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INSIDE



Flying High

Saturday January 17 saw the first Phuket "Fly-in", celebrating the opening of the island's first private airport. Stunt pilots, balloons and kite-flying – it was all there.

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NEWS: Navy defends action against Rohingya refugees; cabinet supports new tourism initiatives; fake goods campaign hits airports.

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PEOPLE: DJ Krafty Kuts and Dynamite MC wowed Club Lime – and spoke to the Gazette.

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GOOD LIVING: The Chedi Hotel's Sontaya Kaewpradit shares the recipe for his signature dish, cajun swordfish.

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Tourist miraculously survives fall

PATONG: A young Norwegian tourist fell from his eighth-story hotel room on Tuesday January 20, miraculously surviving with only minor injuries.

At about 8 am, Kathu Police were informed that a foreign tourist had fallen from his room on the eighth floor of the Phuket Palace Hotel, at the south end of Patong on the road to Karon.

Fearing the worst, Kathu Police Duty Officer Nitikorn Rawang and rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation rushed to the scene.

There they found 26-year-old Norwegian tourist Hans Christian Dalen lying on the ground. He was barely conscious but remarkably still very much alive.

In fact, the young Norwegian might well have passed out hours earlier from simple intoxication, as he had been up all night drinking with some new friends he met while out on the town in Patong, the center of Phuket's vibrant nightlife scene.

Mr Dalen told the Gazette from his bed at Phuket International Hospital that he and a friend, also Norwegian, had that night befriended three Thai women – two of them ladyboys – and invited them back to his room for a nightcap.

After a few hours, Mr



LEFT: The eight-story drop that would almost surely have killed Norwegian tourist Hans Christian Dalen (top right) had it not been for the tin roof of a shack (bottom right) breaking his fall.



Dalen and his friend asked the three Thais to leave.

When they refused, a fight broke out and one of the ladyboys hit Mr Dalen in the face before running away, he said.

Undeterred, the two Scandinavians continued their drinking session right through dawn. Standing out in the morning light, Mr Dalen suddenly lost his footing and fell off the room's small balcony.

By sheer luck or divine providence, the area right below

his window was – like much of Phuket these days – occupied by a ramshackle workers camp.

Mr Dalen landed with a crash onto its corrugated zinc roof, then fell to the ground.

Remarkably, the zinc roofing sufficiently broke his fall and he did not break his back or go into a coma – as incorrectly reported in one lurid and highly inaccurate account of the accident in the Thai-language media.

Mr Dalen was rushed to

Phuket International Hospital, where he is now being treated for some serious bruises and a lacerated left hand that required stitches.

"I fell because I was drunk. I'm very lucky not only to be alive but to have escaped with only minor injuries," he said.

"The doctor told me I could leave on Wednesday (Jan 21). I'll return to the same hotel, Phuket Palace, until I go back to my country on January 25," he told the Gazette. **-Atchaa Khamlo**

Owner of Farang Restaurant chain slain by bike assassin

PHUKET CITY: The owner of the Phuket-based Farang Restaurant chain, Chit Raknanga, was shot dead as he dined at one of his own restaurants with friends on January 16.

Police say it will probably take a few weeks of investigation before they know if they will be able to identify and arrest the gunman responsible for the murder.

The 36 year-old victim, a successful and popular Thai na-

tional, known to his friends as "Tik", was shot at close range by a man who had arrived at the restaurant on the back of a motorcycle.

According to an eyewitness who spoke to the Gazette, the killer walked into the restaurant at about 9:30 pm and shot the victim three times: once in the head and twice in the body. He then fled on the motorcycle, driven by an accomplice.

Tik was killed instantly,



Farang Restaurant, situated opposite Index on the bypass road.

while his friend, 37-year-old engineer Supaht Chaiyodong, suffered gunshot wounds and was rushed to hospital.

Less than 10 people were reported to have been dining in

the restaurant at the time of the murder. Phuket City Police arrived at the scene approximately 20 minutes later, according to the witness.

Continued on page 2.

From page 1

Navy defends action against refugees

The victim was sitting at a table with two friends when the murder occurred, police said.

The victim's brother Chart, also in the restaurant at the time of the shooting, told the *Gazette* that Tik's body, accompanied by his wife Tien, has now been flown to his home in Ubon Ratchathani for cremation. Arrangements would also be made for merit-making ceremonies here in Phuket, he said.

A high-level source in the Phuket Provincial Police told the *Gazette* that investigators were not yet sure of the motive for the killing and were following several lines of inquiry, including the possibility of personal and business-related conflicts. Given the *modus operandi* of the shooting, the killer is presumed to have been a hired assassin.

Police say physical evidence, including a .38 caliber bullet slug recovered at the scene, should aid the investigation.

One local Thai-language newspaper reported that Phuket City Police Inspector for Investigations Wichak "The Magnet" Tarom had been assigned to the case and had gone to Phang Nga to follow up on a number of leads.

However, on January 20 Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Chaiwat Ooykham admitted that there had not been much progress in the investigation and that it will probably take a few weeks before police know if they stand a chance of catching the gunman or the party who contracted him.

The partially open-air Farang Restaurant serving Italian, European and Thai food on the bypass road opposite Index is one of two Farang Restaurant branches in Phuket, the other being in Cherng Talay. A third branch was recently opened in Bangkok.

According to a *Gazette* shareholder who was close to the victim, preparations were already underway to move the restaurant's current location on the bypass road to The Point, a new apartment complex opposite Big C.

PHANG NGA / PHUKET: In response to allegations regarding the mistreatment of illegal foreign nationals trying to gain entry into Thailand, officials from the Third Area Naval Command Supreme Headquarters in Phang Nga defended the actions of the Thai Navy on Sunday January 11.

Songkitti Jakabat, Chief of Staff at the Phang Nga headquarters, told the *Gazette* that those attempting to gain unlawful entry are naturally prohibited from doing so and are then the responsibility of border officials.

"Once the refugees are in Thailand, it is our duty to detain them in order to question them before they are sent back to their country," he said.

"It's difficult to prevent them from coming across as there are a number of back door entries into the country. Normally we get information from the media about people trying to enter the country. It's very helpful if and when we receive advance warning," he added.

While inquiries continue into claims that Rohingya refugees were pushed out to sea or mistreated by Thai authorities, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said yesterday that the Thai Navy did not undertake any action that abused the boat people's rights.

"The military, as far as I have checked, handled them in line with the Internal Security Operation Command, and we don't have a policy to violate human rights," Abhisit told reporters.

"If any officials committed such inhumane acts against them, they would be punished."

The Navy has been accused of towing nearly 1,000 Burmese Rohingya and Bangladeshis out to sea in December. More than 500 of them went missing and may have died.

The United Nation's refugee body in Geneva called yesterday for its officials to be given access to two groups of Rohingya boat people in custody in the South.

"We have today asked the Thai government for access to two groups totaling 126 Rohingya boat people who are in custody in southern Thailand in order to assess their situation and determine whether any of them are in need of international protection," UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said.

"This follows our expression of strong concern to the government last week over allegations that large groups of Rohingya boat people from Myanmar [Burma] were intercepted in Thai waters, towed out to sea and left to die.

"According to information from our sources, a group of 80 Rohingya boat people are being held on Koh Sai Daeng off the Thai coast in the Andaman Sea.

A further 46 Rohingya who were intercepted on a boat last Friday were reportedly handed over to Thai military authorities, and we are trying to determine where they are now.

"Given the new Thai government's commitment to human rights, we are eager to discuss with Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya ways that this crisis can be defused quickly in line with international humanitarian standards.

We have stressed that the Thai government should take all measures to make sure the lives of the Rohingya boat people are not put at risk."

News about the boat people was broken last week by a group dedicated to the Rohingyas and widely reported overseas.

Some survivors told Indian Coast Guards and international media their boat was towed out to sea by the Thai Navy and given two sacks of boiled rice and two gallons of water before being abandoned in the middle of the sea.

Asked if this story was made up to discredit the government, Abhisit said there was not a big movement to do so but a few people might be interested in exaggerating the information.



Admiral Songkitti Jakabat, Chief of Staff: Once the refugees are in Thailand, it is our duty to detain them in order to question them before they are sent back to their country."

"Some reports suggested the boat people arrived in a boat with no engine and tried to sink the boat to get on our shore," Abhisit said.

But the government would not allow illegal migrants into Thailand or to harm national security, he said. However, he said the authorities must handle boat people in accordance with human rights principles.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Tharit Charungvat said the ministry was looking into the affair with Defence officials.

The government would invite ambassadors from concerned states to discuss the matter if it could obtain more details from the investigation, he said.

The illegal entry of migrants, notably facilitated by human traffickers, would affect national security, he said.

Spokesman Ron Redmond said the UNHCR welcomed Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban's announcement that he had ordered the defense minister to investigate claims of maltreatment.

"The Rohingya are stateless Muslims from northern Rakhine

state in Myanmar [Burma]. There are 28,000 Rohingya recognized refugees in two UNHCR camps in Bangladesh and some 200,000 unregistered Rohingya living outside the camps there.

For several years now, in this season, many of them have been desperate enough to risk their lives at sea in small boats sailing from Bangladesh or Myanmar, often turning up in Thailand, Malaysia or as far away as Indonesia.

"Because the plight of the Rohingya is a regional problem, UNHCR is urgently seeking to discuss with the Thai government ways that all concerned countries can address the root causes that impel the Rohingya to put their lives at risk on such perilous journeys.

