's lens.

Martin explained that the infrared-sensitive film captures light that you wouldn't normally see with the naked eye or in a photograph taken with standard film.

"Working with this kind of film is quite fiddly and it can take a while to take a shot. You can't let any light fall on the roll of film when you take it out of the container. Even if the film is still in the roll, infrared light can get through the felt-lined gap and fog the entire film, so I have to change films in a black bag for complete darkness. I usually have to do this under the blazing sun, which can get very uncomfortable," he explained.

The distinctiveness of

Martin's portraits is not only due to his choice of film, but very much to do with the way he approaches his projects and the people he photographs.

Before taking his camera out of its bag, Martin likes to spend several days in the community that he plans to photograph, which helps his subjects to relax and feel comfortable in front of the lens.

The results are images of everyday folk in very natural yet poignant poses; unafraid, unguarded and unassuming.

In many of his portraits Martin has captured his subject at an emotional peak, illustrating pieces of personal history before the snap of the shutter.

Some seem deep in thought with streaks of worry or frustration lining their faces, while you can see celebration of the joys of a simple life in the eyes of others.

The Banyan Tree Phuket discovered Martin through the book *Thailand: 9 Days in the Kingdom*, which was published to celebrate the 80th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej, and is available in each of the resort's villas for



guests to enjoy.

The book features Martin's work among that of 55 other esteemed photographers who all took pictures around Thailand in the same nine-day period.

As more and more professional photographers turn to using digital cameras, Martin – for the moment – is a steadfast traditionalist and refuses to convert from using real film.

However, he explained that he will one day be forced to change because manufacture of the infrared film was discontinued by Kodak last year.

"Although I'm reluctant to change, I've got a fridge full of the infrared film, but once that's used up, there will be no more," he said.

Martin added that he had even been in touch with the CEO of Kodak to see if the company would consider making just a

couple of batches a year of the film, as Konica used to, but to no avail.

With the impending extinction of an art form created from a bygone scientific era, it may only be in Martin's "Hidden Realms" that one will be able to experience such a moving insight into days gone by.

*The Hidden Realms exhibition is on display at the Banyan Tree Gallery, located in the lobby area of the Banyan Tree Phuket, until January 31. Martin's photographs can be purchased through the shop. For more information call 076-324374 or email phuket@banyantree.com. To see Martin's work online visit www.thehiddenrealms.com.*

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# Nai Harn hosts mini Woodstock



**CULTURE MIX:** The two-day "mini Woodstock" event featured an eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary musicians and performance artists.

On December 19 and 20, islanders were treated to a variety of cultural and contemporary performances as part of a

two-day 'mini Woodstock' event held at Yoonique's Bar in Nai Harn. Thai reggae band Job 2 Do topped the bill. The event's theme was environmental awareness.

Drinks were served in bamboo cups and rubbish bins made out of recycled materials were donated to the local authorities to be used at Nai Harn Beach.

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# "ONCE UPON A TIME"

## Welcome to the 5th Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand 2008/2009

**Topic:** "ONCE UPON A TIME"

**Language:** English

**Length:** 800-1,200 words

**Age:** Between 14-18, up to December 1, 2008

**Opening date for submissions:** December 1, 2008

**Closing date for submissions:** January 15, 2009

**Winners announced:** February 20, 2009

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- *Phuket Gazette* for Phuket, Krabi and Phang-Nga

2 Northern region contest: *CityLife*, Chiang Mai

3 Northeastern region contest coordinator: *The Nation*, Khon Kaen office

4 Bangkok contest (including Central & Eastern region): *The Nation*, Bangkok

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1 The winning author in each region will earn Bt10,000 and there are two merit awards per region of Bt5,000.

2 The overall national winner will win a trip with one parent to Dublin\*, where they will attend the senior international IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards. The top award is the richest literary prize in the world. While in Dublin, the national winner will take part in a reading with the senior winning author.

**\*The Dublin trip for the Thailand national winner is compulsory. If the national winner cannot go, the trip will be awarded to the next winner who can go.**

### Writers from the Southern Region should send entries to:

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The Phuket Gazette

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

**January 18. TriBallistic Triathlon 2009. Race 1 of 4.**

Start the New Year with a bang at the TriBallistic & Phuket International Academy Triathlon Series 2009.

The first of four races gets underway at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa on January 18. This great event is set to include:

- Splash & Dash 50m swim, 1.5km bike, 750m run
- Junior 200m swim, 6km bike, 1.5km run
- Senior Sprint 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run.

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Transition opens at 6am, first race 8am.

Sports nutrition and Tri-Ballistic merchandise for sale on race day. For further information contact Shaun Boulter. T: 089-5902014. E: [tri@triballisticclub.com](mailto:tri@triballisticclub.com). W: [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com).

**January 20. Punchline Comedy Club Live International Stand-Up.**

The Punchline Comedy Club returns with another three top class, professional stand-up comedians. Australian Kitty Flanagan is joined by Brits John Gordillo and Roger Monkhouse. 8pm-11pm. For further information contact Boom. T: 083-646 4671. E: [info@phuketcomedy.com](mailto:info@phuketcomedy.com). W: [www.phuketcomedy.com](http://www.phuketcomedy.com).

**January 26. Chinese New Year.**

The Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and is the biggest social occasion in the Chinese calendar. It is celebrated with gusto amongst Thailand's sizable Chinese community and legions of Chinese tourists from neighboring nations choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

**February 9. Makha Bucha Day.**

Makha Bucha Day falls on the



## Artist Kathy Manthei unveils her new work

Phuket based artist, Kathy Manthei's unique repertoire of acrylic based, mixed media paintings will be on display at the Boathouse art gallery from 7pm-8.30pm. Recently Kathy has begun working with encaustic (an ancient painting technique using molten beeswax) and acrylic transfers.

The application of solutions to reactive metallic paints produces a rich, lustrous patina blue and green which appear on the bamboo pieces on display. Of late, Kathy has been using original images from her childhood which has added a childlike innocence to her art.

For more information contact Lisa Sol. T: 076 330015. E: [pr@boathousephuket.com](mailto:pr@boathousephuket.com). W: [www.boathousephuket.com](http://www.boathousephuket.com)

full moon of the third lunar month and commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Bud-

dha began his teachings. It is also held to be the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just a few months before his death.

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On November 15th, 2008 - Abyssan YOGA & Wellness Center, established in September 2007 in Bang Tao, opened a new studio at Boat Lagoon. The new Yoga studio will also embody the concept of "Wellness", the ultimate combination of exercise, meditation and a variety of yoga styles. Many group exercise classes will be offered each week along with New Body, Mat Pilates and Yoga Core! We also teach Kids yoga and Teens yoga.

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# Reviving the global economic system will be a painful process



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

**T**he *Phuket Gazette* erroneously headed my article, Money Talks December 20 -26, "Inflation is the only solution to the crisis". It gave the impression that I thought that inflation was the cure to the current economic problems.

I believe that the well-meaning soul who devised that headline honestly interpreted the final words of my article which stated, "There is one tried and tested way of reducing massive debt: inflation", to mean that inflation was being recommended as a cure rather than as an old political expedient.

In reality, there is going to be a lot of pain in the curative process of the global economic system, following what has been allowed to build up, and in light of the growing unreliability of company pension schemes it becomes incumbent on people to secure their own future.

It is reality that politicians, for all their sweet words – especially at election time – are going to supply little more than the absolute bare essentials for retirees.

In America the belief was held by many that the rise in the price of their houses was a factor that they could rely on to build a prosperous future.

The concept of one's home as an asset is not new and is not limited to America. Many people, in many countries, have held that

view. No more so than in the UK where television programs frequently adopted the phrase "getting on the property ladder".

Many American politicians, George Bush amongst them, extolled the virtues of property ownership. In the late 1960s, I remember attending a seminar in Scotland hosted by the Australian Department of Immigration.

The Australians were quick to point out that home ownership in Scotland at that stage was a mere 29% compared to over 60% in Australia.

Having been involved in personal financial planning for over a quarter of a century, I am very aware of the importance of home ownership as a cornerstone of a good financial plan.

The former chairman of America's central bank, Alan Greenspan, has frequently been criticized recently for allowing US interest rates to stay too low, too long, which caused, or at least contributed to the current US housing dilemma.

Sadly, it is true that the US housing issue is at the core of the current global crisis, but to finger Mr Greenspan as the cause of the problem is grossly unfair and is to totally distort the facts.

Alan Greenspan found that in the wake of the bursting of the internet bubble, the US economy was in a difficult situation.

Trillions of dollars had been taken from the savings of trusting Americans virtually overnight.

I still remember the earnest and enthusiastic young faces being interviewed on American television business channels in the late 1990s telling us that with the introduction of the internet and related technology, the business cycle as we had always known it had come to an end. No more summer and winter seasons in the economic cycle, but a continuous economic summer. Many honest people, who were maybe just a little bit greedy and a bit gullible, fell for this line and invested their savings in dot-com

companies. They thought this was the route to securing their financial future.

After the dot-com bubble burst, many people viewed the stock market as little more than a casino.

Real estate, that was the answer. "Good old bricks and mortar, that's where value really lives!"

The demand for real estate rose. The more adventurous bought multiple dwellings, letting tenants pay off the mortgages which, in retirement, would be a solid source of income.

Unfortunately, real estate proved to be no more reliable than the stock market.

Both asset classes are, in reality, tied to the economic cycle.

The real estate sector was spared in the 2000 - 2003 downturn for two reasons. Firstly, on average, during the previous boom it had not risen as much as the stock market, and, secondly, it became the beneficiary of "good old bricks and mortar" thinking.

Now the property bubble has popped, the disadvantages of property compared to the stock market are evident.

Property is a difficult asset to sell in a buyers market; it is illiquid. Rents on secondary properties, even in global hot spots, have virtually collapsed along with their prices.

The banks, so keen to finance those deals, seem to regard property and borrowers as having some sort of communicable anti-social disease.

That is why once President-elect Barack Obama and his fellow world leaders have worked out how to rescue their various economies, they are going to be left with an embarrassing mountain of debt – the financial equivalent of giant heaps of toxic waste. In such a situation, politicians are at risk of facing the public's wrath – and being voted out.

A little bit of inflation, if they



Once President-elect Barack Obama and his fellow world leaders have worked out how to rescue their various economies, they are going to be left with an embarrassing mountain of debt.

Photo: www.change.gov

can convince their local central bank, helps make these mountains more acceptable.

Inflation makes debt look smaller and incomes higher, but it does take the willing connivance of the local central bank to

ensure that the chickens do not come home to roost.

What really scares both politicians and central banks is that other really nasty creature: deflation or disinflation – just ask any Japanese person.

*Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service and has over 25 years experience in this field. He can be reached at: Tel: 076-381997. Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@lox.info.co.th www.global-portfolios.com.*

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PUZZLES

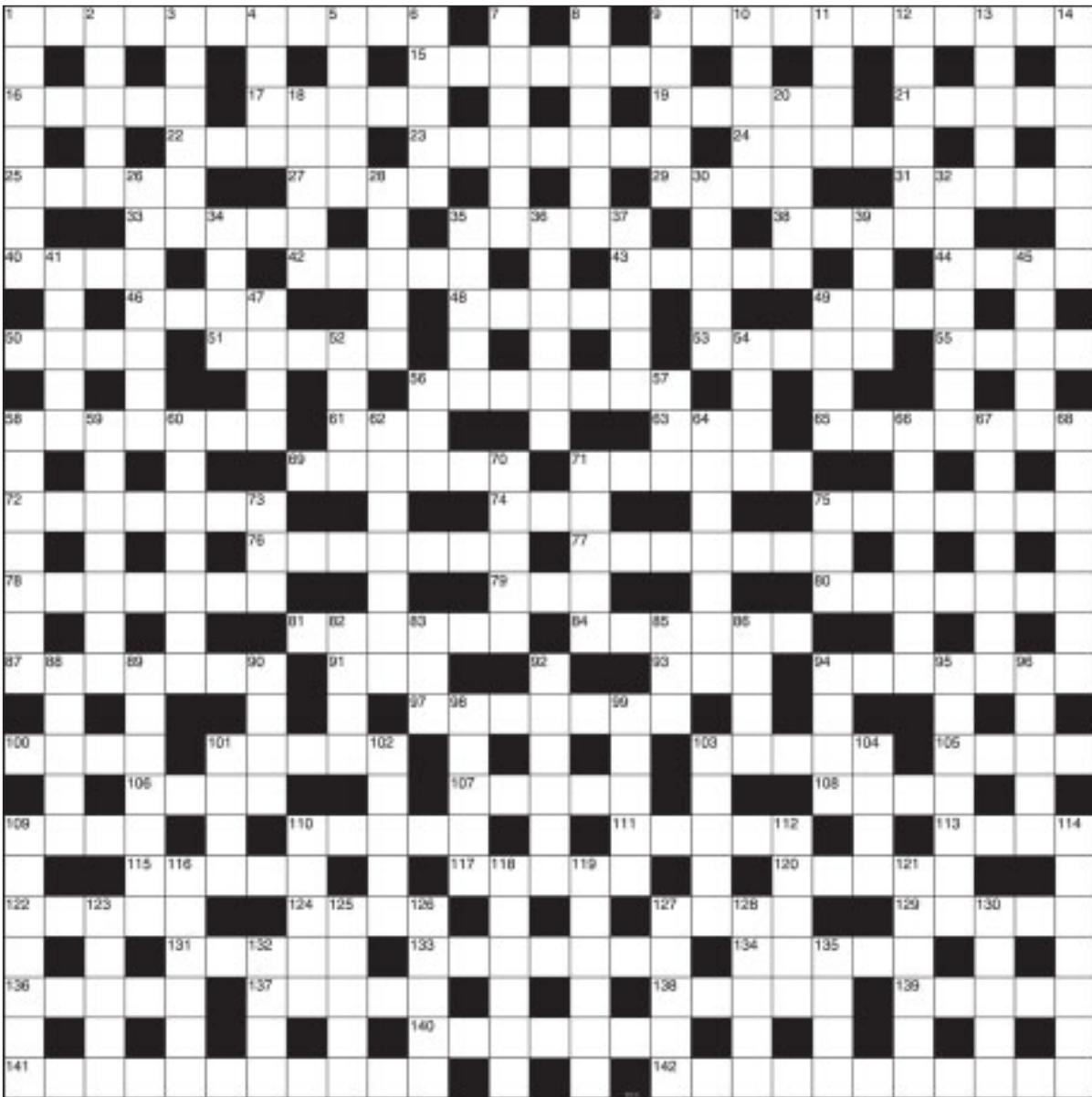
su | do | ku

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

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

The principle of 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. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.



The BIG Crossword



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Across

1. Flattering remarks

9. Profane

15. Talk quietly

16. Rock face

17. Section of drama

19. Regarding

21. Military student

22. Trample

23. Et cetera (3,2,2)

24. Actor,... Martin

25. Fragment

27. Body fluid lump

29. Song for two

31. Noblemen

33. Decree

35. Action words

38. Scent,... cologne

40. High

42. Senseless

43. Distance runner

44. July birthstone

46. Be ahead

48. Suffuse

49. SW Pacific nation

50. Continent

51. Duck's call

53. Fortune-telling card

55. Slightly open

56. Cotton tops (1-6)

58. Ocean shore

61. Fish eggs

63. James Bond author,... Fleming

65. Childhood ailment

69. Woman

71. Grew faint

72. Beauty show

74. ... chi (1'2)

75. Underground rail-roads

76. Disconnect (wagon)

77. Lagos is there

78. Speaking publicly

79. Be in debt

80. Authorization

81. Entertains

84. Sewers

87. Hindmost section

91. Combustion residue

93. Pouch-like body part

94. Kidney-shaped nuts

97. Discolours through age

100. Minor quarrel

101. Disputes

103. Theatre attendant

105. Wildlife enclosures

106. Amphibian

107. Collapsed,... in

108. Prima donna

109. On top of

110. Mountain chain

111. Lodge firmly

113. Complete again

115. Extremely

117. Makes (wage)

120. Harnessed (oxen)

122. Try out (food)

124. Pig fat

127. Of the mouth

129. UK race meeting, Royal...

131. Chick's tweets

133. Authenticity

134. Stains

136. Of sheep

137. At the same time as

138. Hard black wood

139. Hackneyed

140. Spanish warship

141. Back roads (4,7)

142. Chinese snacks (6,5)

2. Corn

3. Raised

4. Ponder

5. Poor

6. Perspire

7. Centre

8. Decorum

9. Trade name

10. Got up

11. Liver paste spread

12. Go beyond

13. Requisition

14. Meet (requirements)

18. Desert plants

20. Say

26. Wine stores

28. Man-eating fish

30. Not illuminated

32. TV antennas

34. Baghdad is there

35. Blood vessels

36. Fictional bunny, Peter...

37. Stank

39. Component

41. Cinema gangway

45. Valiant

47. ... & duchess

49. Shape

52. Nuclear reactor centre

54. The Diary of... Frank

56. Hot beverage

57. Mobile phone chip,... card

58. Sustain

59. Kabul currency

60. Dream

62. Collection of works

64. Memory loss

66. Pure white animals

67. Seepage

68. Siblings

70. Essential character

71. Ate (meal)

73. Yank

75. USA, Uncle...

82. Hotel cleaner

83. Bashful

85. Donkey

86. Non-commissioned officers (1,1,2)

88. Foreign

89. Omitted (4,3)

90. Tinted

92. Salivate

94. Mixed sex (of school) (2-2)

95. Perils

96. Courted

98. Reception host

99. Walks in water

101. Fully informed, au...

102. Submarine detector

103. Shade of brown

104. Skating stadium

109. Surpasses

110. Fashion house,... Lauren

112. Famous folksinger, Bob...

114. Escape vents

116. Outcasts

118. Fit for cultivation

119. Secured by hammering

121. Christian festival

123. Glided on snow

125. Reserve, set...

126. Coffee sediment

127. Premonitions

128. Love affair

130. Freeze

132. Washstand jug

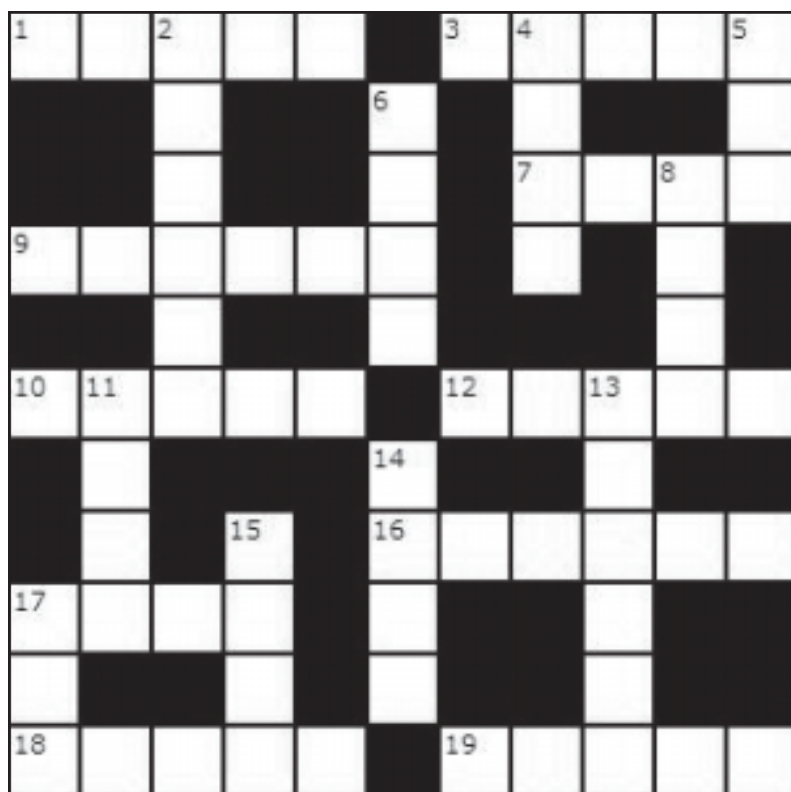
135. Popular actor,... O'Neal

Down

1. Aircraft flight deck

Solution on next page





## Quick Crossword

### Across

1. Sounds
3. Essential
7. Zits
9. Explodes
10. Take out
12. Humped
16. Not inner
17. Ark builder
18. Golfer's buddy
19. Inexpensive

### Down

2. River
4. Country
5. Bruce...
6. Job
8. Pleasant
11. Martial art
13. Movable
14. Cartoon bear
15. Hut
17. The Big Apple

*Solution below*

## Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. What is the American equivalent of the Premiership called?
2. On which Greek island was Shirley Valentine largely set?
3. Which fruit has its seeds on the outside?
4. Who became first president of the Russian Federation when the USSR was dissolved in 1991?
5. The Zugspitze is the highest mountain in which European country?
6. Which model played Zoë in Coyote Ugly?
7. Which TV character has the real name Norville Rogers?
8. If a creature is described as Oviparous, what does it do?
9. In which year did the fall of the Berlin Wall signify the end of the Cold War with Eastern Europe?
10. What was the name of Julian Clarey's dog that featured on his show?
11. What kind of bird did Noah first release from the Ark when the rain stopped?
12. Who wrote the line 'The female of the species is more deadly than the male'?
13. What type of animal was Boris, whom 'The Who' sang about?
14. Which is the only non-European country to host the World Cup more than once?
15. What is the largest country in Africa?
16. What type of animal is a Bombay Duck?
17. To the nearest whole percent, how much nitrogen is present in the air we breathe?
18. Who is the only film director to have won 4 Best Director Oscars?
19. Who joined Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on Apollo 11?
20. Where on the human body is the skin the thinnest?

*Answers below*



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# Puzzle Solutions

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

### Monster Quiz Answers

1. MLS Major league Soccer; 2. Mykonos; 3. Strawberries; 4. Boris Yeltsin; 5. Germany; 6. Tyra Banks; 7. Shaggy (Scooby Doo); 8. Lays Eggs; 9. 1989; 10. Fanny the Wonder Dog; 11. A raven; 12. Rudyard Kipling; 13. A Spider; 14. Mexico (in 1970 and 1986); 15. Sudan; 16. Fish; 17. 78%; 18. John Ford; 19. Michael Collins; 20. Eyelids.

### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

### Solution to this week's Quick crossword

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



# 2009: a spaced-out oddity

By Daniel Ogunshakin

**G**ood day, loyal readers. Welcome to the den of Mystic Mike, the world's pre-eminent fortune teller. I detect a desire within you to know the future. Come take a seat and cross my palm with your platinum Amex card – I can't take silver, there's a recession on you know.

Are you sitting comfortably? Then let me gaze into the mists of time through my crystal ball... no wait, this is a snow globe... There we are, much better. Now we shall enter a mystical world of erm... mystery, and see what the future holds. I see numbers. I see the numbers 2-0-0 and... 9. I also see the number 12 describing different periods of the year. I see events and news, news that *won't* happen in 2009.

## January 2009

During his final days in office, the puppeteer controlling a prominent world leader suffers a fit and, unable to relinquish his grip on his puppet's strings, causes the departing official to perform a macabre dance across the desk of the office. The leader's party blames the act on the pressure of the job. The party deputy agrees, nodding his head just a little too vigorously. People around the world finally have evidence proving a puppet was actually running the country.

Meanwhile in "un-related" news, newly elected President Barack Obama single-handedly rescues the world economy, ends the war on terror, cures world hunger, prevents global warming and restores the world's faith in the USA, all in his first week in office.

## February 2009

Despite President Obama rescuing the global economy, the British pound continues to slide against the Thai baht.

By mid-February a single baht is worth 40 pounds sterling and is showing signs of strengthening still. Towards the end of the month, thousands of Thais flock to Great Britain in search of a cheap holiday.

Many Thais are seen haggling for presents in bargain outlets such as Harrods and Harvey Nichols, whilst walking through London sporting string vests and knotted handkerchiefs.

## March 2009

In a surprising move, Patong undergoes a radical reconstruction and emerges as a pilgrimage site for those who devote their lives to spiritualism, the cleansing of the soul and chastity. For the first couple of hours, street traders are unsure how to proceed but be-

fore midday have managed to locate a number of souvenir T-shirts, including the now popular "I didn't do it in Patong", hats, bags and massive, over-the-top cigarette lighters.

In related news, massage parlor takings are down 75%.

## April 2009

The script for the latest secret agent movie is stolen and many multinational corporations rush to deny that they are the basis for the shadowy group that the dashing English undercover agent must foil.

A well-known scuba diving organization, slow at first to deny the claims, eventually comes forward, with a spokesperson announcing, "We categorically deny that we are looking to achieve world domination," whilst aiming what appeared to be a large laser at rivals and slowly stroking a white cat nestled in his gray-jumpsuited lap.

## May 2009

The majority of the world rejoices in May when the UN is able to pass a law banning the sale and use of swimming trunks on the beach. Beaches around the globe instantly become 50% trendier and a whopping 87% less obscene. A spokesperson for a swimming trunks manufacturing company said, "Obviously we are disappointed with the ruling, but in all

honesty we wholeheartedly agree with the United Nations' decision."

## June 2009

In homage to his Newcastle background and "Geordie" heritage, Prime Minister of Thailand, Abhisit Vejjajiva, lowers import tax on Newcastle Brown Ale, declaring it the "new Chang".

Alan Shearer is given the freedom of the country and the names "Keegan" and "Wor Jackie" are suddenly the most popular amongst newborn boys and girls. Rumors that implied the colors of the national flag be replaced with black and white stripes were proven to be false.

## July 2009

The world is shocked as taxi drivers everywhere apologize to the public at large for over-charging.

In an even more startling move, taxi drivers then offer customers free journeys for the next 18 months in an attempt to bond with their clients.

## August 2009

The Hollywood adoption "race" takes a new twist when an unnamed celebrity attempts to adopt

an entire country.

In the past, successful Hollywood stars have given homes to children of a number of countries.

Rumors speed across the internet over the identity of the celebrity, who manages to remain nameless.

## September 2009

In Phuket, work commences on a further 500 hotels and resorts. At the time it is unclear where all the new developments will be built, but it is whispered that some may actually be built above or below existing properties.

## October 2009

Just as tourism in Phuket begins to increase once again, the island and the ailing industry suffer another chronic blow.

In scenes reminiscent of *Dawn of the Dead* and *28 Days Later*, a rampaging horde of zombies threaten the island's tourists. Some English holiday-makers are later seen battling it out with the undead.

A local spokesperson insists, "We can categorically deny that there has been an outbreak of zombies on Phuket," whilst

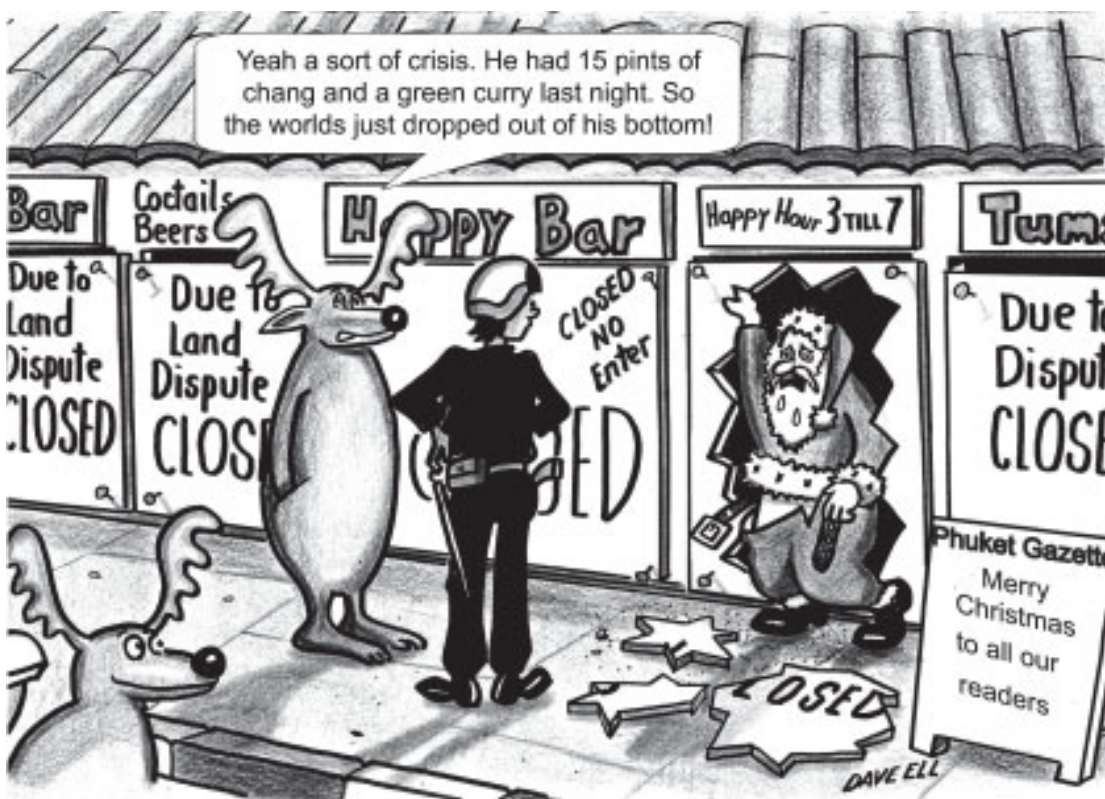
delicately munching on the entrails of a co-worker.

## November 2009

A well-known, extremely common international chain of convenience stores undergoes a radical makeover and re-markets itself as a high-end consumer outlet. Shelves are now packed with foie gras, caviar, Bollinger champagne and 100-year-old brandies. Drunken holiday makers are dismayed at the change as they are unable to purchase a chicken steak burger for the long stagger home.

## December 2009

The world is stunned as Santa Claus is arrested for lewd behavior and for driving his sled under the influence of alcohol. Rumors that he offered to show passers-by "his sack" remain unconfirmed. Mourning the lack of presents, children take to the streets armed with water pistols and toy swords. Police are forced to set far-too-jolly-old-St-Nick free.



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## Hell on three wheels

It's time for the local authorities to consider enforcing existing laws that prohibit people from operating illegally modified vehicles, especially the island's ubiquitous *saleng* – motorcycles with sidecars.

While charming for tourists and cheap to operate for hawking noodles, collecting scrap and taking pigs to market, these vehicles pose a far greater threat to public safety than they are worth.

Hardly a day passes when a *saleng* is not involved in a road accident; and more often than not they are the cause. Just two months ago, a *saleng* driven on the wrong side of Thepkasattri Rd caused a bus crash that left two dead and thirty others injured.

More frequently, however, the victims are the drivers themselves or their passengers – often family members including babies and young children.

Seldom equipped with proper lighting, *saleng* are particularly hazardous at night, when other drivers and pedestrians mistake them for normal motorcycles – often with fatal results.

While the use of *saleng* may be practical in many parts of rural Thailand, the Phuket "roadscape" now resembles something closer to that of the capital, perhaps the only place in Thailand where laws forbidding such vehicles are sometimes enforced.

Although there is nothing inherently hazardous about attaching a sidecar to a motorcycle, the failure of the police to enforce existing laws only encourages people to disregard safety by turning them into any kind of contraption they might fancy, including mobile butcher shops and fast food vending operations – complete with gas cylinders, vats of boiling water, and burning charcoal.

It seems that knowing they can drive a completely illegal vehicle straight through a police checkpoint with impunity, simply encourages *saleng* operators to flout other traffic laws as well, driving on the wrong side of the road being routine among them.

Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that police and local leaders will take steps to address this hazard, and its horrific consequences, any time soon. After all, it wasn't too many years ago that a scandal resulted when the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) was giving away sidecars to the public, much to the shock of the Land Transport Office whose chief was asked to attend the handover ceremony.

More recently, politicians have used fleets of *saleng* (and illegal sound trucks) to appeal to "grassroots" supporters in their attempts to win elections.

Despite this, and given the clear record of carnage, it is nevertheless time to either announce the island as a "no-*saleng* zone" or, perhaps more practically, take steps to require that these vehicles at least be roadworthy; be driven on the *correct* side of the road; and be properly lit at night.

– The Editor



## 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.

### Grass greener on our side of the fence?

Amazing Thailand? Not really. I'd have been far more amazed to find people downcast than upbeat. After a three-week holiday in Europe, where the mood is somber at best, I arrived back home on December 27 on fully booked THAI Airways flights (Frankfurt/Bangkok and Bangkok/Phuket) to stand (for 45 minutes) amid Immigration queues in a hall literally packed with tourists – this despite assurances from my travel agent that December 27 would be an "off" day for inbound traffic. "It always is."

On reaching home, I pick up the last two issues of your newspaper and note absolute bumper crops of advertising – all traditional Phuket segments, including property.

I ponder the meaning of Bill Barnett's December 27 column announcing that 30 (thirty) new hotels, representing billions of dollars in long term investment, are in the pipeline for openings over the next 2 to 3 years. Short to medium term, this almost has to be good for Phuket as the funds move into circulation here. Longer term is anyone's guess, but future room rates and values are likely to be appealing to travelers.

Then I turn to Richard Watson's "Money Talks" column for a touch of his usual balance and sobriety, and in hopes of finding enlightenment in my efforts to reconcile the apparently favorable prospects for Phuket – 'global village' notwithstanding – with the generally moribund prognosis for the world at large. No luck.

So for now, with neither the foresight nor the staying power

of Warren Buffet, I'll remain content in the notion that no matter how bad things might get in the rest of the world, life is likely to be better here.

Martin Hendersen  
Ao Makkham

### Video nasties

Who chooses the movies on local cable TV? What an opportunity there was to screen some classic films over the Christmas period, such as *A Wonderful Life*, *Rear Window*, *North By Northwest*, *Some like it Hot* or *Close Encounters*. Instead, what do we get? Just the usual violence and bloodshed. Not the sort of content I want my kids to see.

Does anyone at the cable company have a sense of occasion or even look at the films they are playing? The other evening they showed *American Gangster* with the director's comments running as subtitles throughout the film. If whoever is in charge can't be bothered with the job, please find someone who has an interest in films and knows about good cinema.

Can anyone recommend to me where I might find better quality films on television in Phuket?

David Strickland  
Phuket

### It's a question of cool

Another day, another road safety campaign (*Phuket Gazette* December 27 – January 2, page 1). It's easy to be cynical about this kind of thing, so I'll do just that: it's all very well giving away free safety helmets, but really, is there much point to the exercise? Do the Phuket PDPM honestly believe that youngsters who can afford motorbikes don't

wear helmets because they can't afford them, or can't, for some reason, purchase them themselves? Or could it, rather, be something to do with that elusive intangible so prized by the young: "cool". What looks more "cool"? Speeding along on a motorcycle, shaggy hair billowing in the breeze, or chugging along cautiously, head encased in half a plastic watermelon? The kids know the answer.

So what is needed? Enforcement. The young need to know that if they ride, *sans* helmet, past a police officer, they will be stopped and they will be fined. Not just when the police deign to set up checkpoints (pre-announced for ease of avoidance), but at any time. Police, please, do your job. No more headless corpses.

Chris Weymouth  
Chalong

### Rent the soundtrack

Television and video are cheap education tools that have so much more potential than is currently recognised by both viewers and program providers.

Even though most video rental stores usually stock a vast range of Hollywood movies and BBC documentaries, they are usually 'Thai dubbed', and even when Thai customers have the choice of renting 'original soundtrack' movies, they inevitably go for the Thai-dubbed version with the same few voices used for several different characters. I wish people could see the potential of such a cheap education tool.

Sandra White  
Phuket

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# When the beauty of democracy is not so beautiful

The overthrow of the PPP government was justified on grounds that its electoral success was based on vote-buying and hence illegitimate.

Now the Democrats have been wafted into power by the divine intervention of Mr Newin Chidchob.

Should we laugh or cry? Mr Newin is allegedly Thailand's most famous vote-buyer.

In 1995, police raided a Buri Ram shophouse and found 11.3 million baht in small denomination notes, some stapled to a campaign flyer for Mr. Newin. These facts are not in doubt, nor (for most people) is the interpretation.