"We look forward to discussing with Foreign Minister Kasit ways that the new Thai government, given both its key role in the region and its current chairmanship of ASEAN, can play a vital role in addressing this alarming regional issue."

-Atchaa Khamlo / Nation



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Phuket receives limited support for tourism initiatives

PHUKET: The Cabinet meeting on January 20 approved just four measures from a total of 13 proposed to revive tourism in the near future. It was decided that fees for certain visas will be waived for three months for visitors of all nationalities, although this move is widely seen as being targeted predominantly at China, one of Thailand's biggest and strategically important markets.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Chantapol Yongbunjerd told the *Gazette* that the waiver of visa fees would only apply to 30-day and 60-day tourist visas. He could not say exactly when the three-month period of free tourist visas would begin as the start date had not yet been set.

Additionally, entrance fees at all national parks will be cut, in an effort to boost domestic tourism. However, management at Sirinat National Park in Nai Yang could not say how much park fees would be reduced by and when any reduction of fees would come into effect. Foreign visitors to the park are currently charged 200 baht each, while locals are charged 20 baht.

Lastly, aircraft landing and parking fees will be discounted at major airports around the country. However, when the *Gazette* spoke to Phuket International Airport Director Wicha Nernlop, he said that although charter flights would receive reductions in landing fees at Chaing Mai, Chaing Rai, Haad Yai and Don Muang airports, flights arriving at Phuket International Airport would not receive such a reduction.

"Phuket Airport is excluded from this incentive because parking space for aircraft is already limited; we do not want to promote the airport any further," he said.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said the tourism industry needed to be revived with the help of such initiatives. He earlier claimed that tourist arrivals were returning close to levels seen before the political crisis in Bangkok that resulted in the eight-day closure of the capital's two large commercial airports.

The proposals that failed to win approval include the cutting of hotel room rates and air fares on Thai Airways International, reducing the VAT on hotel rooms for one year, waiving the annual fee of 80 baht per room and an urgent plan to more actively promote Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga as domestic tourist destinations.

PM Abhisit made no mention of likely job losses in the tourism industry or of the extra budget of 15 billion baht requested by the Tourism Ministry to help smaller operators affected by the recent crisis.

However, the Cabinet did sanction one billion baht to help tourism and related businesses. Industry representatives insist, however, that more funding will be needed to support the recovery effort.

Prakit Chinamouphong, president of the Thai Hotels Association, said three- and four-star hotels planned to discount room rates by 50% for people visiting the country during February and March.

The markets targeted by the new proposals include China, India, the Middle East, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan, he said.

Most hotels in Bangkok and other major tourist cities are running at lower-than-usual occupancy rates, in the wake of the recent airport closures.

Phuket Tourist Association Vice President Bhuritt Maswongsa told the *Gazette* that hotel occupancy on the island was currently about 50% at a time when they were expected to be near or at 100%.

While the situation appears to be gradually improving, he said the low season could kick in as early as February and will likely continue through until October.

Mr Bhuritt welcomed the four measures, but said the government needs to take a closer look at the two main factors causing what he described as Thailand's "tourism recession": the global economic crisis and a lack of confidence among foreign tourists following the closure of the Bangkok airports.

Global economic factors were largely beyond the government's control, so offering economic incentives such as the waiver of visa fees might not help much if people don't have enough money to travel, he said.

However, he said he had already received a number of calls from curious tour operators in mainland China about the decision to waive visa fees, which Thai consulates have not yet been informed about. However, a PR campaign to restore the image of Thailand as a tourist destination could help and he had urged new Tourism and Sports Minister Chumpol Silapa-archa to pursue this during a recent visit to Phuket.



After a losing a valuable necklace he had received from his family, relief for Saul Salfati came in the form of the Tourist Police volunteers. Upset at the loss of the heirloom, Mr Salfati, from Turkey, reported the loss to the Tourist Police who started inquiries. The missing necklace was eventually discovered at Zen Japanese restaurant, and the police were informed. A volunteer for the Tourist Police was on hand to return the jewelry to a delighted Mr Salfati.

Campaign warns of dangers of fake goods

BANGKOK: European tourists landing home after holidays in Thailand had better check their luggage carefully from now on: they could be greeted with fines and even jail terms if customs officials find counterfeit items.

This is the message of the Intellectual Property Department, which last week launched a campaign with Airports of Thailand (AOT) to raise awareness of the dangers of taking pirated products sourced in Thailand to Europe. Thai shoppers were also warned about buying counterfeit items abroad.

Deputy Commerce Minister Alongkorn Ponlaboot said his ministry would work to encourage people to use only copyrighted products so as to boost Thailand's image in the international community.

Counterfeit goods are not only destroying the Kingdom's image and damaging business, but also harming producers and importers. With new laws recently implemented by many countries, consumers are now being punished too, Mr Alongkorn said.

As a measure to dissuade both foreign and local shoppers from buying illicit goods and taking them overseas, the department has put up billboards at Suvarnabhumi Airport, alerting them to the stiff penalties awaiting them under each country's laws.

For instance, if travelers carry fakes to France, they could be imprisoned and fined up to the equivalent 13.7 million baht.

European nations since the beginning of 2006 have stepped up efforts to crack down on coun-

terfeit products that have undermined the luxury goods industry.

Checks in France, the homeland of designer brands like Chanel and Louis Vuitton, are said to be the strictest, followed by Italy and Germany.

Counterfeit products that Thai and foreign shoppers must be cautious about are brand-name bags and wallets, sunglasses, perfumes, cosmetics, clothes, watches, CD/VCD/DVDs and replica football shirts.

Phuket Airport Director Wicha Nernlop told the *Gazette* on January 20 that no such signs had yet been installed at Phuket International Airport.

He said it was the first he had heard of the issue and that he intended to call AOT to learn more about the campaign. Source: *Daily Xpress*

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Phuket Fishing Port expansion nears completion



Tuna is hoisted from a fishing boat moored at the extended dock.

KOH SIREH, PHUKET: The 300-million-baht expansion of Phuket Fishing Port pier that began in 2006 is due for completion by the end of this month.

The twin goals of the project were to improve the hygiene standards of the 860m-long pier and to develop the facility into a tuna transit center for the southern region of Thailand.

The pier now features a clean water supply, a waste-water treatment system and facilities such as freezer rooms and ice plants.

The project has involved the construction of four docks. Three of them are now complete and already operational, with work on the fourth dock underway and expected to be finished by the end of the month.

Pramual Rakjai, chief of Phuket Fishing Port office explained that the facilities Phuket has to offer, such as the pier and the international airport, make it an attractive choice as a transit center for ships engaged in tuna fishing. Phuket is used to send tuna directly abroad to countries such as Japan.

He told the *Gazette*, "The pier is only five days away from one of the biggest tuna fishing



Tuna is immediately processed at the port and prepared for transportation both domestically and internationally.

grounds in the world, the Indian Ocean, making it highly convenient for ships looking to transport their tuna catch to other parts of the world. Moreover, the pier now houses a freezing room with the capacity to store 600 tons of tuna."

Mr Pramual explained that Phuket's success as a tuna transit center brings great economic benefits to the island, estimating that fishermen spending money on necessities such as food and clothing during their stay at the pier were bringing in around 100,000 baht a day to the province's economy.

He added that the pier would become an increasingly important provider of employment as the center's success grew.

The tuna fishing season lasts six months, from November until April. Currently, most fishing ships using the tuna center are from Taiwan and China, with a number from Indonesia.

No Thai ships presently use the facility, although the authorities plan to increase Thai involvement. This may involve transforming Thai trawlers into tuna

fishing boats by modifying their equipment, for example by equipping them with hooks rather than trawling nets.

Normally, around two to five ships dock at the pier carrying tuna every day, with around 11 more using the facility for other reasons. At one stage, the tuna center processed 4,000 tons of tuna a year, but last year processed only half as much due to the high price of gasoline.

With the current lower price of fuel the fishery pier is expecting to process around 3,000 tons this year.

There are already a number of companies processing the tuna brought to the center, such as Sri Fong, Fu Thai, Hai Fong and Chee Fong. Mr Pramual expects there to be many more in the future.

Two types of tuna are brought back to the center: big eye tuna and yellow fin tuna, caught to eat fresh or for eating raw in sushi. These types of tuna are distinct from skipjack tuna, which large Japanese ships transport to the Deep Sea Port and which is used to make canned tuna.

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Growth of CCTV surveillance by Phuket police

PHUKET CITY: Phuket is an island under surveillance, with 16 police closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in each of the three locales of Patong, Kata-Karon and Phuket City, not to mention the scores of cameras operated by goldshops, hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and other private operators.

Now seeking to expand its CCTV surveillance into Kamala, Cherng Talay, Tung Tong, Tah Chatchai and other parts of Thalang, Phuket Provincial Police have asked Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan to approve a budget for more than 80 additional cameras to be installed in 2010.

There have been a number of pledges by police departments in Phuket to roll out additional CCTV cameras since the original 48 cameras were installed.

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak announced in March 2008 that he wanted to install around 10 more cameras in Patong, though these have not yet materialized.

In October last year he said that the installation of 16 additional cameras would be provided by the Savoey Seafood restaurant to provide better security for tourists on Soi Bangla.

In August 2008, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos announced that his municipality had been granted 20 million baht in central government funding for 32 CCTV cameras, with installation set to begin in early 2009.

The current network of 48 cameras is controlled from command centers in Kathu, Chalong and Phuket City Police Stations, which have jurisdiction for Patong, Kata-Karon and greater Phuket City, respectively.

The systems, which came on-line in February 2007, were provided under a 16-million-baht contract with telecommunications provider CAT Telecom.

The police claim that the CCTV cameras proved a success in 2008, helping to catch thieves and alert the police to traffic congestion, as well as providing evidence in criminal cases.

However, Phuket police have yet to introduce the kind of traffic monitoring system that allowed the Bangkok Metropolitan Police to fine over 36,000 motorists caught running red lights in the capital over an initial 10-day period.

The Bangkok surveillance system, unveiled in late December, record images of sufficient resolution to allow police to read license plates – and then fine traffic law violators through the mail.

Cherngpipat Detchkrutthanon, who heads up a Phuket City Police crime suppression unit, told the *Gazette* that officers on the island are making do with what they have.

Most of their cameras, low-cost units that are fixed in place, produce low-quality images and have insufficient zoom capacity to allow identification of license plate numbers, he said.

Each of Phuket's three districts also has one dome camera, which produces high quality video images and can be rotated. These are three times as expensive as the fixed units, however.

In short, Phuket Provincial Police currently lack the budget to buy equipment needed to implement a system like the one in Bangkok.

Pol Sen Sgt Maj Cherngpipat explained that as well as aiding law enforcement and acting as a deterrent to would-be criminals, CCTV cameras are reassuring for foreign tourists who might be worried about their safety.

"CCTV cameras have been used for a long time in Western countries. Our system will bring Phuket up to the same standards. Tourists will trust our security system," he said.

It may take some time before Phuket's network reaches that point – and the current CCTV systems have not been without problems.

Many of the cameras need readjustment to optimize image quality, while reflections from car headlights at night also affect the officers' ability to monitor events, Sen Sgt Maj Cherngpipat said.

When the *Gazette* visited the CCTV command center in Phuket City, which displays images from all 48 cameras, a few units were out of order. It generally takes two or three days to order the parts needed to fix broken units, Sen Sgt Maj Cherngpipat explained.

There has also been some confusion about who is responsible for repairs and maintenance.

CAT Telecommunications had hired a company called Bosch to install and maintain the cameras, but when Phuket City Police called the company to fix broken units the company always came late, he claimed.



An officer in Phuket City Police Station monitors video from the city's 16 CCTV cameras. Chalong Police Station and Kathu Police Station also possess similar facilities to monitor the 16 cameras in Kata-Karon and Patong, respectively.

When asked about this, a representative of the Bosch company referred the *Gazette* to CAT.

A CAT representative told the *Gazette* that he always ordered repairs to be carried out by Bosch, who have the service contract for all three systems. However for contract and payment reasons the work needs to be ordered through CAT, not directly by the police to Bosch.

Looking forward, Phuket City Police plan to hire CCTV experts to help with the operation of their network.

CCTV is new for police in Thailand and officers here in Phuket have so far had to make do without expert training and advice in its most effective use, Sen Sgt Maj Cherngpipat said.

Phuket Police also plan to display real-time CCTV images on-line, allowing members of the public to check for traffic congestion before traveling or report accidents, he said.



A CCTV camera at a junction in Samkong. One of Phuket City Police's 16 cameras.

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A king cobra looks on as residents of "Cobra Village" in tambon Saimoon of Khon Kaen's Nam Phong district use a fire to warm up a three-meter, 97-kilogram python and other snakes in preparation for a tourist-oriented show that the small hamlet is famous for. Like other cold-blooded reptiles in the region, the show snakes have fallen into a state of torpor due to the unusually cold weather that has chilled much of the country in recent weeks.

Medical units to be renovated for easier disabled access

BANGKOK: Disabled people will soon enjoy easier access to treatment because the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) plans to renovate 10,000 primary healthcare units across the country, a senior health officer said.

Dr Komart Jungsathiansab, director of the Ministry's Society and Health Institute, said buildings housing most primary healthcare units were not easy to access for the elderly and handicapped.

At present, most primary healthcare units are housed in two-storey buildings, with the second floor devoted to treatment rooms. The units have been set up in this manner for 25 years now to avoid flooding. Unfortunately, patients have climb up to the second floor to see the doctor.

Some are not able to manage the stairs, while some have to stop and take a rest midway, Dr Komart said.

About 11% of the population or seven million people in Thailand are elderly, with most suffering from chronic diseases or motor problems.

Since most of the elderly needed constant medical attention, about 80% of the units needed structural changes to allow easy access, he said.

The ministry is also asking the government to approve a budget of 1.3 billion baht for the reconstruction of 2,000 primary healthcare units nationwide.

The MoPH has teamed up with the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage to design new buildings and to renovate existing units.

Each unit has been granted a budget of 500,000 baht for renovation, while 2 million baht has been allocated for each new structure.

Hospital workers threaten strike

NAKHON RATCHASIMA: More than 90,000 contract employees of all government hospitals across the country have threatened to stage a nationwide strike if their demands for pay rises and welfare benefits are not met.

Speaking at Nakhon Ratchasima university on January 18, employee leaders said all workers at 875 government hospitals and public health stations would stop if their four demands were not met by next month.

Protest leader Kanokphorn Suksanit said the strike would not be carried out in a way that would affect treatment of patients or threaten their health.

One demand calls for immediate payment of monthly allowances for those working at hospitals in the three strife-torn southern provinces. Such payment was made until three years ago, but ceased due to a legal loophole in Public Health Ministry regulations. The employees also demanded their base monthly salary be raised from the current 6,800 baht and that an annual raise be granted each year to cope with inflation and high commodity prices.

Dr Suphan Srithamma, a senior ministry official, said a special monthly allowance could not be paid to the employees unless a Finance Ministry rule was amended. He said he believed no employees would stage a strike because their year-by-year contracts could be revoked for "misbehavior".

However, a number of allowances would be approved sometime this week, he added.

Fund proposed for retirees without savings

BANGKOK: Some Thai laborers might not be able to retire if the government does not implement measures to assist them, according to a recent study by Chulalongkorn University (CU).

At present some 12 million laborers in the retirement fund system stand to get a pension when they reached 55 or 60 years of age, said the study presented at a seminar by the National Economic and Social Advisory Council (NESAC) and CU Academic Service Center.

However some 22 million laborers, or 70% of the overall 35 million laborers aged between 16 to 60, have not joined retirement funds promoted by the state. About 16 million of these workers are farmers, while the rest are working at odd jobs with low incomes such as taxi drivers or construction workers.

If left to save money for their old age, these low-paid and less-educated laborers may have great difficulty in later life and could become a burden on the country.

As a result, NESAC asked the CU Academic Service Center to do the study and suggest how the government could help these people.

After conducting the study, the researchers urged the government to set up a savings fund for retirement for laborers whose low incomes, job natures and other social aspects limit their access to existing retirement funds.

The proposed fund would sell them "saving units" at 100 baht each. During the first five years the government would contribute an additional 30% to every saving units bought, with a limit of up to 12 saving units per month or 60 units per year. Thus government contribution could be up to 1,800 baht per head per year as an incentive to get them into saving money for retirement.

After the first five years and until the subscriber reaches 60 years old, the government would continue to contribute 10% to the newly bought units. This proposed fund would be managed by professionals to yield profits in the long term to support retirees' needs, the researchers said.

Japanese to fund road death research project

NONTHABURI: five-member research team from the Asian Institute of Technology in Nonthaburi has been granted 150,000 baht from Japan's Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Welfare Foundation (MSIWF) to study why so many people die in road accidents in the Kingdom.

Policymakers and police haven't reflected on whether measures they have issued or implemented are appropriate, said team member Chanida Anurakamolkul.

Since police have reported that speeding was a main cause of road accidents her team had decided to focus its study on traffic signs for speed limits; engineering design, such as rumble strips; and traffic law enforcement, such as using cameras as evidence to fine speeding drivers.

The team will use a questionnaire to find out if drivers agree or disagree, obey or ignore the current speed management measures.

After completing this research, the team will present its findings to policymakers and police next year.

MSIWF has been supporting initiatives in the areas of automobile accident prevention since its inception in 1975. The AIT grant is the first of its kind in Thailand.

Prime Minister defends low income stimulus plan

BANGKOK: Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said recently that he has studied situations in several countries and is confident that the handing out of free-gift money of 2,000 baht to low-income people would be the most effective way to stimulate the economy.

Other measures, especially tax-related measures, would be too slow to halt the economic slowdown.

"The fire is burning fiercely, so we cannot be too economical on the water for putting out the blaze," pm Abhisit said during his weekly TV program aired on the government-run NBT network.

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Martial law under review

BANGKOK: Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has announced a thorough review regarding the use of martial law in the Deep South and will decide on its extension within three months.

"I will ask the people involved to now run a systematic review of the various laws, so the next time they ask for an extension it will not be automatic," said Prime Minister Abhisit, addressing an audience at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand on January 14.

Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala, as well as Chana and Thepha in Songkhla, have been under emergency decree since October of 2005, allowing authorities to seize suspected separatists and keep them detained without charges.

Security personnel engaged in such operations are granted immunity.

The decree has so far been extended 14 times, coming up for parliamentary approval every three months.

Over 3,200 killed, B109m spent fighting insurgency

The southern unrest has taken a huge human and fiscal toll over the past five years, with over 3,000 people killed and 109 billion baht of state budget used to try and stifle the violence.