But the election law is rather like the prostitution law. Police have to catch the client both engaged in the act and paying the money at the same time, which is technically a bit difficult.

Judges convicted the shophouse owner, thus confirming that vote-buying had taken place on behalf of Mr. Newin. But they excused the man who had benefited – on the grounds that there was no direct evidence of his involvement.

In a tape transcript allegedly recorded in Songkhla in January 2005, someone addressed as "minister" proposes "we will buy everything everywhere" to overtake poll rivals.

"I'd like to challenge all of you from these 25 tambons in this way. If Thai Rak Thai wins, I'll give each tambon 100,000 baht.

Will you be able to take my money?

I'll leave the money with the governors.

On the morning of February 7, come and take it if we win. Take the money first, and we'll take care of the yellow and red cards later.

Get the winning votes, then come to collect the money from the governors, and go celebrate."

The press identified the voice as that of Mr. Newin. He was also the only minister in Songkhla at the time.

This attempt at wholesale vote-buying failed, but Mr Newin had escaped again.

The Election Commission, at the time firmly under Thaksinite influence, ruled that the tape-recording was "indecipherable" even though various Thai newspapers managed to transcribe it word for word.

Politics has no use for irony. But the role of Mr Newin has big implications for the incoming government because Mr Newin's nominees hold the balance of power in Parliament.

Mr Newin has been a prominent figure in Thai politics for over a decade.

He has been a minister for much of that time, though sometimes through a nominee.

It is hard to think of an achievement of national benefit from that time in office.

It is even harder to think of any speech or statement by Mr Newin about his political vision.

Perhaps his best-remembered quote came after another court case, when he narrowly escaped being banned from Parliament.

He praised the judges' narrow 7-6 split-decision as "the beauty of democracy".

He was Agriculture Minister through the Thaksin era and the resulting scandals are just now reaching the courts.

Earlier this year, Mingkwan Saengsuwan secured a huge budget for rice price support and then woke up next morning to find the



project had been ripped from his hands by Mr Newin.

The price of his support for the current government has been very high.

The Communications Ministry has the largest and chunkiest capital budget of them all.

The Interior Ministry is the single most powerful ministry, and many of those powers are marketable.

This truly is the beauty of democracy.

What does this portend for the Democrat-led coalition?

The installation of the new Abhisit government has been an action replay of Chuan II in 1997.

With an economic crisis looming, pressure from the army and business caused parties in the ruling coalition to fracture, allowing the Democrats to stitch together a government, rewarding the splitters with plum ministries.

A key figure in that split was Watana Asavahem, now a fugitive from justice after conviction for massive corruption.

After two in a row, this is confirmed as the Democrat Party route to power.

But as a guide to the prospects for the Abhisit government, Chuan I looks better than Chuan II.

In 1992, the Democrats headed a coalition formed in the aftermath of the May 1992 political crisis.

The crisis had stirred up hopes for reform and progress in many forms, and these hopes were riding on the Chuan government. Similar hopes are now riding on Abhisit.

The Chuan I government did a relatively good job with the economy.

It reformed taxation, brought down tariffs, pushed for the Asean Free Trade Area, and completed reforms of the financial sector begun under its predecessor.

The economic impact of the 1992 political crisis was minimized because Mr Chuan's economic team was credible, foreign confidence was restored, and domestic business cooperated with government plans.

Growth revived after only a small dip. But other hopes for reform in the constitution, local government, judiciary, media, social policy, and the bureaucracy were sadly disappointed.

In almost every case, the pattern was the same. Conservative forces were able to manipulate the minor parties in the coalition to undermine proposals for reform.

Because the Democrats depended on these minor parties

for its majority, it was repeatedly vulnerable to this political blackmail.

Management of the fractious coalition sapped the government's energy and ultimately brought the Chuan I government crashing down in a slew of corruption scandals.

The finale was the Phuket-based SorPorKor-401k land scandal, which involved several Democrat Party members, but there were many others involving the coalition partners.

One coalition MP was indicted in the US for smuggling massive quantities of marijuana into that country from Isarn.

Two others were denied US visas for suspected drug involvement.

Another was embarrassed by the discovery of an illegal casino in his house.

One minister was suspected of masterminding a boom in oil smuggling.

Several government-related figures were involved in land scandals.

The way these scandals were exposed may also be a guide to this government's fate.

It was not the NGOs, academics, and other whistle-blowers that delivered the killer blow, but a group of young politicians.

Judging by their involvement in scandals under the following Banharn and Chavalit governments, they were not interested in cleaning up corruption, but taking it over.

Mr Newin was one of this group.

But then that is the beauty of democracy.



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# The Confession



Like all old and aspiring writers, I dream that one day, one of my many excellent and thoroughly popular novellas, none of which has been written yet, will be snapped up by a major Hollywood studio and turned into a multimillion-dollar blockbuster franchise that will allow me to sleep all day and give up ironing.

To accelerate this process, I have taken the liberty of jotting down a few notes, primarily to give the casting agent a head start.

*Scene One: An unshaven middle-aged man is kneeling in a confessional box, his eyes closed and his trembling hands clasped in prayer. On the other side, a priest is reclining in a deck-chair, watching the Miss World contest*

*on television, with the sound turned down.*

**Man:** Forgive me father, for I have sinned.

**Priest:** You must be joking! She's a moose!

**Man:** Father?

**Priest:** Sorry, I was praying. And how long has it been since your last confession, my son.

**Man:** Nearly three hours, father.

**Priest:** Three hours? You need to confess again after three hours? How many sins could you possibly have committed in just three hours? You shouldn't be so hard on yourself, my child. Come back in a couple of days, when you've racked up a few more.

**Man:** It's been a pretty busy three hours, father. I have had impure thoughts. And I have committed adultery. Oh, and I have killed a man.

**Priest:** Jesus Christ, what a great ass!

**Man:** Pardon me?

**Priest:** Er, sorry, I said, oh my, how did all that come to pass?

**Man:** Which part?

**Priest:** Start with the adultery and we'll take it from there.

**Man:** Yes father. Well, after my last confession, I went to the florist to buy my wife a dozen red roses.

**Priest:** Twelve red roses. Pricey. You must love your wife very much.

**Man:** Yes father, well, anyway, as the girl at the florist was wrapping the roses, she pricked her finger on a thorn and when she saw the blood she fainted.

**Priest:** Which florist?

**Man:** The one on Arlington Grove, near the dry cleaners.

**Priest:** Oh yes, she's a real looker that one. Great body, fabulous legs.

**Man:** Quite, father. Well...

**Priest:** So you had your way with her while she was passed out on the floor, right?

**Man:** (sobbing) Yes father. I couldn't help myself.

**Priest:** Wow, look at Miss Paraguay!

**Man:** What?

**Priest:** (frantically pressing the zoom button on the remote control). You said you killed a guy?

**Man:** Yes father. While I was committing adultery with the florist, her uncle came into the shop and saw me lying on top of her.

**Priest:** Oh, world peace!

**Man:** Sorry?

**Priest:** On his niece.

**Man:** Yes father. So he grabbed a knife and he starting running...

**Priest:** Ah, the swimsuit collection.

**Man:** What was that?

**Priest:** In your direction. Running in your direction.

**Man:** Yes father. But as he lunged

at me, he slipped on wet rose petals and impaled himself on the knife.

**Priest:** You've gotta love those legs.

**Man:** Legs?

**Priest:** What?

**Man:** You said, "You've got to love those legs".

**Priest:** It's a psalm.

**Man:** No it's not, Are you watching television in there?

**Priest:** No.

*The man opens his eyes, peers through the slats and sees the Miss World contest on the television in the corner of the priest's luxuriously furnished half of the confessional box.*

**Man:** Yes you are. I can see it from here. You are watching television while I am giving you my confession! Is that a lava lamp?

**Priest:** It's the praying channel. I'm waiting for the pope to come on.

**Man:** Is that girl wearing a bikini?

**Priest:** She's a sinner looking for salvation. And world peace, I think.

**Man:** World peace?

**Priest:** No, I tell a lie; world peace is Miss Guatemala. She's the one in the leopard-skin one-piece, third from the right, next to Miss Trinidad & Tobago.

**Man:** Great legs.

**Priest:** Doesn't she?

**Man:** So, anyway father, what do you think?

**Priest:** Oh I don't know.

**Man:** Don't know, father?

**Priest:** Well, I mean, she looks great in that swimsuit, but then Miss Mexico looked better in evening wear.

**Man:** No father. I meant what do you think about my confession.

**Priest:** Oh yes of course. Well, it's not good, I can tell you that much. Not good at all. So, what do you think?

**Man:** Me, father?

**Priest:** (his attention wandering back to the contest) Mmm.

**Man:** Um, well, I feel terrible about the whole thing, father. Truly very sorry.

**Priest:** Jolly good. That's the spirit. Are we done?

**Man:** No Hail Marys, father?

**Priest:** Forty-seven!

**Man:** I beg your pardon?

**Priest:** Sorry, they're voting.

**Man:** Would you like me to come back tomorrow?

**Priest:** Why, you planning on killing someone else?

**Man:** No. I mean you seem a little busy right now.

**Priest:** Sorry, what were you saying?

**Man:** I'll come back tomorrow

**Priest:** Right you are. But get here before twelve.

**Man:** Really? You have communion?

**Priest:** Early kick-off.

## In The Stars

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Those celebrating a birthday this week will enjoy a claim to fame during the year ahead. A creative scheme that is still bubbling under is set to take off by springtime. All Capricorns will start the year with good intentions, but these will need strong back-up. How you direct your energy during the first part of January will dictate your level of success for the rest of 2009.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Aquarians, still reeling from a busy holiday period, are advised to start the year cautiously. While your head is spinning with enthusiastic ideas, your practical skills will need to be more finely tuned. Listening to others is not your strongest point, but Pisces has mid-week information that could be worth its weight in gold. A romantic outing this Saturday leaves you hoping for more. Wear a piece of light amethyst to encourage tranquility.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Your serene mood attracts others and the social scene sparkles for Pisceans. If your plans to get away last month were hindered by circumstances beyond anyone's control, there is an opportunity to travel abroad before the middle of January. Libra is starting to look at you in a romantic way, but could expect more than you probably want to give. The number seven can bring some good fortune next Thursday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Work proceeds more smoothly than you anticipated during the first half of January. Arians who thought that a fragile project was doomed to fail will be relieved when a slow-moving Sagittarian finally signs on the dotted line. Your love-life, however, is subject to uncomfortable astral conditions at present. Allowing someone you're interested in to name the game is a recipe for disaster. The color mint green can encourage stronger insight.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): An unplanned trip turns into a magical mystery tour for Taureans this week. Scorpio could prove an ideal companion, but a Piscean's presence will prevent you from venturing off the beaten track. A late end-of-year money bonus should arrive by the middle of the month, but it would be wise to keep this good news to yourself. A secret admirer is forecast to reveal their identity early next week.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Although business may be thin on the ground, Geminis will be busy storing up knowledge for future investment. Where finances are concerned, it is advisable to pace yourself carefully this month. Snapping up bargains could be a temptation this weekend, but will lead to regret. Someone who turned down your romantic invitation in December is now regretting that decision. The number nine can bring some good luck on Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): A demanding week lies ahead for most of those born under the sign of Cancer. You are advised to back up computer work mid-week as the stars suggest that some kind of hitch could occur. A deadline is also forecast to be brought forward, which will probably mean burning the midnight oil early next week. On a more positive note, flirtation with Scorpio this weekend is exactly what you need for a self-confidence boost.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Your home is your castle during the first half of January. Many of those born under the sign of Leo will be fired up to undertake renovations, but a partner may be less than enthusiastic. Your powers of persuasion will be strongest this weekend, so use them well. A work-related matter takes up more time than it should mid-week when a water sign has trouble making up their mind.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Your desire to escape a trying situation prompts action this week. Virgoans, who know that their good nature has been taken advantage of recently, will see a means of escape. Tuesday is the best day for airing your feelings coherently. Where love is concerned, a spontaneous gesture on Sunday shows that your interest is reciprocated. Financial records should be checked carefully before making payments before the middle of the month.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Librans commencing the year with debts will benefit from a mistake made in their favor. A bureaucratic appointment, early next week, is forecast to reveal that your bank balance is healthier than you thought. More positive news comes in the world of work when you are offered the chance of promotion. Even if the monetary rewards are less than you would like, this is an opportunity not to be passed up.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): This weekend you learn why a friend has been acting like a cat on a hot tin roof. However, your help could be stretched to the limit and it would be wisest to suggest that someone able to offer a better solution is consulted. As the month of January gets underway, it's advisable for Sagittarians to pay attention to their health – incorporate plenty of orange-colored fruit in your daily diet and make time to exercise.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Delays in business could get you down this week, but Scorpions will soon see that slow and steady is better than fast and furious. Those who are single find out from a friend that Cancer is curious – this person could prove to be the calming influence that you need. A dream you have this weekend sheds light on a puzzling family affair. The number four is lucky next Thursday.



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# Chery QQ3 to offer a cheap ride in Thailand



By Jeff Heselwood

Chinese manufacturer Chery has entered the Thai market with two models, the diminutive QQ3 and the Tiggo SUV. The company expects to deliver around 5,000 cars a year, although in the current economic climate, that may prove a little optimistic.

Thai Chery Yarnyon Co. Ltd., is a joint venture between Thai Chia Tai Group and Thai Yarnyon. The company will assemble Chery automobiles from semi-knocked down (SKD) parts supplied from Chery's manufacturing plant in Wuhu in mainland China.

Although owned by the local government of Wuhu, the larger SAIC outfit based in Shanghai is a major investor.

At the launch of the Thai Chery brand in Hefei, the provincial capital city of Anhui, chairman of Chery Yarnyon, Vithit Leenutaphong said, "We are not only the distributor of Chery in Thailand, we will also promote Chery's development in this market, making it a brand recognized, favored and pursued by the majority of customers. We will create a successful Thai Chery story to equal the Chinese Chery story."

In many markets, including parts of the Middle East, India and South Africa, the QQ3 is without doubt the cheapest auto available. However, no prices have yet been quoted for the Thai vehicles.

In 2003, Chery founded a research and development organization, quickly designing its own 3- and 4-cylinder engines. Despite the progress, Chery was

sued by GM Daewoo for copying that company's Daewoo Matiz. Chery claims that they licensed the vehicle design prior to General Motors' purchase of Daewoo. During Daewoo's bankruptcy in 2001-2002, Chery was able to source a number of engineers from South Korea's Daewoo, and those engineers took with them a complete set of plans and went on to create Daewoo vehicles at Chery.

In July 2007 Chery signed a deal with Chrysler to produce cars in China for export to the US company's dealers in North and South America. Several delays occurred, mainly due to quality control and safety concerns, and in early December 2008, at a time when Chrysler was seeking a bail-out from the US government, the plans to produce jointly-branded cars was shelved.

The Chery QQ3 is termed a 'mini city car' but it is fully Euro III compliant thanks to the Chinese company's tie-up with Austrian engine development company AVL-List. The smallest motor is a three-cylinder 800 cc gasoline powerplant, while there is also a 1.1 liter, 16-valve version available. Power outputs are a modest 52 bhp (38 kW) and 67 bhp respectively. Drive is through either a five-speed manual gearbox, or in the case of the larger engine, a four-speed automatic can be specified as an option.

Despite the low price, the QQ3 is surprisingly well equipped. It has power windows, power steering, central locking and other features that you would generally find on higher-priced sedans. The interior, though, is - in a word - cheap. It comprises acres of plastic and little in the way of real creature comforts.

The upper model, however, comes with dual airbags, ABS, air conditioning, a reasonable audio system with MP3 capability and a manual sunroof. Both models feature folding rear seats in a 60/40 split for versatility.

The QQ3 is undoubtedly a small car, with little in the way of



Despite the low price of the QQ3 'mini city car', it is surprisingly well equipped with power windows, power steering, central locking and other features that you would generally find on higher-priced sedans.

comfort or add-ons, but as short-journey transportation, it would be hard to beat in terms of value for money.

The Chery QQ3 has already been successfully launched in Malaysia and the Philippines. The cars are gradually becoming more

visible on the roads, particularly in Manila, but given the current economic crisis, it remains to be seen whether Thai Chery can bring the brand to Thailand in the immediate future. If they do gain acceptance here, it will be at the expense of the more established

Japanese sub-compacts, such as Honda's Jazz and the small Toyotas and Nissans.

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

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## The good old boys get it on

By Atchaa Khamlo

FOOTBALL: Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan on December 19 joined fellow Chulalongkorn University graduates in a football match at the Surakul Stadium to promote the schools Southern Region Graduate Tour.

The matches saw current Chulalongkorn students team up with former alumni who are now well-known public figures. It was the third leg of the tour, which has seen matches played in both northern and central Thailand.

Some 200 spectators were treated to two matches that saw the footballers divided into separate age groups. One match was open to players of all ages, allowing past and present students to line up alongside each other. The second match was restricted to players aged 45 and over.



The two southern teams contained two former or current students per province. These played against two sides from Bangkok. In the end both teams from the capital emerged victorious, winning the open-age match 4-0 and enjoying a 2-1 success in the senior encounter.

Suppasit Nuanpranwarachai, secretary of the committee that organizes the annual Chulalongkorn vs Thammasat match that is the highlight of the school's annual alumni calendar, told the *Gazette* the next event will pit alumni from the 14 southern provinces against their counterparts from Nakhon Ratchasima.

## Students fill Surakul Stadium



ATHLETICS: Dressed in their school colors, hundreds of students from government schools around the island competed in the province's annual inter-school athletics meet at Surakul Stadium from December 21 - 23. The young athletes were supported by their peers, marching bands and cheerleaders in traditional dress. The games are organized by Phuket Provincial authorities with the aim of promoting healthy lifestyles and harmony among youth.

Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

## International fame for young footballers

By James Goyder

FOOTBALL: Eight boys from the Youth Football Home in Phuket were honored by HRH Princess Siriwanwaree Nareeratana after winning an international football tournament in Sweden.

The boys were invited to the palace after winning the under-11s section of the Gothia Cup with Thomrong Thai FC.

Cameras from all the major television stations were present as the boys paraded the trophy they had won in Sweden to Her Royal Highness.