Quelling just one violent incident last year cost taxpayers 88 million baht on average, according to the latest study conducted by Deep South Watch.

The results were revealed at a recent seminar organized by Deep South Watch and the Southern Thai Journalists Association.

The independent Deep South Watch network said on January 18, that Thailand might have to spend up to 300 billion baht annually over the next five to 10 years to deal with the insurgency in Yala, Narathiwat, Pattani and parts of Songkhla.

Based on records for 2004-2008, there has been an average of 1,956 violent incidents annually.

Overall, the conflict has already taken 3,287 lives and left 5,405 people wounded. Last year witnessed 718 incidents, down over 50% from the 1,861 recorded in 2007.

Last year, on average, there was a fraction under two attacks every day.

This was a great improvement over the previous four years, which averaged five incidents daily, however, the severity of attacks has intensified.

Vaipoj Srinuan, deputy permanent secretary for defence, said the statistics released by Deep South Watch should serve as useful information and data to plan for a more integrated strategy in ending the southern conflict.

It is crucial to think outside the box in order to tackle the southern unrest successfully as social and other dimensions, besides national security, are also very important for policy-making, he added.

Judging from the numbers and pattern of the conflict, the southern situation has reached a stalemate.

Prasit Methsuwan, adviser to the Federation of Teachers from the Southern Border, said that as the number of incidents had declined, the number of Thai Buddhists living in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat has also dwindled.

At least 70,000 of an estimated population of 300,000 Thai Buddhists have already left the three provinces for other places.

In that sense, the insurgents have succeeded in embedding a climate of fear in those provinces, Prasit said.

The three provinces are home to about 1.8 million people.

Other participants and commentators were hopeful that the Abhisit government would be more receptive to views expressed by local communities and use them as inputs in the formulation of a future strategy.

They urged the new government to use political means to end the current conflict rather than focus exclusively on military force, like the previous governments, which had led to more violations of human rights.

Looking ahead, seminar participants called on the government to restore law and order and bring to justice those committing crimes against the people living in southern Thailand.



The wreck of an army pickup truck which crashed in Songkhla's Haad Yai District on January 15 while on the way to pick up forensic pathologist Khunying Pornthip Rojanasunand at Haad Yai airport. One soldier was killed and four injured in the crash.

Six Krabi rubber robbers caught

SURAT THANI: Region 8 Police have arrested six men for an alleged series of armed robberies on rubber plantations in Krabi and Nakhon Sri Thammarat provinces.

The arrests came after the group lost control of their pickup truck during a shoot-out with police as they were trying to make their escape, following a robbery in Krabi's Khao Phanom District.

The arrests were announced on January 14 by Region 8 Commissioner Santhan Chaiyanon at Police Region 8 Headquarters in Surat Thani.

Two of the suspects, 44-year-old Somchai Bangkaow and his 17-year-old relative, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were arrested near the scene of the robbery. Four more suspects were arrested following subsequent investigation, he said.

Lt Gen Santhan identified two of the remaining suspects as Amnat Krainara, 42, and Somneuk Kaensang, 45. The two other suspects were minors, both 17-year-olds.

The suspects all confessed that they had committed five or six robberies in the area since August of last year. Police seized a metallic silver Mazda pickup truck and 455 sheets of rubber as evidence, Lt Gen Santhan added.

The arrests followed the January 9 robbery of a rubber

plantation belonging to 58-year-old Chalermphol Khreuachan in tambon Khok Han, Khao Phanom district, Krabi.

Police arrived at the scene as the robbers were driving away. The robbers opened fire and a shoot-out ensued. Police pursued the suspects into neighboring Nakhon Sri Thammarat province until the driver of the suspects' pickup truck lost control, crashing the vehicle by the side of the road in Tambon Ku Rae, Thung Yai District.

The suspects made their escape on foot, but in the early hours of January 10, police arrested one of the 17-year-olds about 300 meters from the site of the crash, where he was lay-

ing injured. Police also arrested Mr Somchai after he checked into Thung Song Hospital to get treatment for injuries sustained in the crash.

From interrogating the two suspects, police were able to get the names of the rest of the gang and had arrest warrants issued by Krabi Provincial Court. The two 17-year-old suspects were arrested on a train in Chumphon's Lang Suan District as they were on their way to hide out in Bangkok.

The robberies were a family affair with the suspects, originally from Phatthalung province, all related to one and other. They have been charged with armed robbery, attempted murder and firearms offences, Lt Gen Santhan said.



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Fatal altercation

KOH SAMUI: Koh Samui witnessed another tragic accident with the death of a long time resident and business owner, who was killed in a bar dispute.

Martin Ronal Quince, 54, a British national who had resided in Thailand for more than 10 years, was killed following an altercation that took place at the bar he owned in Lamai.

Eye witnesses stated that Mr Quince had been drinking when a dispute broke out between him and a 19-year-old French man who was holidaying on the island.

The argument escalated and it is believed that Mr Quince fell and hit his head on a bucket

filled with concrete following a punch thrown by the French man.

He was taken to hospital, where he was treated for what doctors said was a haemorrhage that was a result of the head injury sustained when he fell. Due to the extent of injury, he underwent surgery but was later taken off life support systems and died soon after.

Family members, who were by his side when he died, have made arrangements for his body to be repatriated to the UK for funeral services.

The French man, whose name has not been released, told police that in no way did he intend to kill Mr Quince.



FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

Oil tanker sinks near Koh Samui, two feared dead

KOH SAMUI: An oil tanker sank in the waters between Koh Samui and Khanom district during a period of bad weather.

The tanker, heading to Koh Samui, was believed to be laden with 1,000 liters of oil when it was battered by high seas, causing it to founder.

A passing ship came to the rescue of the tanker and was said to have retrieved four out of the six crew members from the water near the vessel.

The remaining two crewmen could not be located and are presumed to have drowned in

the rough waters.

The surviving crew members were named as Sawen Thongwan, Sornphet Ompraser, Nipan Sueleung and the captain of the vessel Nathee Kwinthaweekul. Marine police are now questioning them in the search for clues as to why the accident occurred.

Officials are still looking into the environmental damage that may have been caused when the ship went down but have commented that the strong currents would have helped to disperse the spill.



The Sambar deer is endangered species. Despite efforts to repopulate the island with a pair of breeding deer in 1989, the numbers are thought to have declined to fewer than 100.

Deer numbers declining, extinction feared

KOH PHANGAN: Fears are growing for the future of the Sambar deer after another was found dead in the sea near Thong Sala, Koh Phangan this month.

Park officials from the island said that villagers reported its discovery after a fisherman spotted the dead creature. He claimed to have heard several dogs barking and later saw the body of the lifeless animal floating in the water. Villagers attempted to save the deer by

dragging it to the shore but were too late.

When rangers arrived at the scene they identified the animal as being about five years of age, weighing about 250 kilograms. It appeared to have died from drowning but also had wounds, possibly inflicted by dogs.

The Sambar deer is endangered and despite efforts to repopulate the island with a pair of breeding deer in 1989, the numbers are thought to have declined

to fewer than 100.

Chaichana Vichaidit, chief of park services, said that the deer once numbered in excess of 500.

Nearly 50 animals are being lost each year, with most of the recorded deaths the result of hunting or drowning. The commercial development of the island has also forced the creatures into unfamiliar territory, increasingly leaving them at the mercy of dogs or hunters.

Scorpion queen does it again

KOH SAMUI: One of Koh Samui's best known tourist attractions can now proudly boast a world record holder as part of its show.

Kanjana Kaetkaew, 39, a native of Samui, has recently set a Guinness World Record for holding a deadly scorpion in her mouth for over two minutes.

Kanjana, known around the country as "the Scorpion Queen", surpassed her own record, which she set last year when she held one of the creatures in her mouth for over a minute at the island's Snake Farm, a popular tourist spot.

She is currently attempting to break another record by remain-

ing in a room containing 5,000 scorpions for 33 days and nights at the Royal Garden Mall in Pattaya. This would break her previous best of staying with 3,400 scorpions for 32 days back in 2002.

Her current scorpion-filled residence is said to be mirrored and has a bed, bathroom, chair and television. Kanjana married Thailand's "Centipede King" Boonthawee Seangwong in February 2006.

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Giant chilli heats up Local Food Festival

The grand opening of the five-day Phuket Local Food Festival took place on January 20, and was presided over by Chumpol Silapa-Archa, Minister of Tourism and Sport and Dr Narongsak Angkasuwapala, Director of the Department of Health.

Speaking earlier in the week at a press conference to promote the festival, Mr Paiboon Upatising, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO), said that, besides its wonderful beaches and scenic locations, Phuket also cherished its traditional culture and world-famous local culinary delicacies.

However, for customers to enjoy the local cuisine with confidence, the island's food vendors should continue to adhere to safe and hygienic cooking practices, he added. Mr Paiboon's remarks coincided with an ongoing promotion entitled "Clean Food Good Taste", an initiative developed by the Ministry of Health. The promotion is part of a government PR offensive aimed at reassuring visitors and promoting the tourist industry in Phuket.

The Phuket Local Food Festival ran from January 20-24 at Saphan Hin. Another reason behind the food fair is to stimulate the local economy. "We want tourists in Phuket to feel confident that eating local food in Phuket is both safe and clean. Through this initiative, we also want to ensure that the restaurant owners maintain a high and consistent standard of food quality," he said.

The food festival included a number of activities, including cultural shows, musical performances, dance displays drawn from four regions in the South, as well as food and product demonstrations. The event also showcased delicacies from top restaurants and hotels as well as from food stalls offering local fare. Information about food safety was also on display. Cooking demonstrations were laid on, showing visitors how to make a range of traditional dishes such as *Somtarn* (spicy papaya salad) and the traditional Thai dessert *Kanom La*. Ice carving, fruit and vegetable sculpture, a Miss Phuket Angel beauty pageant and the chance to tuck into a monster bowl of Phuket Shrimp Chilli sauce were just some of the other attractions on offer during the five-day festival.



Ice carving, fruit and vegetable sculpture and the chance to tuck into a monster bowl of Phuket Shrimp Chilli sauce were just some of the other attractions on offer during the five-day festival.





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DJ Krafty Kuts and Dynamite MC

Martin Reeves, aka DJ Krafty Kuts, is one of the biggest names in dance music, known for playing a style of bassline-heavy breakbeat strongly influenced by funk and hip hop. According to legend, Krafty Kuts was born when Reeves entered a DJ competition aged 17 without ever having touched a pair of decks before – and made it to the finals.

Dominic Smith, aka Dynamite MC, made his name in the drum'n'bass scene as MC for Bristol's Roni Size and Reprazent, whose debut album, *New Forms*, won the prestigious Mercury Music Prize in the UK in 1997, bringing drum'n'bass to the attention of a mainstream audience. His voice is one of the most recognizable in UK dance music.

All credit to Club Lime, then, for playing host to both of them on Saturday January 2, bringing a different kind of party to Patong Beach. The *Gazette* caught up with both of them before the gig...

Gazette: What do you make of Thailand?

Dynamite: Very, very cool place. Obviously I've only been in Phuket a few hours, so I'm not sure yet. But Bangkok; a lot of people I spoke to said it's dirty, it's filthy, it's dodgy, but I got there and it's such a cool city. It's got a South American feel to it but it's also got this feel I can't recognize.

Krafty: I've got to say I'm really impressed. What's good about Thailand is it's new and it's fresh and there's so much to do. The food is amazing. Dominic is in heaven with the chilis. And the people are really friendly; we feel very welcome. I've been to Koh Samui a couple of times and there's some brilliant parties there, but this is my first time in Phuket. I haven't had a good chance to take in everything during the day, but it looks very beautiful, and the place that I'm staying at Sri Panwa is just completely the most idyllic place that I've been to in my life.

Gazette: Where are your favorite party scenes around the world?

Dynamite: I'm blessed to have seen so many places. I mean a good London party, a good UK



Dynamite MC and Krafty Kuts work the crowd at Patong's Club Lime on January 2.

party, you can't beat it. But I love playing in Rio de Janeiro, Serbia, New York, Tokyo, Puerto Rico, the list goes on and on. I think as long as there's good energy in the room, and I'm doing what I'm supposed to do, the DJ's doing what he's supposed to do and the people are doing what they're supposed to do, that's a cocktail for success and you can get that anywhere.

Gazette: Is touring always fun?

Krafty: Always. When I work with Dominic, it's like a meeting of two minds; there's loads of creativity and it's good because we roll off each other. We don't work together all the time, and that's what makes it good because we enjoy it when we see each other and play together and it brings a lot of nice energy.

Gazette: What projects are you working on at the moment?

Dynamite: We're working on Krafty Kuts' new album – we've done some music together, and we've got plenty more we're going to do – it's going to be a huge album. I've got the new Roni Size/Reprazent album that's coming out, and I've got two albums I'm doing myself: a hip-hop "Dynamite" project and a soul album under a different name.

Gazette: Is that your first soul project?

Dynamite: Yeah it's my first ever soul project, I'm producing it and singing. It's just something I wouldn't say I've always wanted to do but always knew I would do when I got to the right age, feeling and energy levels. I've played tracks to quite a few

people and I'm getting really good feedback. I figure there's gonna be some exciting music next year, in a time that maybe exciting music is slightly lacking.

Krafty: There's a lot of things happening within the music industry and these are difficult times, but difficult times can bring good things, because they bring out the creative side of the really strong people involved in the music industry.

Gazette: Why do you say these are difficult times?

Krafty: The economy's taking a tough time, so basically less people are traveling and less people are spending money, but entertainment will always be there, whether you have comedy, music or reading books or watching TV, we'll always need to be entertained. In the next few years you will see some incredible music from people like Roni Size and Dynamite, and people from hip hop, house, drum'n'bass, wherever. What goes down must come up.

Gazette: Tell us about the new Krafty Kuts album.

Krafty: Well, I've got Dynamite on quite a few tracks, which is really exciting. He's a brilliant MC and the most positive person I've ever worked with – and I'm not saying that because he's here – but he's very professional and I love that. We both push ourselves to the limits to get the best of what we can do and I feel that 2009 is going to be our year, on tour and musically. That's what I want to do with Krafty Kuts, I want to do a really great live



Martin Reeves, aka DJ Krafty Kuts, and Dominic Smith, aka Dynamite MC.

show. Give people an experience. Not just a few good tracks, but a visual experience, a dancing experience, a "going home talking about it for years" experience. That's what people need.

Gazette: What are your favorite records of the last year?

Dynamite: Amili by Lil Wayne. You know that record, right?

Gazette: [Ashamed] No.

Dynamite: You don't know "Amili" by Lil Wayne? The whole year and you never heard it once? Shocking! Mavado, "So Special", Usher, "Love in This Club" (amazing record), Wiley, "Wearing my Rolex" – fantastic record. There were a lot of good things – some of them overground, some of them underground. I'm really looking forward to '09. I love the new year because there's so much potential. You feel like there's a blank canvas once again. Whatever you did wrong last year, you can do right this year. Whatever tune you made last year, this tune you're going to make better, and I like that. Music only ever gets

better. Even when it gets worse over there, there's someone over here making it sound better. So you're gonna have some great stuff to write about, without a doubt, there's gonna be some great parties to go to. It's all positive till it's negative. And when it's negative, it's over.

Gazette: And finally: what are your musical guilty pleasures?

Dynamite: I do the chart show on Kiss every Sunday, it's a national show, a million listeners. It introduces me to music that I wouldn't normally listen to. I like Pink. She's my guilty pleasure. She's got fire. I feel like if she was sat here right now we'd have a good time.

Krafty: I don't have any guilty pleasures. My guilty pleasures are probably wack movies sometimes, really cheesy, crappy movies. I got some girly flicks this year, like *PS I Love You* and some crazy stuff like that, that I actually quite enjoyed and I thought, why not? I'll go for that stuff, and it opened my world to a new experience. Whatever.



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The General of Jungceylon

It is now more than two years since the imposing Jungceylon shopping center opened its doors to the general public in Patong. Under the helmsmanship of marketing guru turned CEO Prawit Janyasittikul, the Singapore-owned übermall only came into being second time of asking, after the project had to be put on hold in the wake of the 2004 tsunami.

Mr Prawit cut his teeth in the retail business, working for 20 years in the marketing department of Central Pattana in Bangkok, before signing up for the task of bringing the Jungceylon brand to the island in 2006. By his own admission, the birthing process has passed pretty smoothly, with the feedback from the island's residents and tourists being for the most part positive. "People in Patong tell me that Jungceylon has injected new life and color back into the town and given it back its smile," he says.

Mr Prawit manages the sprawling shopping complex with the help of a staff of 124, while his inner circle comprises a team of 16 managers, 9 based in Jungceylon and 7 in Bangkok. These days, Mr Prawit himself spends a good deal of his time in the capital, citing the importance of maintaining relationships with the company's important business partners, such as the Tourist Au-

thority of Thailand.

Of the recent economic and political upheavals that have wreaked such havoc on the country's business community, Mr Prawit remains particularly sanguine. Indeed, he contends that the recent blockade of Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport by the People's Alliance for Democracy actually served to boost Jungceylon's bottom line, highlighting the numbers of tourists "trapped" on the island during the siege of the kingdom's international travel hub.

Always on the lookout for new ideas to enhance and enliven his customers' shopping experience, Mr Prawit has lined up a number of new initiatives for Jungceylon in 2009. Just such a project is the forthcoming "Sunshine Smiling at Jungceylon" promotion, an example of what Mr Prawit coins "Retail Entertainment" and one which is designed to reinforce the island's connection to "sand, sea and sun". Having got the idea for the promotion from the recent "Smiley in the Sky" phenomenon that graced the Phuket night sky, Mr Prawit plans to unleash his "feelgood offensive" with slogans such as "Smiling Price, Smiling Service, Smiling Country".

Also registering high on the fun-ometer will be "Bikini Day", to be launched over the Chinese

New Year period. Customers spotted wearing a bikini (girls or boys, we are led to believe) will be eligible for prizes, including free food. By providing a fun experience for tourists – an important segment for Jungceylon, accounting for around 60% of its shoppers – Mr Prawit sees direct benefits for his business.

However, for all his creative flair, Mr Prawit never loses sight of the need to marry marketing theory with business practice. "Many people are blessed with great creativity, but combining creative thinking with effective business application is often the hard part," he comments.

When not overseeing the Jungceylon empire, Mr Prawit likes to relax at the family home near Kasetsart University in Bangkok. An avid reader, particularly of marketing books, he keeps in shape by jogging and playing badminton. At the weekend, you will likely find him perusing the market stalls in the capital's Chatuchak Market, always on the lookout for fresh ideas and new products to trial at Jungceylon. Somewhere in the not-too-distant future, he also plans to take time out to write a marketing book, a chance to lay down in print some of his thoughts and insights gained from a quarter of a century in the retail business.