All seven boys who started the final for Thomrong Thai FC under-11s came from the Youth Football Home in Phuket, an orphanage for boys from impoverished circumstances who show a particular aptitude for football.

The Gothia Cup, which takes place annually in Gothenburg, is the biggest youth football tournament in the world. Thomrong Thai FC won the final 2-0 with Nonthawit Onting, from the Youth Football Home, scoring both goals.

Nonthawit, who also finished as the competition's top scorer, told the *Gazette*, "I was really pleased to score the win-

ning goals. The other team was from Switzerland and they were much bigger than us, so it was great when we beat them."

It was the first time any of the boys had left Thailand and despite the 51,000 crowd at the opening ceremony, the Youth Football Home footballers were not intimidated.

Nonthawit said, "Sweden was fun. I wasn't scared and it was good that so many people came to watch us play. One day I would like to play football in Europe, maybe for Liverpool!"

The Youth Football Home was built on eight rai of land near Wat Muang Komaraphat in Thalang and opened in May 2006. It consists of a dormitory home for 32 boys, a residential building for staff and a full size football field plus training areas.

At the moment there are 32 boys living and studying there as well as a full complement of qualified staff to look after the children.

Hannu Tuukkanen, a former professional footballer from Finland, is the sports manager at the Youth Football Home.

He said, "We give a home and an education to boys who don't have parents or whose parents can't afford to educate them.



Under-11s Gothia Cup winners from the Youth Football Home.

The boys are selected according to footballing ability but it doesn't matter if they are not the perfect footballer, the main thing is they should love football."

The Youth Football Home is still in its infancy but one boy has already been selected for trials at English Premier League side, Manchester City.

Whether the current crop of youngsters succeed in the footballing world or not, an education at the Youth Football Home will ensure they have all the necessary skills to succeed in life.



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## Property Updates

## Phuket versus the world Russian property buyers target Phuket

The world has just witnessed one of the greatest reversals in its economic history. While the past has dealt us a global depression, two world wars and stock market crashes, to name but a few, none of these have affected every country and every asset class in the way this most recent crisis has.

For its part, Thailand has experienced its own share of problems of late: a coup, an election, mob rule and airport closures, again to name but a few.

The immediate impact on the Phuket economy is proving severe, much like the impact of the

Asian crisis, the 2004 tsunami, and the 2006 coup. Throughout these periods, real estate managed to hold its value and after a brief hiatus, prices continued to move steadily upward. The underlying strength in the market has a lot to do with Phuket being essentially a cash market.

The recent global meltdown of financial markets has certainly affected a lot of people's investment strategies and impacted plans for retirement. We have seen some buyers withdrawing from purchases, leaving an opportunity for others to buy-in at lower price levels. Timing is now more crucial than ever and anyone buying off-plan will be in a good position with the current market.

Since the second quarter of 2008, currencies such as the Australian and New Zealand dollar, sterling and the euro have witnessed an extreme drop in value,

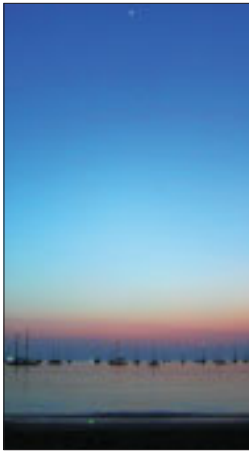
particularly against the US dollar. The US, birthplace of the financial crisis and world economic meltdown and the country with the largest deficit, is now printing new money as fast as it can. You may ask yourself: is this really happening?

We may see the fallen currencies rise against the dollar, restoring some semblance of normality, or it may be a case of the US leading us into this mess, and the market leading us out. Recent chart analysis points to this only being a short-term rally.

The world's wealth is currently migrating towards China, India, Russia, and Asia – and these countries are likely to be the economies that recover most rapidly from the crisis.

Conventional wisdom would suggest that the recent political and economic environment would have triggered a depreciation in the baht, although recently it has continued to rise. Logic dictates that once the political situation improves in Thailand, so will the economy and the strength of the baht. While the stock market currently remains at a multi-year low, it will not stay around the same levels once the present political problems are resolved.

Anybody currently purchasing property in Thailand is in a good position. The underlying value and investment return remain strong as Phuket continues to move forward as Asia's premier holiday and retirement destination.



President and Chief Executive Officer of the O'Neill Group, Patrick O'Neill speaking at the 2008 DOMEXPO International Real Estate Show in Moscow.

Patrick O'Neill is the president and chief executive officer of the O'Neill Group, a real-estate advisory firm based in the US and Hong Kong.

O'Neill was key speaker at the 2008 DOMEXPO International Real Estate Show, held in Moscow, where he talked about the impact of the Russian and East European visitor segment on the Phuket property market.

According to O'Neill, the property buyer profiles closely match the visitor arrival profiles for resort destinations like Phuket. Although no official government statistics are available, O'Neill stated that nearly 15% of the total sales in Phuket made by the Richmond Group were from Russian purchasers.

In 2007 the European tourist sector accounted for over 30% or 1.4 million of the estimated five million visitors to Phuket,

with the Russian market accounting for fewer than 8% of European arrivals.

In 2008, the Russian visitor count is expected to increase by over 40%, placing it as the third-fastest-growing visitor segment behind Eastern Europe and Finland.

Prior to the recent political and financial events, Phuket airport arrivals were projected to continue the increased arrival trend which began in 2005, with a 65% increase forecast from 2005 to 2008, according to O'Neill. Current year-to-date figures indicate that the total arrival count may retreat slightly from 2007.

Annual Phuket average hotel occupancy for 2007 was 65%, with projections of 70% in 2008 prior to the political turmoil, according to O'Neill.

Year-to-date occupancy figures now suggest annual oc-

cupancy may stabilize around 60%. Average hotel occupancy in Phuket for 2006 was 61%.

Despite the temporary leveling off in the numbers of visitor arrivals, the future of the Phuket property market remains very strong, according to O'Neill, partially because most developments and individual sales are completed without financing or leverage.

"The economic fundamentals remain very strong for the Phuket real-estate market, including the proximity to the capital cities of Asia and Europe, direct flights, affordability, medical tourism and the booming retirement segment," said O'Neill.

O'Neill predicted that the Russian impact on the real-estate market would continue to grow, and combined with the East European segment, could account for over 20% of the market in 2009.

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## Construction

## Patong

# New Patong spa resort on the way

Located at the top of Patong Hill and overlooking Patong Beach, the first phase of Jacuzzi Suites and Pool Jacuzzi Suites, developed by Sea Pearl Villas & Spa, is approaching completion.

In March, 24 units are to be unveiled; the first installment of a resort that declares, "Lifestyle luxury has reached new heights".

A total of six phases are scheduled for completion, although the sixth stage, the Grand Pool Villas, is to be undertaken on a built-to-order basis, ensuring tailor-made luxury for the prospective clientèle.

Construction of phase two began in December 2008 when the addition of a further 24 units was initiated.

The developer aims to have the subsequent set of Jacuzzi Suites and Pool Jacuzzi Suites available for leasehold customers by June of this year.

In late 2009, developers will commence phases three to five.

In the coming three years, the new developments will double

the existing number of units, including 32 properties available for freehold ownership.

In addition to the suites, work on the Clubhouse – a feature designed to complement the residents' luxurious lifestyle – will commence in June 2009 with a view to being finalized in December 2010.

The luxury residence is the brainchild of Sumit Soontornnont, a 20-year veteran of the construction and property development industry.

Once complete, the 39-rai resort will offer potential clients three different lifestyle options, from the "fun and sexy" Jacuzzi suites to the opulent Grand Pool Villas.

A professional team was selected by Mr Sumit to oversee the design and development of the project, ensuring that the best interests of future owners are met.

The result, he promises, will be contemporary and stylish villas, elegant interiors and comfortable décor throughout.



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As a boy growing up, I remember being driven through the suburbs of many American towns and cities, particularly the outskirts, down by the railroad tracks. I would occasionally spot a depression-era wooden house, its paint peeling, with barren patches of grass and a hypnotic neon sign with the words "Psychic Readings - Know Your Future" illuminating the starless night.

I never did make it into one of those shady establishments, right out of a scene from *The Last Picture Show*, but, perhaps, if I had, I might have gleaned an inkling of what was to come in 'Black October' in the year 2008.

Looking back just 12 short months, oil was being touted to hit over US\$200 dollars a barrel, Hillary Clinton was pegged as the next US president and

Thai politics was in turmoil. Well, at least we can depend on one thing remaining a constant. Now, as I write, with the price of oil hovering around US\$37 a barrel, Barack Obama's arrival in the Oval Office anticipated with much the same fervor as the second coming, and the Thai democratic process continuing its roller coaster ride, it is clear there have been some dramatic changes in

# Predicting the year ahead

the lay of the land over the past year.

As we head into the New Year, the obvious question remains - what happens next?

Sadly, I am no descendant of Nostradamus, and given my larger-than-average frame, I'd scarcely fit down Alice's rabbit hole. That notwithstanding, there are clear signs emerging of what will come to pass in the coming



## PROPERTY WATCH

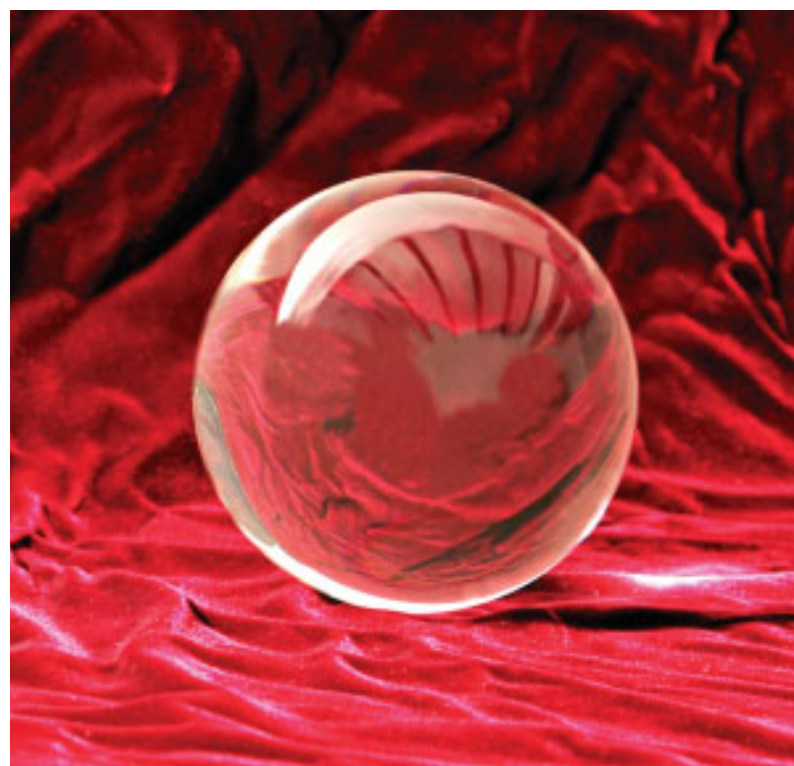
By Bill Barnett

12 months. We are, without doubt, heading into a time of turbulence and crisis, the like of which most of us will never have experienced. Its effect will be felt throughout the world, across region and right here, by you and me. It will get worse before it gets better, with predictions of eventual recovery seemingly deferred with each dire installment of financial news.

Staring into my café latte, a sorry substitute, I admit, for a crystal ball, I do foresee some fundamental changes affecting the property market here in Phuket. First off, there is the issue of supply and demand. The segment incorporating upscale 4-

5 bedroom villas on the west and east coast - be they oceanfront or significant ocean view - will most likely continue to trade at a premium. Given the substantial entry barriers for developments and the limited inventory of new and re-sale units, the key offerings in the first half of 2009 are the Amalfi and the new Banyan Tree Grand Residences, which are now providing a non-rental pool option. The top end of the market looks set to retain its lustre. This, as you are about to see, however, is the exception to the rule.

The middle and lower segments are experiencing a substantial oversupply of existing product. With re-sales gathering pace, new projects are starting to show signs of a serious slowdown. These segments are looking vulnerable to a price re-alignment, bridging the current gap between prices being offered by owners and developers and what prospective purchasers are willing to pay. The current lack of parity has led, in the past few months, to a number of existing projects with unsold inventory offering discounts in the region of 20-30%. The 'vulture' buyers have begun to circle, expecting large write-downs over the coming six months. It needs to be acknowledged, however, that these



**PREDICTION:** It will get worse before it gets better; predictions of eventual recovery seemingly deferred with each dire installment of financial news. Image: Rivendell PhotoStock.

buyers are speculators and are not indicative of the larger marketplace. What is expected is that retail pricing will hold, but substantial discounts will be absorbed by those wishing to transact in the current maelstrom.

While property values will not, as a whole, decline, the market will plateau for an extended period. Moving forward, we will see only limited sales volume, in keeping with current global trends. An absence of debt in the marketplace is both a blessing and a curse. With the unavailability of financing to foreigners, who dominate the market, there is little existing leveraging. In an extended crisis, bank foreclosures in markets with significant domestic content, such as Bangkok, will come into play and over the longer term, drive market values down.

Here in Phuket property remains basically a cash trade, so while there is no danger of large scale property devaluation, new foreign buyers coming into the market cannot mitigate risk and get financing for new sales, which, in turn, severely limits short- to medium-term growth potential. Many cash-rich regional and Asian investors are

now looking to markets such as North America, Australia/New Zealand and even Europe to capitalize using debt leveraging.

As we look further into the future, an extended downturn will correct any supply-and-demand inequities and new launches will be limited until the existing supply can be absorbed into the market. This will create a good platform for longer term upward momentum. Risk profiles have shifted, with existing product out-trading off-plan in order to limit perceived development risk. For 2009, the general consensus is that it is going to be a challenging marketplace for property, so it's best to buckle up and hopefully steer clear of those potholes on our journey into the future.

*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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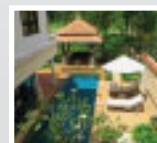
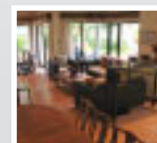
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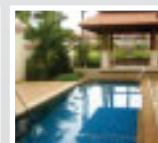
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Laguna Townhome II THB 23.95 M



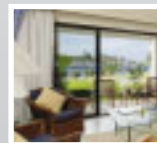
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2 Laguna Village Townhome I THB 20 M



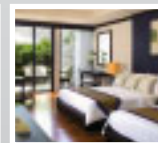
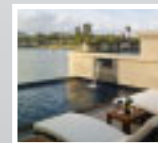
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3 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 8.5 M



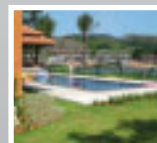
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## Home of the Week

# Lots of Land & House for a big family

**L**ocated in Nantawan 2, Land & House Park in Chalong is this privately owned luxury three to four-bedroom house, with private tropical landscaped garden, all surrounded by palm trees.

The garden area incorporates a sizeable swimming pool, Jacuzzi and sala, as well as a large attractive fish pond, which comes complete with waterfall feature and is already stocked with Koi carp.

The spacious 2-storey villa covers around 380sqm of floor space and the lower level is laid out with cool, solid marble floors.

The bedrooms on the second level have parquet floors.

Air conditioning is fitted in all rooms, while solar heated water and the option of grid connect solar electric power are also available at cost price.

A sauna and spa is available for use at the sports and fitness complex in the Land & House



Being inside the Land & House Park ensures peace and tranquility amidst European style architecture and tropical gardens.

Park grounds, which is only a five-minute walk away.

There, you will also find a restaurant that offers a home delivery service.

The western style kitchen features an open-plan design with easy-to-clean clean marble flooring.

The property comes fully equipped with built-in cupboards, breakfast bar, appliances and utilities, including a dishwasher, cooker/oven with hob, microwave, fridge/freezer and washing machine, all of which are included in the sale price if required.

Three bedrooms contain fitted wardrobes and a king size bed. One of the bedrooms features an en-suite bathroom, a large balcony surrounded by palm trees and overlooks the spacious pool. The fourth bedroom is currently fitted out as a large dressing room but is being used as a home office.

The very spacious open-plan dining and living area houses a large built-in Aquarium, attractive solid marble floors split on two levels and a sliding patio door

providing easy access to the garden.

A conservatory with sliding glass doors opens out onto the pool, with an outside shower and laundry room situated at the rear of the house.

One of the two bathrooms, which include toilets, comes fitted with a glassed-in bath tub and shower with an advanced type solar powered water heating system.

Outside, the private car park is secured by a remote controlled electric gate.

This beautiful property would be ideal for a family, being situated in a safe, quiet, park-like residential setting.

Situated centrally on the island it offers easy access to schools, amenities and shopping facilities, while its location a few hundred meters inside the Land & House Park ensures peace and tranquility amidst European style architecture and tropical gardens.

This exceptional property is offered for purchase as one of two options:

## Option 1.

The house is sold with 800 sqm of land, including the large swimming pool.

Price: 13,500,000 baht.

*Note: this is twice the normal large house land plot area in the park.*

## Option 2.

The house is sold with 600 sqm of land without the swimming pool (but with sufficient area to build your own smaller swimming pool).

Price: 9,950,000 baht.

*Note: 600 sqm is 1.5 times the standard large house plot size in the Land & House Park complex.*

Located at Nantawan 2, Land & House Park, Chalong Phuket the property is situated on 800sqm of land which is twice the normal large house plot size within the park.

For more info contact Kay at Phuket Andaman Real Estate. Email: [info@phuketandamanrealestate.com](mailto:info@phuketandamanrealestate.com) Tel: 081-7370552.

Live the Dream...

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- 3-4 bedroom single storey villas
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- Villa size 2,666 sq. ft. +
- From THB 26.8 million



[www.royalkamalaphuket.com](http://www.royalkamalaphuket.com)

## An ideal lifestyle on the delightful island of Phuket

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**Starting from 2.3 million baht.**  
(Free Hold Unit)

For more information call the sales office:  
**085-3683009, 085-9063009**



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale



### Beach Front Land For Sale Khao Lak/Phang Nga

45 Rai chanote title. Ideal for hotel or residential. Adjacent to 18 hole golf course. Near tourist attractions. Paved road access to major highway. 40 mins from Phuket International Airport.