Jungceylon CEO Prawit Janyasittikul: "Many people are blessed with great creativity, but combining creative thinking with effective business application is often the hard part."

Asked what he thought the secret has been for his success thus far, Mr Prawit offers a glimpse of his management style. "The key is to foster an environment of empowerment and ownership in the team around you," he says, echoing

the philosophy of his mentor and former boss Sutthitham Jarathiwat, president of the Central Group. "When you have this culture of ownership, you run your business as if it were your own. The customer will always feel this," he concluded.



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G'DAY GOVERNOR: Australian Ambassador Mr Paul Grigson (center) met with Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan (right) on January 13 at Phuket City Hall. During the meeting, the pair discussed emergency procedures in place to assist Australian tourists in emergency situations. Also pictured is Mr Stephen Candotti, OAM Consul General of the Australian Embassy in Thailand.



SHARING & CARING: Millennium Resort Patong Phuket (MRPP) launched its Wishes To Share Project – a campaign to support programs designed to help the children of Sussex House, which is supported by New Life Foundation. Sussex House was established with financial help from Sussex School Children, the West Sussex County Council and the Sussex Police in England in response to the 2004 tsunami.



GLITTERATI & THE LITERATI: More than 40 celebrities and high-end magazine publishers and editors were invited to stay at the Banyan Tree Phuket on January 15. All flight tickets were sponsored by Bangkok Airways. Pictured attending a cocktail reception and dinner party are (left to right) Mr Russell Loughland, Director of Sales and Marketing Banyan Tree Phuket; singer Ms Amita Mari Yong (Tata Young); Mr François Huet, Area General Manager Banyan Tree and M.L. Nandhika Varavarn, Vice President Corporate Communications, Bangkok Airways.



HAPPY NEW YEAR: Mr. Trongpon Pongrapeeporn General Manager for Marketing Activity (center) and Mr Panut Pukpo, Store Manager of Central Festival Phuket (right) offer a 'Sawasdee Peemai' basket to Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan.



WHO DARES WINS: Pupils at Cherg Talay Municipality School celebrated Children's Day under the banner of "Dare to think, dare to do and dare to show creativity". Pictured from left to right are: Somkid Thanandornwat, Cherg Talay town council member; Somsak Sampawittayanon, Vice Mayor of Cherg Talay Municipality; Boonterm Wimonpan - Secretary of Cherg Talay Municipality; Suniran Ratchtapluek, Mayor of Cherg Talay Municipality, Nipon Tammawat, Adviser of Cherg Talay Municipality; Prasert Changlek, Cherg Talay town council member; Supat Ariudompon, President of Cherg Talay Council and Korakij Sirisakulsombat, Cherg Talay town council member.



BAZ'S BIRTHDAY BASH: Long-term British expat, writer and thespian Barry Daniel celebrated his 60th birthday with friends at Kan Eang 2 Restaurant on January 17. Also pictured are (from left): Alyssa Webb, Fiona Stalker and Sara Stingelin.



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Kamala gets into a festive mood

A colorful crowd descended on Kamala Beach last weekend for the locality's annual Kamala Festival or "Burk Fa", which gave residents and staff of local businesses the chance to dress up, let their hair down and take part in parades and stage performances.

The three-day festival officially began on Friday January 16 with a ceremony presided over by Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan, which followed a parade of people attired in traditional and fancy dress along the main road and into Chalearmprakeit Park led by staff from Phuket Fantasea.

After the official opening ceremonies, musicians and entertainers took to the stage, including students from Ratchapat University and Ratchapracha School, to sing and dance the night away while local ladies lined up to take part in a beauty pageant to crown Miss Kamala 2009.

On Saturday, TV celebrities arrived for an afternoon football match that pitted Channel 7 stars against provincial dignitaries. Later, the celebrities took their turns on stage to entertain their fans, followed by more live local and international music. Sunday began with a bird singing competition, followed by a beach football match and more stage shows, including magic and comedy performances, culminating in a concert by the band Dayshow.



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Pruerk-Ampai	75	5,900,000	100,000	2,850,000	2,950,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	8,700,000	100,000	4,250,000	4,350,000

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Up, up and away at Phuket Airpark



Magnificent men and women in a variety of flying machines touched down on a dusty airstrip in Pak Khlok for a dramatic "Fly-in" to mark the opening of Phuket's first private airport last Saturday.

Crowds of locals and flying enthusiasts gathered at the 116-rai clearing with a 500-meter airstrip to watch pilots perform stunts and drop water bombs on a human target. With the winds up, kite-flying enthusiasts also had a field day.

The Airpark's developers hope that the site will become one of Phuket's most unique real estate development projects; one which will allow the owners of private planes to fly in and park right in front of their own homes.

About ten small planes gave free rides to local children and prizes were given away for the most impressive aerial stunts.

At dusk, a hot air balloon ghosted onto the scene, lightly brushing treetops on the way down to the Airpark's runway.

The Fly-in was organized by the Airpark's managing partner, Robert Suchard; flying enthusiast Wayne "Red" Graham; and renowned American bush pilot Tom Claytor.

The event was sponsored by the Absolute Property Group, Kingfisher Beer, and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Photography by the *Phuket Gazette* and Sakhorn Saengtongsamarnsin.



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Local chef engineers the perfect swordfish

Sonthaya Kaewpradit infuses the authentic taste of Phuket into the dishes he serves up as chef de cuisine at the Chedi Hotel in Surin Beach. Born and bred on the island, Sonthaya would spend much of his childhood helping his mother cook meals for the family, serving an apprenticeship that would serve him well throughout the career that would later follow.

Despite the obvious enjoyment he derived from helping his mum, the young Phuketian harbored no aspirations of becoming a chef himself and would instead later enroll at a technical college to study engineering.

After graduating, Sonthaya soon fell out of love with his chosen career, finally realizing that the only thing that made him truly happy was cooking.

While still working as an engineer, the wannabe chef was given a lucky break when his

brother-in-law, a fixture of the local hotel industry, offered him a role in the kitchen. Sonthaya grasped the opportunity with both hands and never looked back.

As a gifted up-and-coming chef with a passion to learn, Sonthaya blazed a trail through the hotel kitchens of the world, enjoying successful tenures in kitchens in Europe and the United States, where he labored tirelessly, ever eager to refine his culinary skills.

Now firmly ensconced back in Phuket, chef Sonthaya still finds time to conduct culinary masterclasses in Taiwan as he continues on his quest of helping others to create their own gastronomic delicacies.

While he professes to enjoying teaching, there is no doubt that it is in the crafting of mouthwatering delicacies that Sonthaya's passion truly lies. Since arriving at the Chedi Hotel five years ago, he has con-

tinued to evolve new techniques, but has never lost touch with his Thai roots and his love of Thai seafood.

Sonthaya revealed his simple philosophy behind preparing good food. "Creating good food is much like creating a piece of art. You have to feel it. If you can do this, any dish you prepare will be successful."

For the *Gazette's* visit to the Chedi, the award-winning chef was on hand to prepare his signature dish of "Cajun swordfish". The key, he assured us, was mixing locally produced spices with only the freshest ingredients, "Fresh ingredients always make the food taste good," he said.

Following the epicurean extravaganza, Sonthaya was gracious enough to share with us, and you, dear reader, his irresistible recipe for "Cajun swordfish with mashed potato, lime-tomato salsa and guacamole." Olé!

Above-right: Sonthaya Kaewpradit displays his signature dish, *Cajun Swordfish*. Below: the dish itself in focus.



Cajun Swordfish (for 1 person)

Swordfish steak	180g
Mashed potato	100g
Lime-tomato salsa	2 tablespoons
Guacamole	1 tablespoon
Plain yogurt	1 dollop
Chili oil	to cook with and garnish
Salt and pepper	to taste
Coriander for garnish	a sprig

Cajun seasoning

White peppercorns	2 tablespoons
Black peppercorns	2 tablespoons
Cayenne pepper	2 tablespoons
Garlic powder	1 tablespoon
Onion powder	1 tablespoon
Dried thyme	2 teaspoons
Dried mustard powder	1 teaspoon
Ground fennel	1/2 teaspoon
Dried oregano	1/2 tsp
Ground cumin	1/2 tsp

Cooking Instructions

Place the spices in a suitably sized vessel and grind finely together. Sprinkle salt and pepper on both sides of the swordfish steak and then repeat using the Cajun seasoning. Pour the chili oil into a heavy-based pan and cook the swordfish over a low heat until brown on one side. Turn the steak over and repeat before finishing in the oven for five minutes. Serve with mashed potato, lime-tomato salsa and guacamole. Garnish with the plain yogurt, chili oil and a coriander leaf.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

January 24. Nippers mini Surf lifesaving carnival morning.

Karon Beach from 9am to 12:30pm. Phuket Lifeguard Club will conduct a nippers Surf Lifesaving carnival for 5-15 year olds on Saturday January 24 at Karon Beach, near the Karon Lagoon. There is no entry fee for this nipper carnival; the aim is to promote water safety and interest in lifesaving as a sport. The event is sponsored by Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

Age groupings:

Under 8 (5-7)

8-11

12-15

Events:

1. Beach Sprint

2. Board race

3. Beach Flags

4. Swim

5. Tug of War

Drinks will be provided. All events will award medals for first, second and third place. Please note parents/guardians must sign a form to permit their child to participate.

For further information contact Jayne MacDougall. T: 089 6452576. Prathaiyuth Chuayuan T: 081 8925549.

January 24. The Night 'Mao New Year Party'.

The Night, organized by the All Seasons Naiharn Phuket, is a Live DJ Party featuring DJ "Miss Caro" from Paris mixing deep and sexy house music, with Oye, "King of Bongo" on percussion.

The party starts at 8pm and goes till late. No entrance fee. Standard drinks starting at 90 baht nett (including taxes & service) with free buffet.

For further information contact Pim/Chart at All Seasons Naiharn Phuket. T: 076-289327 E: hrm@allseasons-naiharn-phuket.com W: www.allseasons-naiharn-phuket.com

January 25. Free Computer and MAC Clinic - Chalong.

From 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. (1 km north of Chalong Circle, near Wine Connection).

Is your computer driving you NUTS? Looking for a decent Internet connection? Need to get a new computer, or fix the one you have now? Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard at his weekly Computer Clinic: help, news, tips, explanations and more, all in plain English, and absolutely free. Special help for Mac users this week. Computer novices most welcome. Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your lucky rabbit's foot. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard T: 089-196 0940 E: woody@KhunWoody.com



Phuket International Blues Rock Festival

February 20 - 21

The fourth annual Phuket Blues Rock Festival features international star Eric Bibb - one of the greatest contemporary blues artists. Eric has performed at the world's largest festivals, including Glastonbury, and tours the world constantly. We are extremely lucky and excited to have him! Also confirmed in a star-studded show is California's Mitch Woods and his Rocket 88s. Mitch is a world class New Orleans style boogie-woogie piano man and has set crowds alight around the world for over 30 years. From Europe comes Bert Deivert & Janne Zander, a top rated blues duo from Sweden, and representing Australia is KNIKI, a soulful lady with a seductive voice fresh from releasing her second album, "JUST". The 2009 festival welcomes a tribute act for the first time. "Chasing Jimi", featuring Jimmy Fame of the USA, is in homage to the legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix. Back by popular demand, Rich Harper, USA, will return along with The Blues Machine and Bangkok's Cannonball. Our very own Groove Doctors, fronted by Tony 'Hacksaw' Wilson, will also be back for some on-stage surgery. Check www.phuketbluesfestival.com for complete line-up. We will also have a festival warm-up show February 19 as well as post-event jam session February 22. For further information contact Andy Andersen. Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa T: 086-6822639 E: info@phuketbluesfestival.com W: www.phuketbluesfestival.com

January 26. Chinese New Year.

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 who choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

January 31 - February 6. 2009 Whale Shark Exploration and Education.

Wicked Diving and Golden Buddha Resort invite you to join a unique experience that supports

eco-tourism and offers the opportunity to search for, identify, and track whale sharks in Thailand's Andaman Sea. The objective of the Whale Shark Exploration Program is to raise awareness by educating all participants about the elusive whale shark. Spend four days in a sea-front house at Golden Buddha Resort, and three days diving (minimum nine dives) at Richelieu Rock, Surin Islands, Koh Tachai, Koh Bon, and BonSoong Wreck.

For more details go to: www.wickeddiving.com/whale-shark-2009.

For further information contact



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January 31. Zuccardi Wine & Dine.

Familia Zuccardi and SALA Phuket are pleased to present an evening of Argentinean wines, on Saturday January 31, 2009.

The Familia Zuccardi winery is the result of an ever-present innovative spirit and passion, recognized as an Argentine winery that produces outstanding wines with a clear commitment to quality and innovation.

Chef Jan Hollister will be serving an Argentinean "Asado", a grill menu to complement the Fuzion label. THB 1,200 ++ per person includes free pouring wines. Stay the night with SALA and enjoy special Thai residents' rates from THB 8,500++.

For further information contact SALA Phuket Resort & Spa. T: 076-338888 E: reservations@salaphuket.com W: www.salaphuket.com

February 1. Kamala Mountain Bike Race.

The first race in Kamala and hopefully not the last. A 7.5km track with a tough uphill climb, for ages 13 years and above. The entry fee is only 350 baht includes a free T-shirt. Drinks and food available on the day. Registration at 9:00 am in the coconut grove opposite Soi Fantasy.

For further information contact Lincoln T: 085-6197492 E: lmarrable@hotmail.com

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ON THE MOVE

Dr Bodin Laied has been appointed Deputy Hospital Director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Dr Bodin has worked in the hospital and healthcare industry for seven years. Born in Chiang Rai, Dr Bodin graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Chiang Mai University. In 2003, Dr Bodin started work at Bangkok Hospital Phuket as Assistant Hospital Director before his recent promotion to Deputy Hospital Director.



Indigo Pearl Resort has appointed **Ms Sasha Marker** as Sales Manager - MICE. Ms Marker holds a BA in Business Administration from Cambrian College of Arts & Technology, Mumbai. She has worked in the hospitality industry since 2003. Before her new appointment at Indigo Pearl, Ms Marker worked at Laguna Phuket in the sales department.



Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort is pleased to announce the appointment of **Julian Lowry** as Director of Food and Beverage. A British national, Julian was formerly with the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manama, Bahrain and Sonesta Maho Beach Hotel, Netherlands Antilles where he held the same position for two and four years respectively.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The new US President Barack Obama may well bring some relief to financial markets. It is constructive that he assumes power with US\$350 billion in cash at his immediate disposal.

These funds come courtesy of his predecessor, George W Bush, who held the power to distribute this amount of money under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). The outgoing president was co-operation personified with the new commander in chief. He simply offered the funds which had become available and it was to America's great benefit that both parties worked smoothly together.

President Obama, while still President-elect, made it clear there could only be one President of America at any time. This was a clever and laudable announcement and the two men seem to have reached a very accommodating working relationship. The balance

Can Obama make a difference to global markets?

of the new stimulus plan, which is anticipated to be US\$775 billion, will hopefully be available by mid-February.

In financial terms this puts a "floor under the market". The US government is able to assist the economy by acting as a buyer in the market, for example by creating demand for out-of-favor assets i.e. mortgage backed securities. This demand can change a whole market's attitude.

A recent example, albeit from Germany, may be illuminating. In late 2008 Porsche decided to stage a takeover bid of fellow car maker, Volkswagen. The latter's shares were languishing along with those of virtually every other member of the industry.

The sudden demand for Volkswagen shares from Porsche temporarily made Volkswagen the most valuable company in the world until the takeover was completed.

Another factor which enters into the equation is the "honeymoon" period, which traditionally lasts for around 100 days for an incoming president. This can also act as a fillip for the markets. A view that could almost be described as the consensus is that the first two quarters of 2009 will be extremely unpleasant but will then improve.

Consensus views scare me because they are seldom correct.



The Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry building in Japan which has just reported a virtual collapse in machinery export orders.

This recession, insofar as it is being propelled by a financial crisis, promises to be far more complex than previous recessions.

One example of this complexity is the latest available data for US import and export prices for late 2008; both reflect strong deflationary trends.

It is likely that, at this stage, all the stimulus packages being administered around the world are addressing an environment which is either outright deflationary or heading in that direction. Unfortunately, this is more a reflection of a collapse in demand leading to lower prices than would be the case in more normal times.

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@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com

Oil prices, at only a fraction of where they were just months ago, mean that consumers have extra money to spend. So although US retail sales over the vital De-

cember period reflected negative figures, there is still data yet to be published as it does not yet take into account the effects of discounted prices by retailers. Some analysts believe that once the discounting effects are added to calculations, actual sales may well be equal to December 2007.

We still appear to have some way to go with this crisis; the announcement by US banking group Morgan Stanley that fellow banking giant HSBC may be required to raise US\$30 billion in equity capital shows that even extremely well-managed groups, and HSBC certainly qualifies as one, are still feeling the effects of this crisis.

Economic conditions in Europe are grim, with the German economy, the largest in the region, deeply mired in recession. In mid-January, the European Central Bank (ECB) was forced to reduce its base lending rate by 50 basis points from 2.5% to 2%. The ECB has been notoriously slow in reducing rates but even they have been forced to face reality.

Japan, the world's second-largest economy, has just reported a virtual collapse in machinery export orders; the expression "falling off a cliff" is very apt.

Recessions, in the best of times, if that is not an oxymoron, always cause banks' bad debt levels to rise. This recession promises to be well above average in this respect. Against this backdrop, it was not surprising that 2008 was an 'annus horribilis' for most investors. Hedge funds, both "long" and "short", were common areas where losses were made. This does not, however, implicate all hedge funds, as some of the astutely managed funds did return significant profits. Another area, able to invest on both a long and short basis, is managed futures funds.

This column has periodically covered this area, notably three different funds from AMT Futures, a London-based asset manager with years of experience. All three funds performed well in 2008 and returns, although below average, ranged from 11% to over 15%. The important point is that in a very hostile environment, investors still managed to make money.

I shall soon be meeting with a senior executive associated with the group and the next article will carry much more technical information on these funds, including the IQ-A program, now an integral part of the IQS and SAV Funds.