Direct Sale by Owner  
Tel: 086-378 4841  
paradiseland.phangnga@gmail.com

### HOUSE IN KAMALA

Price reduced to 3.9 million. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, next to Print Resort and Kamala Beach. Tel: 086-277 3381.

### LAGUNA AREA

Townhouse, 200 sqm, 2 bedrooms with office/storage. Sale: 14 million baht; Rent: 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 3960.

### LAND IN MAIKHAO

7 rai, 1.7 million baht per rai, near Westsands. Chanote and public road. Tel: 083-633 4994.

### NEW HOUSE

for sale/rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, True TV, internet, 300m from Heroines Monument towards Pakhlok. Sale 3.7 million baht. Rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-264 6808, 083-174 3880.

## NEW STUDIO APARTMENTS IN RAWAI

4 new apartments with shared swimming pool. Kitchenette, Bathroom and Terrace.  
Only 1.9 million baht.  
Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

### 3.5 MILLION BAHT OFF LIST PRICE



5 mins to Kamala Beach, 4 bed, 5 bath plus 2 car garage. Studio apt above large pool. Western kitchen, furnished, UBC, WiFi. 370 m<sup>2</sup> home on 700 m<sup>2</sup> of land. Quality build inside-out. Tel: 084-850 0568.

### HILL HOUSE AT KATA

for sale. Sea view, 600sqm for total area. Two-story house with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, parking, pool. Nice location, 5 minutes to Kata Beach. Can adapt for 2 apartments for rent. Please take a look and ask for price ono. Tel: 087-689 9679.

### 3 BEDROOM HOUSE

for sale or rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bath full furnished. 2 km from Heroines monument. 17,000 per month. Sale 2.6 million baht. Tel: 083-103 6578.

### INEXPENSIVE HOUSE LOTS

Chanote titles. East side, electricity, 1/3 to 1 rai, price from 850,000 baht. Tel: 086-942 1930.

### NAIYANG GARDEN VILLA

1 rai with 4 houses. 7 bedrooms and bathroom, swimming pool, fully furnished. 2km to beach, 5km to airport. Sale only 8 million baht. Tel: 081-891 9346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

### FREEHOLD, RAWAI



27sqm, studio, furnished, 200 meters from the beach. Asking 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawaii1@yahoo.com

### IDEAL LOCATION IN PATONG

1 rai 1 ngan (2,000sqm) of street frontage land in Patong - close to Phuket Palace Hotel for sale at 50 million baht. Contact John. Tel: 076-294393, 089-724 1505. Email: unique\_property@hotmail.com

### KHAO LAK VILLA

Newly built villa in pristine location 20 km north of Khao Lak. 2 Bedroom, 2 bathroom. Big community swimming pool shared by 9 houses. 600 meters to a true paradise beach. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

### CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

New building with 5 big A/C rooms, ground floor comprising of shopfront and kitchen with main road access, cable TV, internet, tel line, etc. Potential for business. Contact Wiyada at 083-593 4490. Email: cj2820@yahoo.com

### 8 BEACHFRONT LOTS

for sale. Now only 4 left! Coconut Island (Maphrao), half rai for 2.75 to 4.4 million baht. 8% fee to brokers Royal Coast Company. Contact K. Apple. Tel: 076-353926 or 081-693 2791. Or simply email to: angpaos@mac.com

### PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherng-Talay and Surin. 4.3 rai, 1ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-956-2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

### 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: 081-539 9269.

### PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-944 2065, 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

### VILLA + LAND



for sale. Quick sale near Heroines monument, 12.9 million baht + clear land 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-690 7057.

### SEAVIEW LAND



4 rai prime sea view land for sale in Kata. Reduced to 9.8 million per rai. Tel: 081-273 5047.

### 4 RAI SEAVIEW PLOT AO POR

Gently sloping hillside land along Ao Por beach road. Tel: 076-528014, 087-270 5959. Email: gary@dubanko.com For further details, please see our website at www.aoporphuket.com

### ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276-5117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

### CHANOTE, 29 RAI

at 1.6 million baht per rai. Nice and cheap land 12 minutes from Phuket airport. Located 200m from main road, electricity/ water well/ road access to the land. Good for housing project. Tel: 081-539 9269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## Absolute Beach - Front Land

at Maikhao Beach

For sale or long lease. Plot: 1-22 rai



Contact Khun Suchon: 081-8936355

www.Phuket-villa-property.com

We've got it... 08 72 72 03 03

### DOUBLE VILLA IN KATA



Panoramic sea views - 5 bedrooms, 466sqm living space, 36sqm pool with Jacuzzi, 4 minutes from Kata Beach. Ready to move into. Only 24 million baht. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

### LUXURY POOL VILLA



Large 600 sqm pool villa, 5 mins to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished. 16 million baht. For sale or rent. Tel: 081-734-4324. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

### SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 082-411 2138.

### BRAND-NEW HOUSE

For sale in Baan Suan Loch Palm. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Price: 10.5 million baht. Urgent sale! Tel: 087-279 9500.

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# Property Gazette

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Seaview land/house.  
Tel: 081-539 9269.  
Website at:  
[www.janproperty.com](http://www.janproperty.com)

**SINGLE HOUSE RAWAI**  
300m from the beach and close to Nai Harn beach. New house 200 sqm + 50 sqm guesthouse. Large gardens, wonderful hill views. 3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, big living room and terraces, furnished, aircon, Cable TV. Quick sale, reduced to only 5.5 million baht. Call Davide at 083-181 4418.

**FREEHOLD PATONG**  
New condo, private road, security, 2 pools, fitness quality and good potential for profit. Tel: 083-391 8720.

**HOUSE IN RAWAI**  
for sale. Corner unit, 26 sq wah. Price 990,000 baht. Tel: 086-952 9517. Email: condo tel@web.de

**SEA VIEW CONDO 7.2M BAHT**  
Spectacular sea view, 100 sqm. 2 bedrooms, 5th floor. Security entrance, corner unit, wrap-around glass windows, parking, roof top pool/bar, furnished, phone, DSL, 40" HDTV, washer/dryer, deluxe kitchen and trim. Overlooks Patong Bay. Tel: 076-340792, 087-882 2858. Email: scuba1959@msn.com For further details, please see our website at [http://www.phuket-tropical-realestate.com/more\\_detail.php?id=111852](http://www.phuket-tropical-realestate.com/more_detail.php?id=111852)

**LUXURY VILLA IN KATA HILL**  
3 bedrooms, landscaped garden, swimming pool, jacuzzi. Includes all furniture. Only 18 million baht.  
Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

**AGRICULTURAL LAND**  
for sale. 120 rai of agricultural land for sale, 20km from resort area of Khao Lak. Total price 3.84 million baht. Please telephone 087-020 0191 for further information.

**BIG HOUSE, HONEST PRICE**  
3 bedrooms, pool, 700 sqm of land. 6.5 million baht or nearest offer. Must sell. Tel: +66-86-683 1964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

## BIG COLONIAL HOUSE



Anuphas Golf View, built 2005, 600 sqm, living space, 2 floors with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, dream kitchen, large foyer, large dining and sitting area. Separate entertainment room and snooker room, maid's room. On a 1,700sqm tropical garden. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-587 8173.

## NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL. Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-677 9837, 089-646 4786. Email: sync\_koji@hotmail.com

**LAND IN PHANG NGA**  
for sale. 9.8 rai working fruit farm, 300+ trees, 5 fish ponds, 2 farm houses suitable for fishing park, 5 kms Phang Nga, 45 mins Phuket airport. Chanote title deed 5,800,000 baht Tel: 086-274 0056 English or 085-151 0823 Thai.

**VILLA IN NAI HARN**  
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, western kitchen, aircon, room for pool. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.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

## LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-180 2143.

## NAI HARN POOL VILLA SALE!

Beautiful house, only 5 years old, on 850sqm of land. New 60sqm swimming pool, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, living room. Fully furnished. Two terraces, garage, carport, nice tropical garden. Very quiet location. Chanote land title. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 076-388633, 086-682 9709. Email: weidner@loxinfo.co.th

## URGENT SALE

House in Kathu. Good price townhouse. 2-story, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Tel: 089-288 8519.

## SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG

for sale. On Rat-U-Tit 200 Pi Rd. 13 million baht. Fully furnished, 7 bedrooms. Contact Khun Ae. Tel: 089-472 9895.

## PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

## TOWNHOUSE IN THE PROJECT 'THE INDY'



at the entrance to BIS. Townhouse is at the corner and adjacent to the project's public garden. 2 floors, 6.5 meters wide, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Land: 32sq wah. Tel: 089-472 9118.

## CORNER BUILDING OFF BYPASS

2 units, 24 + 33 sq wah, 4 stories. Located opposite Kejmukda restaurant, 300m from the Bypass road. 7-Eleven is on the ground floor. Price for the building is 15 million baht. Tel: 081-893 6630. Fax: 076-241 408. Email: baansorada@hotmail.com

## 3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA

in Rawai for sale. Big bedrooms, full kitchen, big garden with private pool, aircon, secure, great location. Telephone: 085-783 1890.

## COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai. Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha Tel: 089-290 0484.

## NICE HOUSE FOR SALE

ManeeKram Village, between Central Festival and Chalong. 609.20sqm 2-story house with swimming pool. 3 bedrooms with balconies, aircon, 3 en-suite bathrooms with hot water, dining room, kitchen, parking and garden. Use of Village Clubhouse facilities. Rent: 65,000.-baht. Sale: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-892 4735. Email: noksk@samart.co.th

## KHOK KLOI HOUSE

2.9 million baht, 4 years old, 118sqm house on 904sqm plot. Quiet area, 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, big kitchen, aircon, phone line, 2 car covered parking. Chanote. Tel: 081-728 4821 or 081-693 2759.

## CHEAP LAND SALE

7 Rai Maikhaio Beach. Chanote, public street, 1.9 million baht. Tel: 080-719 3785.

## SEA VIEW 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. Take Thap Tawan beach road to Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km south of Takuapa. Tel: 081-894 7644.

## NEW BUILDING FOR SALE



in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

- \* 4-storey
- \* 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
- \* Chanote title
- \* Electricity, water
- \* 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price:

52 million baht.

Tel: 087-2709093,  
081-8687676.

## Your Total Property Solutions



### Condo in Blue Canyon Home 1

Location : Thalung  
Type : Condominium  
Area : 254 Sq.m.  
Br/Bth : 3 Brs 3 Bths  
Price : THB 17 M  
Remark : on the hills and sea view.



### Royal Phuket Marina

Location : Koh Kaew  
Type : Condominium  
Area : 154 Sq.m.  
Br/Bth : 2 Brs 2 Bths  
Price : THB 19.5 M  
Remark : Fully furnished, sea view.



### Baan Suan Neremitt

Location : Rawai  
Type : Thalung  
Area : 540 Sq.m.  
Br/Bth : 5 Brs 5 Bths  
Price : THB 12.8 M  
Remark : 3 minutes from Heroines' Monument

## Buy-Sell-Rent Properties

- Land at Baan Don  
Thalang  
170 Sq.w.  
land for sale located in Laguna area.  
Price THB 3.5 M
- Sea View Land at Por Bay  
Por Bay, Phuket  
4.4 Rai  
Panoramic sea view land.  
Price THB 8 M per Rai
- Vacant Land  
Mai Khao  
6-1-6 Rai  
Good location in quiet area.  
Price THB 4 M per Rai



# Property Gazette

## NEW 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT IN KATA CENTRAL

60sqm. furnished. Use of swimming pool, parking & restaurant.  
Only 2.9 million baht.

Tel: 084-0639223 or 081-7888280

## PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15<sup>th</sup> fairway for sale. Reduced price. See [www.fairway15.com](http://www.fairway15.com) Tel: 081-894 1994.

## GOLFVIEW ROOM + GOLF MEMBERSHIP

5th floor Golf View Condo. One bedroom. 58 square meters. Includes golf club membership. Tel: 089-488 0955. Email: [together@myway.com](mailto:together@myway.com)

## HOUSES, BANGTAO

for sale. 2-3 bedrooms, from 3 million baht to 14 million baht. Tel: 087-268 8752. For further details and photos, please visit our website at [www.phukethome.ws](http://www.phukethome.ws)

## AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. Priced from 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: [allservices29@gmail.com](mailto:allservices29@gmail.com)

## TWOVILLAS RESALE

Private pool villa, fully furnished, 1-4 bedrooms. Location: Nai Harn/Bangtao. Price starts at 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970-0742. Fax: 076-613114. Email: [sales@twovillas.com](mailto:sales@twovillas.com)

## COMMERCIAL RAWAI

88 sq wah, 32 meters frontage on busy Sai Yuan Rd. 4.9 million baht. Good investment. Tel: 085-794 2675.

## HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaipruek Village at Land & House, Chalong. Good location and entrance from By-Pass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

## BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Please contact via by email: [allservices29@gmail.com](mailto:allservices29@gmail.com)

## CHALONG SEA VIEW

2-story twin house, 36 sq wah, 3 bedrooms with airconditioning, garden, sea view and mountain view. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-697 0928.

## MAI KHAO HOUSE

for sale. One-story single house, 3 bedrooms with built-in furniture, big dining room and kitchen, large garden with big trees, area 305 sq wah. Only 5.5 million baht. Tel: 089-697 0928.

## 600-800 SQM PLOTS

Land close to Mission Hills available. Prices starting from 995,000 baht per plot. Telephone: 089-224 3153.

## HOLIDAY HOME 499,000 BAH

Fractional ownership in high end apartment on Koh Lanta. Great opportunity for an excellent holiday home. From only 499,000 baht! Tel: 089-839 8255. Email: [info@lantaestate.net](mailto:info@lantaestate.net)

## LAND MUST SELL



190 metres of beach frontage, 7 rai (can split) with view of Yacht Haven Marina, secure title. Road access, electricity, water, ready to build. Best investment. For sale at only 35 million baht or best offer. Must sell. Tel: 081-343 0777.

## RAWAIYA SUITES CONDOMINIUMS



Rawai Beach, 1 and 2 bedrooms 65 sqm 3.96 MB, luxury 2 bedroom 130 sqm 7.5 MB, en suit bathrooms, fully furnished, Ready to move into first quarter 2009, rent out in high season, fully facilities, freehold available, 500 meters to Rawai Beach. Tel: 076-289910, 086-475 9258. Fax: 076-289910. Email: [sales@tharadonestate.com](mailto:sales@tharadonestate.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.tharadonestate.com](http://www.tharadonestate.com)

## LUXURY ESTATE

Ocean front villa in Phuket. Impressive property, fully furnished. Freehold, 4 million Euros. No agents. Tel: 087-284 9541. [Villa@Phuket-No1.com](mailto:Villa@Phuket-No1.com)

## OFFICE FOR SALE IN PATONG

Serviced offices with long lease for sale at Patong Beach. Prime location with sea views, 500 meters from the beach and Bangla Road. Total area 460sqm. Ready to move in. Would suit real estate office/exhibition center. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 076-292255, 087-015 9206. Email: [david@freedomleisuregroup.com](mailto:david@freedomleisuregroup.com)

## QUICK SALE

Only 5.1 million baht, near Laguna. Thai-style home. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room. Tel: 087-893 8590.

## LAND BETWEEN CHALONG/RAWAI

for sale. 2,788sqm with chanote title. Price 6.8 million baht. Tel: 089-885 4517.

## KOH SIRAY LAND



4 plots of land on Koh Sireh, park view, 480sqm each, beach, Chanote title, concrete road access, 300 meters from new yacht marina. Asking for 1.5 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-536 9252. Email: [sppcnx@gmail.com](mailto:sppcnx@gmail.com)

## LAND PLOT FOR HOLIDAY HOME



Project Baan Nam Khem, 24 units, mountain & lake view, amid a green cashew nut plantation, 10 min. walk to pristine beach. Price: 1.2-2 million baht/plot. Contact Maneerat. Tel: 081-812 0388. Email: [mgrueneberger@yahoo.de](mailto:mgrueneberger@yahoo.de)

## HOUSE IN KATHU

for sale. 2 bedroom, aircon. Moo 6 Katha. Price 1.2 million baht ono. Call (Eng) 085-1407826, (Thai) 087-8846572.

## QUICK SALE

5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms at 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-894 2009.

## PATONG BEVERLY HILLS

Luxurious villa for sale, Nanai Rd, close to Patong Beach hillside. Big pool, fantastic sea view, 2km from the beach, 5 bedrooms, 650sqm living space, huge private garden, very large spa house, walled property, fully furnished. No agents. Only 65 million baht. Please contact via by email: [allservices29@gmail.com](mailto:allservices29@gmail.com)

## PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Duplex renovation project directly on 15<sup>th</sup> fairway for sale. Reduced 'fire sale' price. See website, then call or mail for further details. Tel: 081-894 1994. Email: [tom.fekete@gmail.com](mailto:tom.fekete@gmail.com) Visit <http://www.fairway15.com>

## PATONG GUESTHOUSE



5 rooms with bathrooms for sale. Can use for a business or restaurant, Nanai Rd. Price 8 million baht. Tel: 081-676 7709.

## MODERN POOL VILLA

near BIS. Ground floor, 3 bedrooms. 14.5 million baht. Phuket Villa Property. Tel: 087-272 0303.

## URGENT SALE

Mai Khao, 700 metres to beach. Near West Sands. 2.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-633 4994.

## SEA VIEW 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. Take Thap Tawan beach road to Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km south of Takuapa. Tel: 081-894 7644.

## NICE 5 BED HOUSE

Perfect house for a family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-891 5296. Email: [hkthomesale18@yahoo.com](mailto:hkthomesale18@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website at: [www.jikkycar.com](http://www.jikkycar.com)

## SARIYA HOUSE



320sqm plot. 2 story luxury villa with sea view. 3 bedrooms (1 pool-side and 2 with balconies overlooking pool), 3 en-suite bathrooms, fully-fitted kitchen with top-line convection oven, spacious open-plan living and dining area, large jet stream swimming pool, roof-terrace with stylish sala & double car-port. Fully furnished with air-conditioning.

- Price: 13.6 million baht  
- Type: Villa  
- Location: Soi Kerry off Sai Yuan Rd., Rawai/Nai-harn  
- Contact: Khun Kob  
Tel: +66 (0) 895892662.  
Email: [sariyapat-t@hotmail.com](mailto:sariyapat-t@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.siriyahouse.com](http://www.siriyahouse.com)

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### RAWAI BEACHFRONT



house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon. True TV. ADSL, furnished. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

**CHALONG NEW HOME**  
2 bedroom home with telephone, UBC and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Or send an email to: anandaestates@yahoo.com

### ROOMS / CONDO FOR RENT

I have rooms from 18,000 baht per month. Call me (Maria) or email for details. Tel: 084-845 0003. Email: m@bayproject.com

**THAI VILLA AND POOL**  
In Nai Harn 1km to beach, very quiet location, stunning view, 2 bedrooms, en-suite Jacuzzi, open-plan lounge, diner, European kitchen, private garden with parking. Long term: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

**KATA AND KATHU**  
rent. Nice view, fully furnished, long-term. Kata: 17,000 baht; Kathu: 25,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 0991.

### RAWAI BEACH POOL HOME STAY



Private bedroom, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, Wi-Fi, cable TV. 3,500 baht weekly. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

**LUXURY POOL VILLA**  
2,000 baht daily. Laguna, furnished, Jacuzzi, BBQ, security. Has everything. Tel: 089-594 4067.

**HOUSE IN KAMALA**  
2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fully furnished, aircon, short or long-term rent, near beach. Tel: 086-277 3381.

### NEAR CHALONG CIRCLE

New, quiet, 2-bed property with pool. Beautifully furnished, aircon, phone and UBC. 30,000 baht per month, long term only. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuketsuperhome@gmail.com

### NEW HOUSE (BANDON)



for sale/rent near Laguna. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, just bring your bag. Price negotiable, 1-year contract. Tel: 089-874 2960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com Website: www.phuket-on-tour.blogspot.com

### NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and 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 collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383-0936.

### NEW CONDO

28 sqm, furnished, 1 bedroom, aircon, TV, ADSL, fridge, kitchen. Great location on Thepkasattri Rd. 12,000 baht per month (negotiable). Tel: 076-310334, 081-893 6414. Fax: 076-310296. Email: bb\_powerz@yahoo.com

### PATONG TOWER

1 bed nice condo on beach road. Tel: 084-847 3304. For further details, please see our website at www.selectphuket.com

### RAWAI HOUSE / FLAT

for rent. Fully furnished, swimming pool, ADSL. Direct from owner. For further details, please see our website at www.ferienthailand.com

### KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS

New, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. Large Western teak kitchen and bath, 130sqm, large seaview terrace, pool, parking. Weekly, monthly and long-term rates available. Serviced also available. Tel: 089-592 6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

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### PATONG TOWER CONDO-A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280° panoramic views of the sea, hills and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap-around balcony. Comes completely renovated, with Internet and washing machine. Available from October 12. Tel: 011-86-13816344147. Email: txxzt@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.patongtowerrental.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: 081-692 3163.

### FOR RENT PATONG BEACH

Condotel 56 sqm, nice apartment, 7 floors 1 bedroom, kitchen, living, aircon, TV, cable, ADSL. Tel: 081-891 3740.

### KAMALA BUNGALOWS

First class furnishings, gated private estate. ADSL, True, plasma TV. Long term only. Tel: 081-811 1067.

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Beautiful 2 bedroom villa with private pool. Close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully furnished, aircon. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Available from mid February, min 6 months. Please call at: 081-970 1716.

### RAWAI BEACH POOL VILLA



1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 24,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### NEW HOUSE IN KATHU



for rent. 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom, European kitchen. 5 minutes to Patong, close to Loch Palm Golf course. Fully furnished, 2-story, big balcony. Tel: 081-440 0101. Email: nahja@yahoo.com

### SINGLE HOUSE

for rent. Thalang monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 081-537 0033.

### LAGUNA TOWNHOME

Long-term only, on golf course, 4 beds / baths, includes privilege card. 85,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-873 6151. Email: stuartr@lagunaphuket.com

### CENTRAL PATONG

Large luxury penthouse and 2 bed / 2 bath apartment currently available for rent. Great location - just minutes (2 kms) from the beach, Jungceylon and Patong's nightlife. Full aircon, large communal pool, free parking, free UBC, free WiFi, LCD, surround sound etc. Full info & photos available upon request. Tel: 076-512259, 085-071 7134. Fax: 076-512259. Email: robinson kevin@mac.com

### 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT KATA

New building includes elevator, pool, restaurant, gym and parking. Walking distance to beach, shopping and nightlife. For rent or sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

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# Boats & Marine

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## NEW PORTABLE FISH FINDER

LCD screen, transducer, max depth 99m and water temp reading. Tel: 076-613264, 084-8501387. sent email to: dominic@hitemp.za www.directimports.co.za

## 32 FEET CATAMARAN

built 2007/8 from plywood and epoxy fibreglass. Plenty of space, nice to live on. 720,000 baht. Tel: 087-092 9921. Or, please send email: joe\_anusara@yahoo.com

## 30FT MOTOR YACHT

Beautiful Sea Ray Sundancer. Fully loaded. 300 hours. 2.3 million baht. Immediately available Tel: 076-317538, 085-111 1455. Or email: uvved@avia-star.com

## DEEP-SEA FISHING BOAT

40ft-long, 12ft-wide, 18-ton fishing boat for sale. Will be at the shipyard during week 40-41 for service. Fully equipped for fishing, snorkeling. Diving no problem. Capt and deck crew available. 1.8 million baht. Owner moving to Philippines. Tel: 087-2825008. Email: katafrog@hotmail.com

## YACHT-ROD SAILING CATAMARAN

Fun Performance Cruiser. Tel: 089-587 1862. Email: mmcgrath2@hotmail.com See website for more details. <http://www.typhoonsails.com/stiletto.html>

## FISHING BOAT

43 ft Thai fishing boat. Hino Diesel engine, Borg Warner trans (new), outriggers and more. For quick sale, a bargain at 300,000 baht. Pic available on request. Tel: 076-388478, 083-520 7308. Email: gerrybfoster@hotmail.com

## SPORT FISHING BOAT

6 metre custom built centre console mariner 115hp, very low hours usage, great boat for share with friends, 550,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-849 2804.

## NEW COBALT 262

Brand new Cobalt 262 for sale. Top of the line bowrider with full options. Canded red graphics, fully transferable warranty. Lying Phuket, VAT paid, ready for the high season! Tel: 084-442 5460. Email: phuket@starshipyachts.com

For further details, please see our website at <http://starshipyachts.com>

## FLYBRIDGE BOAT

for sale. Brand new 36 foot fiberglass boat. Perfect diving, sightseeing or fishing vessel. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

## 18 FOOT "A" CLASS CATAMARAN



fully overhauled and unused since. New trampoline, sheets, blocks and new two-pack international paint. 9 meter rotating mast, trapeze harness and beach wheels. New trailer with kit box. Very light, very fast, ready to sail. Located Rawai. Priced for quick sale, 150,000 baht. Tel: 085-7829 020. Email: marcus@puriti.org

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Demo boat with 50hp Tohatsu. Fiberglass. L: 4.7m, W: 1.9m. Max speed: 30 knots. Price: 550,000 baht inclusive of trailer and Bimini. Tel: 087-889 6904. Or please sent to email: arottes@frisurf.no

## AFFORDABLE RENTALS

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## LODESTAR DINGHY

3.4 metres with Yamaha 15 hp outboard. Price 48,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-543 0980.

## BRAND-NEW BOAT

Brand-new flybridge boat. Fiberglass. Offers. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

## 12 FOOT SEARAY JET BOAT

Very fast 90 hp jet boat. Lots of fun. Low hours. Comes with trailer. Call Joseph for details Tel: 089-874 4635. Email: kirkasia@hotmail.com

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## 32FT CATAMARAN

4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area, 9 HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Tel: +6-87-461 8089.

## BOAT TRAILER

Excellent condition. New winch, 6.4 meters. Only 26,000 baht. Contact Dorn. Tel: 089-474 1520.

## DINGHY

4m Cholamark built, 1 year old, 40hp Yamaha, optional center console, 8-person life raft (needs inspection), kayaks, BCDs, regs, etc. Tel: 086-952 0772.

## SPEED BOAT, 33FT

Wooden hull, equiped for diving. Yamaha 2x200hp. Contact for more details. Tel: 080-080 9912.

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VISION GLOBAL TRADING offers:

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Boats are Navy Blue Navurania Italy Hypalon construction and come with:

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- fresh water shower, and
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These CE compliant boats are brand new, direct from our factory, and will be on display at PIMEX, Phuket's boat show, 4-7 December 2008. Contact Tel: +61-2-47313388, +61-2-4147-49042. Fax +61-2-4731-3399. Email: alison.ward@visionagi.com Please visit our website at [www.marine.visionagi.com](http://www.marine.visionagi.com)

## SECURE BOAT STORAGE

Two locations, one on the water with ramp. Call or email for details. Tel: 087-270 2841. Email: piratespizza@gmail.com

## HOBIE 16, NACRA 580

Both in very good condition. Hobie 150,000 baht; Nacra 290,000 baht. Contact for details. Tel: 089-470 8926. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

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New 2008 model coming soon for PIMEX 2008. Full options, many upgrades, high speed, free test drive available. Tel: 087-030-6688, 081-821 4060. Email: sales@sunnnav.com

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Newly-renovated 38-foot Morgan yacht from 1984. Very beautiful and well maintained. First to see will buy. Price: \$69,000. Contact for details. Tel: 089-520 8503. Or sent to email: nips63@yahoo.com

## CRANCHI ENDURANCE 41

Italian sports cruiser for sale, 2005 model, fully equipped, excellent condition throughout, twin Volvo Penta 350hp D6 engines, 30 knots cruising. A true luxury performance cruiser. Contact for full details. Tel: 076-273378, 084-442-5460. Email: phuket@starshipyachts.com For further details, please see [www.starshipyachts.com](http://www.starshipyachts.com)

## COROL 25 SPORTSBOAT

Corol 25 Alan Warnick designed sportsboat built in 2007. She is 25ft with 175hp Suzuki engine and has twin-berth cabin and toilet. Only US\$25,000. For details contact Jurg Hofer. Tel: 076-273476, 081-978-6086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: jurg@phuket-yachts.com

## DINGHY

3.1 metres with Yamaha 15hp, red, hyperlon, 2.5 yrs old, good condition. Contact for more details. Tel: 081-7874690.

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# Island Job Mart

## MANAGER NEEDED

**TEERA MOTORCYCLES**  
DISTRIBUTOR IN: BIGBIKES, CAYAGO SEABOB,  
LUXURY PRODUCT IMPORTER,  
SPARE PARTS & ACCESSORIES

POSITION: Sales Manager (Phuket branch)

CRITERIA: Preferred, male with experience  
Mechanical knowledge (extra consideration)  
Motorcycle knowledge  
foreign background/English speaking  
Have some sales experience  
Available to live in Phuket

JOB DESCRIPTION: will be advise on interview

**Plz contact Alex 081-8053010**  
**BKK Office 02-2140399, 02-6138599**

## KAMALA PRIVATE DELUXE VILLA

A private deluxe property located on  
Kamala Beach is looking for

### VILLA MANAGER

#### Qualifications:

- Man or woman
- A couple could be considered on condition that each one has different skills
- Having experience in hotel management or villa management with references
- Able to liaise with Estate Agencies and promote the villa
- Speaking very good English and having good computer and internet skills
- Driving licence obligatory
- Free accommodation and meals

Interested persons, please send your cv and salary requirements by email/fax to:

**Mrs Thipakorn INNACHITRA,**  
Personal Assistant

Tel: 02-883-2302-; 02-883-2303, Fax: 02-883-4184

**Email: tinnachit@gmail.com**

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### Scandinavian Sales Reps.

Absolute are currently recruiting Scandinavian sales reps to help us promote our exciting product at our sales centers in Phuket, Samui and Pattaya.

If you are young at heart, motivated, enthusiastic and able to work as a team player then this could be your lucky day. Full training given, work permit and company medical insurance supplied. There are also some limited positions for German, French and English speaking professionals.

Please submit your resume to the given e-mail address for more information

**Email: Thailandjobs@ClubAbsolute.com**  
**Website: www.clubabsolute.com**

## PAUL ROPP

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

An international clothing brand located at the Royal Phuket Marina seeks;

- 1. Shop Assistant 1 position**
  - Experience in retail a must
  - Good in Microsoft Office
- 2. Shop Associate 2 positions**
  - Experience in retail beneficial

Applicants for both positions should be good in both written & spoken English, be enthusiastic, highly motivated people, with a love for fashion!

Please send your CV with a recent photograph to Khun Por at

E: pr.phuket1@paulropp.com

M: 084 293 7923

visit us at [www.paulropp.com](http://www.paulropp.com)

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**SILK**  
restaurant & bar

**SILK RESTAURANT & BAR** is a well-established and high-profile stylish Thai restaurant. We are seeking motivated and dynamic professionals to join our Sales Team in the positions of:

#### SENIOR SALES & MARKETING SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR

(1Position)  
(1Position)

- Thai nationality with degree in Sales & Marketing or related field.
- At least 5 years' experience with background in sales & marketing for Thai restaurants. Tourism background is preferable.
- Strong communication skills with customers at decision-making level. Should be aggressive in the pursuit of sales and independent.
- Very pleasant personality, self-starter, creative with good interpersonal, presentation & organization skills.
- Good command of English language, MS Office skills & others.
- Knowledge of Phuket's hotels and travel agents a definite advantage.

#### SILK ENTERTAINMENT LTD.

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#### Phuket Branch Position:

Receptionist/Administrator: 3-5 years of administrative experience, good personality and service-minded, interpersonal skills, good computer literacy and ready to start immediately.

We value our staff and offer competitive salaries, bonuses and benefits, including health insurance, annual firm retreats and provident fund.

Persons interested in the above position should send a letter or email to the firm together with current resume or curriculum vitae and a recent photograph.

#### Please send all inquiries to:

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Mulvana, de Angeli & Associates Ltd  
Suite 1205, M. Thai Tower, 12th Floor  
All Seasons Place, 87 Wireless Road  
Lumpini, Pathumwan,  
Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Or email: [personnel@mulvanadeangeli.com](mailto:personnel@mulvanadeangeli.com)

**NO TELEPHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.**

### GERMAN STAFF WANTED

Looking for German speaking staff, aged between 20 and 30. Tel: 081-737 3580.

### SECRETARY WANTED

Good English a must. Thai nationality. Personal assistant for director. High responsibility. Flexible. Tel: 081-537 6866. Email: [info@platinumresidencepark.com](mailto:info@platinumresidencepark.com)

### RUSSIAN LADY WANTED

Italian journalist looking for Russian speaking lady for office work. Knowledge of computer absolute necessity. Period of work from now until 20 March 9. Tel: 089-196 8472. Email: [puccio@meteve-phuket.com](mailto:puccio@meteve-phuket.com)

### AUTOMATION SALE

Salary range: 40,000 to 75,000 baht. Experience an asset. Must have technical knowledge, and be skilled and able to read electrical drawings. Thai national, own car. Please send CV to: [info@elec-pro.com](mailto:info@elec-pro.com)

### THAI EURO FOOD

Chef needed for Thai-Euro food restaurant in Patong. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-827 8442. Email: [wojidkowbengt@hotmail.com](mailto:wojidkowbengt@hotmail.com)

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# Island Job Mart

## Staff Wanted Urgently Thais that speak English Well

to work in the marketing department and provide information on Real Estate to Tourists  
No experience necessary  
All education background welcomed

Send Resumé to:  
**Eleanor@nsre-thailand.com**  
Call: **076-346-282**  
Fax: **076-346265**

Marketing Company seeks Thai nationals, male or female, for the following position:

### Freelance Sales Staff

- High Standard of spoken English required
- Previous sales experience
- Personality and smart presence

Enjoy flexible working hours and good rewards.  
Maximize your potential!

For an interview, please telephone **076-381232**  
and send your resumé and photo to  
**enquiry@thai-infocenter.com**



### Executive Housekeeper

We are looking for an Executive Housekeeper with pride and passion in all that they do to look after our 83 luxury pool villas and our wonderful Housekeeping team.

To be successful in this role you will need to be a perfectionist and a problem solver, creative and stylish, energetic and resourceful.

Experience in a 5 star resort as Executive Housekeeper is essential. Knowledge of Opera would be advantageous.

If you would like to be part of the Anantara Story please submit your CV with covering letter to email address **recruit\_phuket@anantara.com**

Good Luck with your application!  
Anantara Resort Phuket, Mai Khao Beach



Looking for a

## Creative Designer

Candidates must have the ability to consistently deliver strategic advertising and marketing design solutions across all print and digital mediums.

### Qualifications

- University degree in a design related field
- 5 years relevant experience in an advertising agency
- Mastery of Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign
- Knowledge of Flash and 3D Max

### Skills

- Excellent English skills
- Able to fully understand and take client design briefs
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- Must possess a car and driving licence

If you feel that you have the necessary skills and would like to join in our success, please email us your resume with links to your best work and expected salary.

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### LEADING REAL ESTATE AGENT

is looking for Office Assistant that can take care of general administration and secretarial duties. Basic computer skills and a good command of written and spoken English are the main requirements. Tel: 081-787 1108. Please send your CV by email to : **info@tropical-homes.net**

### PHP PROGRAMMER WANTED

for 2 month project. Tel: 087-888 1921. Email: **admin@idevelop.tv**

### BOAT CHARTER ASSISTANT

A dynamic boat sales, service and charter company is looking for a BOAT CHARTER ASSISTANT who:

- is Fluent in English and Thai
- is Independent and Creative
- is Service Minded
- has Own Car
- has Experience in operation/marketing of luxury boat charter/tours or 5\* services.

Local knowledge of nearby islands would be an advantage. Tel: 081-979 9911. Fax 076-239056. Email: **moo\_yongs@hotmail.com**

Marketing Company seeks Thai nationals, male or female, for the following positions:

### Sales Staff

- Strong command of spoken English
- Previous sales experience
- Personality and smart presence

### Receptionist & Office Administrator

- Good command of spoken and written English
- Pleasant personality and people skills

Good salary package for the right candidates.  
Please send your resumé and photo to:  
**enquiry@thai-infocenter.com**

### SWEDISH / NORDIC

travel consultant. We are an expanding travel agency located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish/Nordic travel consultant, 25+. Computer/Internet knowledge is essential, as is a past in the travel industry. Pedantic organizational skills and a really good knowledge of Thailand are much desired. Please apply by email. Tel: 076-246427, 081-787 9454. Fax 076-246180. Email: **andersp@loxinfo.co.th**

### INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ADVISORS WANTED

Mature and motivated individuals with finance and/or strong sales skills for Phuket and Thailand businesses. Please send resume to Marine: **careers@pp-intl.com**

### NEW TOP COCKTAIL

Lounge bar on Surin beach is looking for experienced barmen and waitresses. Must speak English. Good salary. Contact Thomas. Tel: 086-475 9408.

### PHARMACIST

Female Pharmacist wanted for new concept store opening soon. Salary: 40,000 baht per month. Must be friendly and speak good English. Tel: 085-619 7492. Email: **farangmart@gmail.com**

### CHEF WANTED

Chef needed for new restaurant in Karon. Must have experience cooking Farang food. Tel: 089-590 3923. Email: **logbass@hotmail.com**

### RESTAURANT STAFF NEEDED

European/Thai restaurant looking for cook, cook's helper, bartender, waiter, waitress. Tel: 085-336 0231.

### PHUKET VILLA PROPERTY

in Kathu needs a marketing team. Good conditions. Contact Khun Marc for more information. Tel: 087-272 0303.

### EXECUTIVE

Secretary. Real estate and adventure company. Sales + marketing experience, English and computer skills. Email: **klasseds@yahoo.com**

### SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVE

We need an enthusiastic and highly motivated person to create, follow up and develop sales. Based in our Phuket Town office. Thai national wanted. Must speak English, good communication skills and have own transport. Full training given. Very attractive salary package - good basic, expenses + high levels of commission - potential for high earnings. Please contact: Khun Orawan Tel: 076-512746, 087-417 8860. Fax: 076-512747. Email: **admin@aplusplussoftware.com**

### PART-TIME FEMALE WANTED

for a small restaurant in Karon. Tel: 081-891 4019. Email: **tkoschig2000@hotmail.com**

### MARKETING STAFF

Eden Divers Phuket needs Thai female staff to do marketing for diving tours and collect money around the island. Contact Andy for more information at Tel: 085-765 4677.

### A NEW LUXURY HOTEL

located in Kata Beach area, is scheduled to open mid 2009.

We are seeking qualified persons to join our team for the following positions.

- Human Resources Manager
- Financial Comptroller
- Food and Beverage Manager
- Front Office Manager
- Chief Engineer

Interested candidates, please send your application and CV to **somyot@u-success.co.th**

### Employment Wanted

### TUTOR AVAILABLE

English tutor for hire. Tel: 085-765 0556, 085-524 3395. Email me at: **dirkvan66@yahoo.com**

### EUROPEAN RESTAURANT

European restaurant in Patong is looking for staffs:

- Cook
- Cook helper
- Bartender
- Waiter / waitress

Tel: 085-336 0231. Email: **zsuzsau@hotmail.com**

### THAI WOMAN

I can read, write and speak very good English, very good German, and basic French. I have good computer skills. I have my own car. I am trustworthy and reliable. If you are looking for a good worker, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email: **patty.bamert@gmx.net**

### SPECIALIST DESIGN

kitchens. Dutchman, specialized in design kitchens and bathrooms, with a lot of experience in renovation and general interior building, is looking for opportunities. I have excellent communication skills, live in Phuket, and speak fluent English, Dutch, and French - and fairly good German. Tel: 085-156 9084. Email: **richard19@hotmail.fr**

### PAINTER/ECORATOR

30 years' experience in England. Seeking work in the Phuket area. No job too small - give me a call! Tel: 085-460 8487. Email: **bobhammond@hotmail.co.uk**



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### NEW POOL SALT CHLORINATOR

Self cleaning, fully electronic, never use chlorine again! 30,000 baht installed. GUARANTEED. Tel: 084-850 1387. Email: dominic@hitemp.co.za

### RECUMBENT EXERCISE BIKE

Want to buy a recumbent exercise bike in good condition. Can collect if the right bike found. Tel: 081-892 7948. Email: jypenman@phuket.ksc.co.th

### GYM KATA

for sale. equipment only. New paint and chromium. Tel: 086-120 3660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

### AUSSIE BAR OWNERS

10-year-old original car number plates for sale. Good for decoration. Offers welcome. Tel: 087-382 6997.

### ELECTRONICS SALE

DVD Players, Recorders, Titles, Home Theatre sets, etc. Email for details. Tel: 089-908 7350. Or email: wagner\_fin@hotmail.com

### 3 PIECE SUITE

3 seater sofa, 2 arm chairs, Italian suede leather, removable cushions. Aquamarine color. Original cost: 280,000 baht. Will sell for 20,000. Tel: 076-279346, 081-597 9744. Fax: 076-279 346. Email: peterb@jinet.com

### STATUE FOR SALE



Beautiful bronze statue of Bacchus, signed by the artist. Price: 120,000 baht o.n.o. Size: 1.60m high, 65 cm deep, 85 cm wide. Tel: 087-888 4769.

### GLASS FRONTED DISPLAY

fridge: 6,000 baht. X trainer exercise machine: 6,000 baht. Callaway Golf Clubs and bag, used once: 12,000 baht. Tel: 087-271 1280.

### BIKE JACKET AND FULL FACE

- Leather road bike jacket with body armor: 5,000 baht.

- Nolan full face Syncrotech helmet: 5,000 baht.

Second hand but good condition. Tel: 081-895 4480. E-mail for pic: mat@pcphuket.com

### 35 SUN CHAIRS

for sale. Adjustable teak chairs, 1-2 years old, need a varnish. New: 12,000 baht; now: 1,500 baht each. Contact Khun Poo. Tel: 081-091 3724.

### FOR SALE

New aircon: 35,000 BTU, 3 massage beds, all furniture and equipment for massage/salon. Contact Khun Zai. Tel: 083-635 6239.

### GOLD & SILVER

9CT gold watch: 6,000 baht. Lady's dress ring, emerald style: 3,000 baht. My ring: 7,000 baht. 9 CT, solid silver rose bowl: 6,000 baht. Tel: 087-922 3242. Email: patongman123@hotmail.com

### BABY / TODDLER STUFF

Imported quality Quinny Speedi SX, three-wheel baby/toddler stroller with Maxi-Cosi car seat (fits together). 10,000 baht. Good quality traditional dark wood crib with pads and mattress. 7,500 baht. Or everything for 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-282-795, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

### LG 42" PLASMA TV

Excellent condition, complete with wall brackets. Price: 24,950 baht. Tel: 086-943-3056.

### SIZE 41 WOMENS' SHOES, HOT!

I bought these on Ebay and they are too big for me. Turquoise leather, open-toe cork wedges, from the UK. Very unique and great condition. Price 650 baht. Email: sylvie@andamanavenue.com

### GAS GRIDDLE

Cost 20,000 baht, will accept 13,000 baht. Double 3-liter french fries machine. Will accept 10,000 baht. Both new. Located in Rawai. Telephone: 089-473 1351.

### CHILD CAR SEAT

Used child's car seat in very good condition. European safety standards. Suits child 9-18kg. 2,000 baht. Email: supanova999@yahoo.com

### FISHTANKS / AQUARIUM

2 fishtanks for sale: 300 liter with lights, pump, fish, plants. 150 liters with pumps, fish and plants. Very beautiful! Will sell cheap to good hands! Call to make an offer! Tel: 089-867 0424. Email: alikedive@hotmail.com

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### MOVING SALE

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### FURNITURE ELECTRONIC SALE

Moving sale. All beautiful and contemporary. For info call after October 20. Contact Ben. Tel: 087-897 5175.

### ARTICLES FOR SALE

1. Crafted wood antique vase.
2. Glass food display cabinet. Brand new: 7,000 baht.
3. Painting of Louisiana street scene. Best for restaurant, pub, bar.

Tel: 081-294 5441.

## Articles Wanted

### WANTED:

Metal detector with operator to look for lost property at Kamala Beach. Please contact Kat. Tel: 087-504 4232.

### WANTED: BOAT TRAILER

Twin axle boat trailer needed for a 9m centre console boat. Wood or steel. Must be in good condition. Tel: 081-081 5952. Email: messagejohn@hotmail.com

### RECUMBENT EXERCISE BIKE

Want to buy a recumbent exercise bike in good condition. Can collect if the right bike found. Tel: 081-892 7948. Email: jypenman@phuket.ksc.co.th

### PLAYSTATION 3 WANTED

Phuket resident wants to buy Playstation 3. Please contact me if you have one available. Tel: 084-855 7803. Or email: shellycider@yahoo.com

## Bulletins

### LADIES SOCIAL TENNIS

Anyone interested in getting a group of Ladies, 40+, together to enjoy social Tennis? Tel: 089-469 8100. Or email: didee51@yahoo.com.au

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-6564031, 081-8912895 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

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Wed and Sun 7 PM  
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Fri 7 PM  
Patong Hospital - Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 7 PM  
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Tues 1 PM  
Surin Beach - Surin  
Thurs 9 AM  
Krabi Hospital - Krabi  
Wed 1 PM  
(Additional Krabi meetings on request by contacting 084-4463933)

Scandinavian Speaking Meetings  
Wat Karon School - Karon  
Tue 7 PM and (Sat Nov-April only 7 PM)  
Tel: 086-9444940 SWE, 082-2702999 NOR

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @02-23118308 (for Thai language press 3)  
www.sathailand.org or email: info@sathailand.org

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### LOOKING FOR BOAT PARTNER

I am looking for someone in Phuket who is interested in buying a small speed boat, such as "Crownline", as a half owner. I live in Rawai. Please contact me, Gary, as above if you might be interested. Tel: 089-090 6969. Email: tropicalbreez\_1@hotmail.com

### TO MISS SUPALAK YAKLINOM

Eddie post, David in Patong, please call Thamapol in USA because he misses you very much. Cannot sleep until I hear your voice. Tel: 562 310 3492.

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**K.L. Mart** Tel: 076-280400/3  
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Thalang Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-211230

**Taurus Travel** Tel: 076-344521/2  
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## Business Opportunities

### STEAL MY GUESTHOUSE

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### BAR, BANGLA

for sale. Best soi on Bangla Road. 1 year 6 months on contract. Price 2.2 million baht ono. Tel: 089-587 2694. Email: djn1690@hotmail.com

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

Beach front hotel in Patong. 40 rooms, longterm lease. Now 15 million baht. 7 million baht after high season. Urgent sale! Tel: 087-279 6480.

### RESTAURANT IN KATHU

Small, but very beautiful restaurant (European cuisine) is for sale. Restaurant/kitchen equipment just like new. A bargain at 950,000 baht. Excellent opportunity with great potential for starting your own business in residential area where you are independent from tourism. The restaurant is in a 4-storied shop-house (with 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, living room and terrace). For all this you pay a lease rate of only 40,000 per month. If paid in a lump sum, the yearly rate is only 432,000 baht. See the website below. For further details contact the owner K. Orasa (087-518 8837) or Mr Peter (086-905 0056). Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.casadorasa.com>

### GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Good location with restaurant, 6 rooms, newly renovated, ready to run, includes website. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-069 1823.

### BAR & RESTAURANT

for lease. On Nai Harn/Rawai Road. Well established venue. 30 covers, 8 years lease. 12,000 baht per month. Built 2 years ago. All fixtures & fittings. All stock. Tel: 087-275-4867. Email: thaichips@yahoo.co.uk

### BUSINESS IN PHUKET TOWN

Business & company for sale in Phuket Town, 100m from Robinson. 3 story building w/ 100 sqm per floor. Shop (1st) and apartment (3rd). Rental agreement: 3/6/9 years. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-088-7640, 084-054 8137. Email: le.french.hype.bazar.phuket@gmail.com

### PATONG - 80M FROM THE BEACH

500sqm on Soi Post Office. Restaurant-Club-Retail space. 12-year lease, 90,000 baht per month plus 2 million baht key money. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-664 4050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

### HOME BUSINESS

that really works. Phuket resident shows novel new concept - not MLM. Website: [www.wealthwithlifestyle.com](http://www.wealthwithlifestyle.com)

### RESTAURANT & GUESTHOUSE

in Rawai 6 rooms, aircon, fridge, TV, DVD, company + 1 work permit. 1.9 million baht. Please contact Lars. Tel: 087-095 7547. Email: petter@oslogryta.net

### ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

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### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

18 rooms, bar & restaurant. Long lease, excellent location & work permit. 4.7 million baht. Tel: 080-697 1744.

### QUIET GUESTHOUSE

near Carrefour. 5 rooms, pool, fitness equipment & sauna. Small and beautiful. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-084 3415.

### BAR SALE PATONG OTOP

The Welcome bar at Patong OTOP is for sale at 650,000 baht or nearest offer. Please email or call Craig at Tel: 089-507 1311. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

### RESTAURANT RAWAI

50 seater, well equiped, TV, Hifi, fridges, freezers etc. Price 750,000 baht, no key money. Monthly rental only 10,000 baht, long lease. For more info, please call Tel: 082-277 4568.

### GUESTHOUSE

Baan San Rd, 6 room guesthouse with beauty salon bottom floor. Separate entrance to room, 4 years contract left. Selling due to getting bigger family. Asking 1,000,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 2573, 085-795 2101. Email: machawst@hotmail.com

### MASSAGE / BEAUTY SALON

in patong. 120sqm, 6 rooms, 5 massage chairs, 2 salon chairs. Tel: 081-495 4761.

### BURGER DINER

Reduced price. Excellent location. Great for franchise, good profits. Tel: 081-081 6078.

### RESTAURANT GUESTHOUSE

for sale. 700 sqm on 2 floors, Patong Nanai, 1.8 million baht. Tel: 089-048-5695.

### THAI KARAOKE BAR

Fully equipped, open 2 1/2 years, very popular, great location, established clientele. Will help with transfer. Evening viewings. Price 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-843 6400.

### FOR RENT

Rawai beach road, nicely furnished unit with aircon and terrace (100% sea view). Perfect location for coffee shop, ice cream, salon or cocktail bar. Rent 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 6297.

### SALE GUESTHOUSE

Kata near beach. Freehold, 7 bedrooms, 3 floors, 192 sqm, 4 units penthouse. Deposit 2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-276 6597.

### SHOPHOUSE WITH RESTAURANT

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with equip for lease. 3 years, 4 months contract. 300,000 baht, w/ rent at 8,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-948 8593.

### CHIANGMAI 1ST LOC RENT/SALE

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### BURGER DINER

in excellent location. Great for franchise, prime time to buy, sad to leave. Reduced price for quick sale. Tel: 081-081 6078. Email: skate1047@hotmail.com

### NANAI GUESTHOUSE

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### GAME FISHING BUSINESS

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Sales (new & used), service and repair. WLAN, etc. Tel: 084-625 7744. Email: computermanphuket@gmail.com

### CDMA SHARING

via wireless router. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-383575, 086-682 7277. Website: www.phuket-data-wizards.com

## Golf Stuff

### THE GOLF GURU

18 bay driving range, PGA golf professional lessons. Half hour 1,400 baht. Club repair available, bar open, one tray of balls 50 baht, good quality balls near Laguna. Tel: 089-731 9390.

### GOLF CLUBS

- Custom Clubmakers forged titanium 8 degree driver w/ graphite shaft
- Custom Clubmakers 3 wood
- Turbo 2 5 wood
- Custom Clubmakers 3-9 irons and pitching wedge
- Wilson Reflex sand wedge
- Choice of putters
- Nike bag.

22,000 baht, no offers. Please contact for more information.  
Tel: 076-273685, 087-278 9908.  
Fax: 076-273 685.  
Email: moretdan@gmail.com

## Personal Services

### MASSAGE AT YOUR PLACE

Enjoy traditional Thai, oil, deep tissue, 10 am - 9 pm Ms. Da. Tel: 089-050 3 945.

### AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER

Freelance photographer available for hire, over 10 years' experience, any occasion or assignment, contact Sakhorn. Portfolio Tel: 086-305 6372. Email: simpson38@yahoo.com http://simpson38.multiply.com

### INTERNATIONAL PSYCHIC

Julie Cook (UK) will be in Phuket from December 26 until January 9. Will be available for readings during these dates. Well known on various radio and TV shows in the UK. For information/booking please call after 26 December. Tel: 083-389 6137. Email: welshwytych@hotmail.co.uk

### ENGLISH LESSONS

Fully qualified native English speakers based in Patong. Business + conversational English, group or 1 on 1. Contact Tony. Tel: 084-841 4955. Email: tonyevans1@hotmail.com

### FLUENCY IN GERMAN

Teach until you use this language fluently. Tel: 081-250 4264. Email: sayfine@me.com

### NORWEGIAN TRANSLATOR

to translate from English and/or Danish into faultless Norwegian, long term. Tel: 089-971 4154. Email: junlevillage@gmail.com

### RELAX AND ENJOY

When you want a massage, please call Khun Jan on 084-729 9938. Massage in your home.

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players in Phuket. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5778443.

Take me home with you!



Soi Dog Foundation Tel: 081-7884222



# Wheels & Motors

## Saloon Cars

### BMW 323i, 2003

Sport package, perfect condition. Only 38,000km, black, new tires and brakes. Price 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-719 3960.

### MERCEDES BENZ VITO LIMOUSINE

2007. Massage chairs, TV + DVD, automatic doors, full luxury. Tel: 089-652 5664.

### HONDA CITY 1997

Gold, runs well, looks good, cd reliable. 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-972 6017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com

### MAZDA MX5

Soft & hard top, driven daily, really fun car to drive. 650,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-849 2804.

### NEW TOYOTA COROLLA 3/2008

new model, silver, automatic, 4,300km, alarm. Price 670,000 baht. Tel: 083-391 8720.

### TOYOTA YARIS FOR SALE

Model 2006/2007. Blue, 25,000 km, VGC. **485,000 baht.** Tel: 081-788 8280 (Eng), 089-971 8399 (Thai).

### TOYOTA VIOS G LIMITED 2007

Automatic, metallic silver, 7,000 Km, only 18 months old. One owner. Genuine sale 550,000 baht. Eng: 089-814 4584, Thai: 081-9121984. Email: chris.benn@th.g4s.com

### URGENT CAR SALE

Mazda Astina, year 1993, red, manual, looks perfect. Call Kuna. Tel: 081-893 5105.

### BMW E39 523 I YEAR 2004

Very well maintained, used few times, 30,000 km. Price: 1.45 million baht. Possible payment over 4-years at 5% interest with 350,000 baht down payment and 48 installments of 27,500 baht. Tel: 076-344818, 081-375 0016. Fax: 076-344057. Email: gphuket@gmail.com

### MAZDA 323 SALOON

1999, silver, alloy wheels, full electrics, new CD radio, excellent condition, farang owner. Price 245,000 baht. Contact Peter. Tel: 087-279 8286.

### 2006 HONDA CIVIC 1.8 I-VTEC

Auto, full options, chrome wheels, many extras, 35,000km, well maintained. Asking 650,000 baht. Tel: 084-446 4492. Email: rabbit\_tweety@live.com

### HONDA CITY ZX V-TEC 2006

31,000km, automatic, ABS, air-bag, 2005/45 ZR, 16" mags, 1-year warranty. 495,000 baht. Tel: 087-886 6766.

### VOLVO 2.3 T

Blue colour, very fast due to upgraded computer. Only 625,000 baht. Excellent condition w/ all service from Volvo. Contact. Tel: 081-091 7565. Email: vikas.malik@courtyard.com

### TOYOTA VIOS 1.5S

1.5cc. Sporty. Full options, brown. Year 2004, 84,000km. Tel: 080-695 0692.

### VOLVO XC90 T6 2006

Excellent condition, 34,000 km with full options including factory installed DVD/Navigation and rear seat TVs. New Volvo 20" wheels imported from Sweden for 240,000 baht. New price is 4.5 million baht, not including the wheels. I will sell for 2.95 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

### TOYOTA CAMRY FOR SALE

New Model 2006/2007. Dark Blue, 40,000km all options. Cost new: 1.75 million baht. Will sell for 1.2 million. Tel: 081-788 8280.

### FOR SALE: NISSAN SUNNY 1,800

Vip neo, leather, gold, 40,000km, 1 year full insurance, 4 years old. 475,000 baht. Contact. Tel: 089-854 0277 (English) or 086-441 7686 (Thai). Email: djxav@loxinfo.co.th

### NISSAN SENTRA 92

230,000km, good condition 120,000 baht. Tel: 086-064 8265. Email: qrospidou@hotmail.com

### NISSAN SENTRA 2000

New LPG, automatic, stereo, aircon, looks perfect. Supercheap asking price of only 99,000 baht. Tel: 089-728 6752.

### '98 TOYOTA SOLUNA

Excellent condition, 1.5 liters, 5-speed, power windows and locks. 255,000 baht. Tel: 081-003 6902. Email: contact@purist.biz

### CHEVROLET OPTRA

1.6 Estate, year 2005, 1 year of top insurance, family car, only one owner (farang), excellent condition. 510,000 baht. Contact Khun Porn at Tel: 076-661572, 087-274-0680. Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

### MISUBISHI LANCER

Auto gear, 99,000 baht, power steering, no rust, CD player, new aircon, service record, new tyres. Tel: 084-184 1856.

### 1990 TOYOTA CORONA

Excellent running condition. Female owner. Used daily. 1st class insurance. Aircon, power steering, electric windows. 105,000 baht (non-negotiable). Tel: 076-381523, 084-006 8736. Or email: intlicense@yahoo.com

### MITSUBISHI CEDIA VIRAGE

2004, limited edition. Immaculate condition. Black. Asking 450,000 baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-892 2248. Email: rajbalaguru@yahoo.com

### 1993 PORSCHE 928GTS

Described by the test driver at the Porsche dealer as the best 928 in Thailand. 2.4 million baht. Serious inquiries only. Tel: 089-472 4904. Email: dennis@hbdesign.biz

### SLK MERCEDES 200

1997, green. Perfect condition. 98,000km, full insurance. Asking 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-284 9690. Contact for more details. Email: fullmoonbeach@hotmail.com

## Pickups

### MITSUBISHI STRADA 2005

4-door, air-con, 50,000km, manual, 2WD. 250,000bht. Tel: 086-272 7636. Email: rewopnadia@hotmail.com

### HILUX VIGO PRERUNNER

34,000 kms. 550,000 baht. See pic below. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-847 5911. Email: atkin1200@yahoo.com

### CUSTOM VIGO

Best Vigo in Phuket. 2006/7. Road permit is valid for 1 year. Fully fitted inside and out. Excellent condition. Priced for a quick sale at 850,000 baht. Tel: 083-481 1203. Email: glory@12buzz.com

### NISSAN BIG M

115,000 baht obo. 1990, very good condition with newly rebuilt engine. Very reliable, many extras. Tel: 086-684 5368.

### MITSUBISHI STRADA 25 TURBO

2 small scratches in doors. Good condition. Insurance paid until August 2009. See for yourself. 350,000 baht. Call 076-285352 or 089-473 2377 for more details. Or email morten.pasby@gmail.com

### ISUZU D-MAX CAB4 3.0L TDQ

Silver. Hi-Lander Gold Series. Automatic, 12 months old, 14,700km. Full service history and warranty. Excellent condition, interior and exterior. Airbags, rear parking sensor, soft tonneau cover. 650,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 084-852 9877. Or please sent email to: virolinson@yahoo.com

### ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4



2003. 130,000km. Perfect condition. Runs great. 3.0L, automatic, only one owner. Price: 490,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-2709093.

### ISUZU DMAX 2008

Brand new, bought for 735,000 baht. Selling for 595,000 baht. Less than 4,000km. Call for information. Tel: 081-271 3045.

### 2007 FORD RANGER PICKUP

Like new, only 23,000km. Still has 13 months of factory warranty. Extras include alloys, maxi-liner, Carryboy box, and 3 months of first class insurance. Western lady owner. Living in Thailand; hence the low price of only 375,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 4480. Email: mat@pcphuket.com

### 2007 CHEVROLET COLORADO

4-door, common rail, 3.0cc, tax, insured. 395,000 baht. Tel: 084-441 3633.

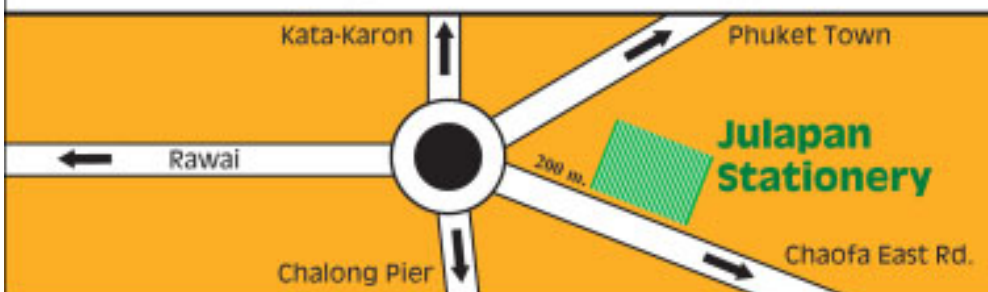
### MAZDA PICKUP

125,000km. Perfect condition. 100,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-9757672. Email: eric.jehannin@neuf.fr

### ISUZU D-MAX 4-DOOR 2004

2.5 manual, 100,000km, CD/DVD player, radio, TV. 399,000 baht ono. Good deal. Tel: 081-387 3809.

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# Wheels & Motors

## 4 x 4s

### MITSUBISHI 4WD 2.8L

Silver, new tires, CD, engine battery with warranty. Sale 250,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 0991.

### ISUZU MU7, 4WD

Black, 4 months old, 2,540km. Price 950,000 baht. Tel: 087-281 4024.

### G-WAGON - FOR SALE BY EXPAT

2004 model. Good condition, 2.8L turbo diesel, automatic, 4WD, leather interior, and CD stereo. Full insurance, 490,000 baht. Tel: 076-260468. Or email: ops@theestategroup.com

### RANGE ROVER '04



Blue/blue, excellent condition, includes license plate #9 (value 220,000 baht), o.n.o 43,002km. Price: 3.9 million baht ono. Tel: 089-866 2121.

### TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

Late 2005 model, perfect condition, automatic, loaded. 510,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 2841. Or send an email to: piratespizza@gmail.com

### TOYOTA FORTUNER

2007, auto 4x4, full insurance, 3.0cc diesel, airbag, ABS. Rental for long term (6 months): 40,000 baht per month, or 12 months: 35,000 per month. Tel: 089-591 9998. Or send email to: chonmapoom\_k@yahoo.com

### TOYOTA FORTUNER

2006, silver, auto, diesel, full options, 3.0, 90,000kms. Please call for more information: 086-167 4607.

### FORTUNER 2006 AUTO

Diesel, silver Lenso alloys, DVD, special reg no. Toyota warranty plus immaculate. 950,000 baht. Tel: 085-784 0569.

### FORD RANGER 4X4

Hurricane, turbo. Full options, year 2004. Only 48,000km. 4-door, manual gear, sound system: 40,000 baht. Dark blue. Excellent condition. 450,000 baht. Tel: 081-8919461.

### VIGO 4WD 4X4 2005

G, manual, complete & top condition, extras, service book. Price: 560,000 baht. Tel: 087-294 5737.

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN

Economical red Jeep, good condition, 1 year registration, aircon. 100,000 baht. Tel: 076-319457.

### VIGO 4WD 4X4 2005

G, manual, complete & top condition, extras, service book. Price: 560,000 baht. Tel: 087-294 5737.

### '02 FORD RANGER 2.5 4DR 4WD

Near-showroom condition. 185,000 kms. Carryboy and Sony CD/MP3. 310,000 baht. Tel: 086-949 9255. Email: mikdevhot@hotmail.com

### ISUZU D-MAX 2004

Top of the line D-MAX. 4WD, 4 Doors, 3L, many extras. 425,000 baht. Tel: 086-942- 1969. Or email: laclisque@gmail.com

### JEEP FOR SALE

Bikini top, power steering, all-terrain tires and book. Only 160,000 baht! Tel: 089-195 4005. Or Email: dennyphuket@hotmail.com

## Motorbikes

### YAMAHA XV750 CC

Looks good and runs well. Green book and photos avail. 110,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-077 9816. Or sent email: williet98248@hotmail.com

### YAMAHA NOUVO ELEGANCE& MIO

Mio, 8,000km at 32,000 baht. Nouvo Elegance, 5,000km at 48,000 baht. Both in excellent condition. Contact more details. Tel: 081-363 0543. Or email: grant\_chilcott@hotmail.com

### LIKE NEW! 125 HONDA WAVE R

2007, 18,000 Km. New tires & basket. Very clean & nice. 27,000 baht. Tel: 089-591 0726. Or, send email: cheffybaby@aol.com

### TWO MOTOR BIKES CHEAP

Honda Click automatic. 12,820 km, excellent condition. 32,000 baht.

Tiger Smart, 125 cc, manual gear. 21,820 km, good condition. 17,000 baht. Tel: 076-341774, 084-443 6085. Email: info@shelldiving.com

### MOTORBIKE FOR SALE

Honda Wave 125 cc. Blue color, 2 Years old, good condition. 28,000 baht. Call or mail for details. Tel: 081-537 7137. Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

### HARLEY DAVIDSON

Road King. 2005, perfect condition. 850,000 baht. More details. Tel: 089-652 5664.

### HARLEY DAVIDSON

1. HD 2002 Sportster 1200 cc. Twin plug, white color, bike book. Sale 380,000 baht. 2. HD 2004 Heritage classic 1450 cc. Silver color, bike book. Sale 750,000 baht. Tel: 081-691 9346. Or email: sumon@ridethailand.com

### HONDA CBR 400RR

New fairings, rebuilt engine, recent service overhaul, new rear tyre. Price 125,000 baht. Tel: 076-284662, 085-614 1641. Email: scubabuddha@hotmail.com

### HARLEY DAVIDSON

Soft tail deluxe, 2005, as new, 13,000km. 790,000 Call Joe. Tel: 084-054 8122.

### HONDA DASH 125CC

1999, 40,000km, fast bike: 180kph, fully legal + documents. Kathu. Price: 18,000 baht. Tel: 087-0331829.

### GREEN YAMAHA MIO

Automatic, 2.5 years old, 9,700 km. Good condition with green book and insurance. Price: 23,000 baht. Tel: 084-668 4537, 086-953 3884. Or sent email: miyax\_25@hotmail.com

### 2007 RED HONDA PHANTOM

Garaged from new and in brand new condition Tel: 086-757 1362. Or Email: peteroconnor1980@hotmail.com

### ATV 4X4 FOR SALE

Runs good, lots of fun. 25,000 baht. Tel: 085-783 1890.

### HONDA MAGNA 250

V- Twin, custom pipes, black chopper. 58,000 baht. Tel: 081-187 7637.

### HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORSTER

HD 1,200 Sportster Screamin Eagle. 1998 edition. Fantastic condition. Contact CK. Tel: 085-132 4961. Email: cyrilkeyser@gmail.com

### SUZUKI GSX-R 600

2005, GPR exhaust, 4,800km, top condition. 360,000 baht with book. Tel: 089-971 5664.

## Rentals

### NEW MOTORBIKES AND CARS



Rent a brand new Honda Air blade or Honda Click. Also new cars: Honda Jazz, Toyota Vios, Toyota Fortuner. Long and short term rentals, good rates. Tel: 080-625 7212.

### NEW CARS FOR RENT

Vios, Fortuner. For further details, Tel: 080-697 3174. www.phuketrentcars.com

### JJ CAR FOR RENT

Vios, short or long term. Tel: 081-555 7421.

### P.M.P. CAR RENT

New cars for rent - Toyota Vios, Yaris, Fortuner, Wish and Honda Jazz. Tel: 087-264 6808, 083-174 3880.

### TOYOTA FORTUNER

2007, auto 4x4, full insurance, 3.0cc diesel, airbag, ABS. Rental for long term, 6 months 40,000 baht per month or 12 months 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-591 9998. Email: chonmapoom\_k@yahoo.com

### CHEAP CAR FOR RENT

Honda City, automatic, long-term. Only 12,000 baht/mo. Tel: 086-743 2011. Email: woon\_bank@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA AVANZA 1,500CC AUTO

for rent. 18,000 baht per month; 5,500 baht per week. Tel: 089-700 4094. Contact for more details at. Email: catayacht@csloxinfo.com

## Bicycles

### '06 TREK MADONE 5.2

Frame: OCLV 120 Carbon Aero

- Fork: Bontrager Race X Lite, carbon

- Wheels: Bontrager Race Lite

- Shifters: Shimano Ultegra STI, 10 speed

- Front & Rear Derailleur: Shimano Ultegra

- Pedals: Shimano Dura Ace 7800 Pedals.

Tel: 086-945 0370. Or mail: harald20@hotmail.com

## Wanted

### WANTED

Are you leaving Phuket and/or looking to sell a car? Wanted: small 4 door car up to, say 4 years old. Auto or manual. Must be direct from owner, all in good condition and reasonably priced for immediate sale. For quick sale, Tel: +34-629-791004. Email: info@aldeablanca.com

## Others

### KIA K 2,700 MOBILE HOME

New Kia Mobile Home. 2 beds to sleep 4. Fully equipped with bathroom, kitchen, 150 liter fresh water tank, 2 aircons, 220 Amp/h battery capacity, solar panels (160 watt), etc. Please contact us for more details and pictures. 1,850,000 baht. Tel: 081-894 6506. Or email us at wbenze@gmx.net

### ENGINE FOR SALE

5.7 litre Chevrolet V8 c/v automatic transmission. Can be test run. 120,000 baht. Tel: 086-277 8461. Or contact for more information at Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

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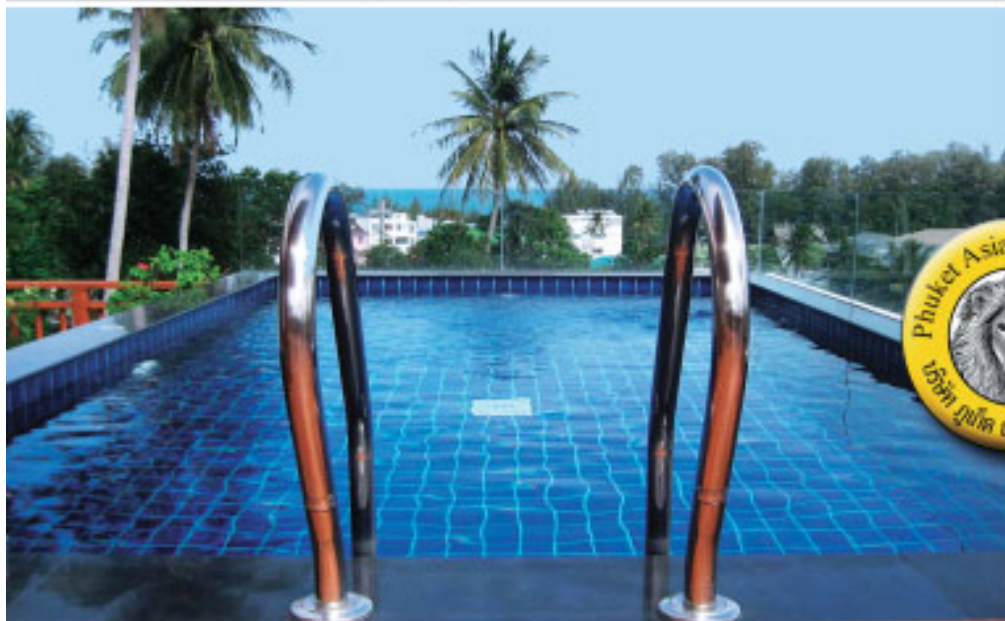
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