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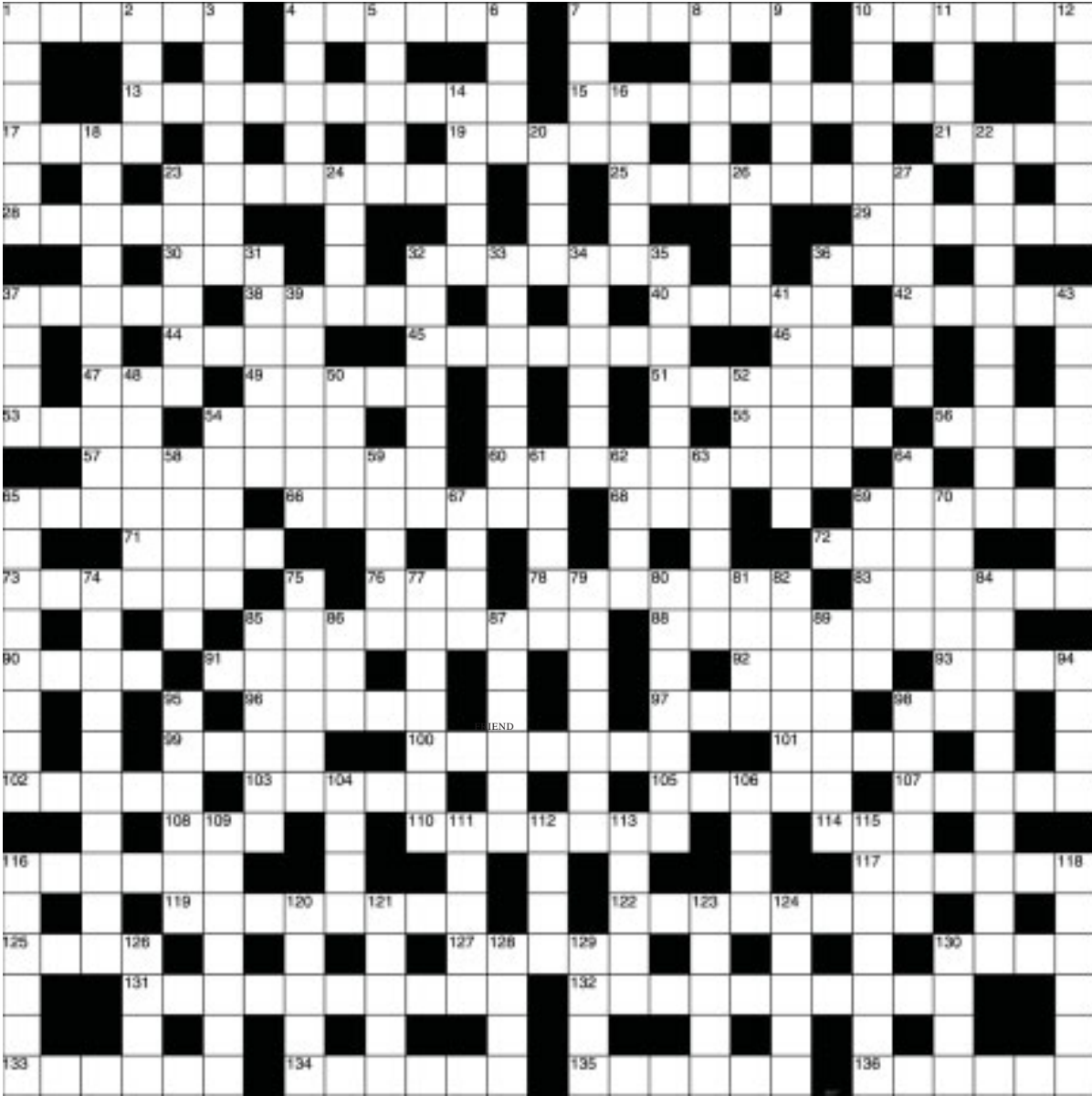
PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?





The BIG Crossword

© Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

Across

1. Hansel &...

4. Ensnare

7. Duck calls

10. Growing older

13. Repeat occurrence

15. Runaways

17. Prudent

19. Reserve, set...

21. Capture

23. Rids of lice

25. Frozen shipping hazards

28. Team member

29. Canvas supports

30. Fitness centre

32. Newer versions of film

36. Illegal hallucinogen (1,1,1)

37. African republic

38. Red earth colour

40. Florida city

42. Hang loosely

44. Engrave

45. String-knotting craft

46. Woodwind instrument

47. Foot digit

49. Actor,... Costner

51. Money, filthy...

53. Biblical garden

54. Contemplate

55. Greasy

56. Zone

57. Formal party

60. Coach stations (3,6)

65. Gloomy

66. Fitted (in)

68. Dedicatory poem

69. Covered shopway

71. Swedish pop group

72. Practise boxing

Down

73. Former Yugoslav region

76. Poet, Edgar Allan...

78. Small embroidery holes

83. Baby grands

85. Frightening dream

88. Haughtiness

90. Ark builder

91. Bottom of ear

92. Spoken

93. Philosopher,... Marx

96. Lucky numbers game

97. Fibreglass insulation strips

98. Egyptian snake

99. Temperament

100. Singer,... Etheridge

101. Scraped by,... out a living

102. Frilled lace trim

103. Leading lady, prima...

105. Chicken breed,... Island Red

107. Affray

108. Which-ever

110. Candidate for job

114. Relaxation art,... chi

116. Sparse

117. Radio interference

119. Devil-worshipper

122. Summer frock

125. Spy,... Hari

127. Divide into two

130. ... White And The Seven Dwarfs

131. Fingertip varnish (4,6)

132. Vitality

133. Legal decision

134. Naturism

135. Relate again

136. Edged (towards)

59. Enthusiasm

61. Goat milk sac

62. Medicine measure

63. Play,... Pan

64. Rail transport

65. Suave

67. Bucket down

69. Greatly dismay

70. Breaks sharply

74. Astronaut's rocket

75. Sex drive

77. Sofa footstool

79. Former Russian leader, Boris...

80. Expose (3,4)

81. Horse's gait

82. Graded

84. Layered ice cream

85. No-one

86. Info

87. Safe haven

89. Sealant

94. Existence

95. Daubs

98. Confesses

104. Illuminating gas

106. Was in debt to

109. Moving closer to

111. Solemn vows

112. Stone god

113. SE English county

115. Agrees

116. Club participant

118. Claveren person

120. Colorado ski resort

121. Ticked over

123. Lordly

124. Rustic

126. Opposed to

128. Throat-clearing sound

129. Steer off course

130. Transmit

Solution on next page

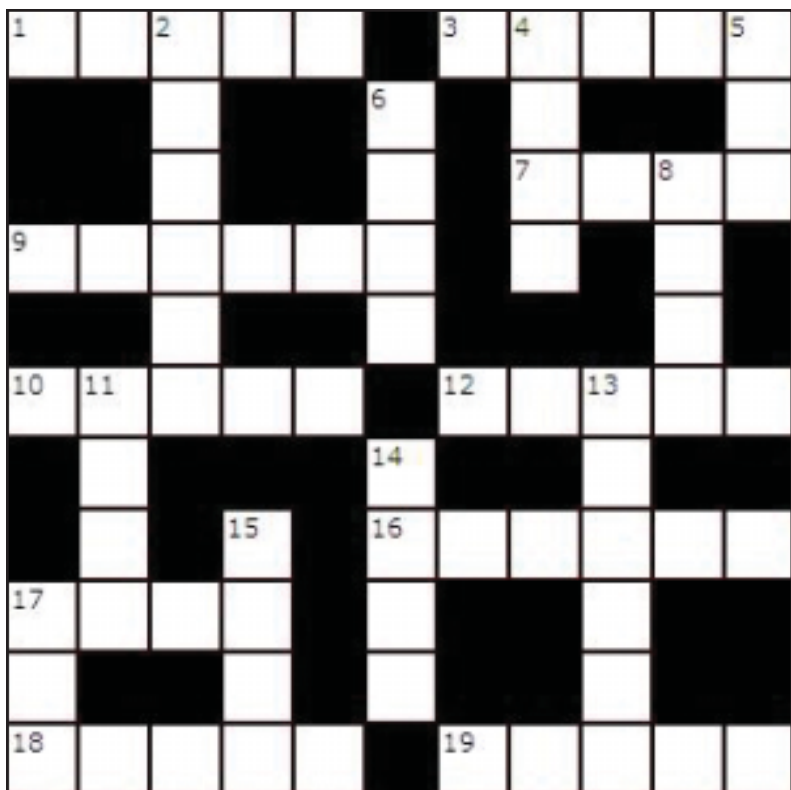
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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.



2. Fools
4. Thing
5. Dynamite
6. Condiment
8. Measurement
11. Looks down on others
13. Instrument
14. Follow
15. Bonus
17. Everything

Solution below

MONSTER QUIZ

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. What is the maximum weight of a tenpin bowling ball in pounds? | 8. Which German was nicknamed “The Iron Chancellor”? | 14. What is Peter Parker’s alter ego? |
| 2. In which film do you meet Thomas O’Mally? | 9. What Black Muslim leader was assassinated on February 21, 1965? | 15. In <i>The X Files</i> what is Agent Mulder’s nickname? |
| 3. In which movie does Elvis sing in German? | 10. On what Hawaiian island is Pearl Harbor located? | 16. Which of Henry VIII’s wives had four husbands? |
| 4. Who composed the opera <i>Prince Igor</i> in 1890? | 11. What imaginary line encircling the Earth is 90° from both Poles at every point? | 17. The Namibian dollar is tied to which unit of currency? |
| 5. From which animal do we get venison? | 12. Which US chain is named after a character in <i>Moby Dick</i> ? | 18. What is a female badger called? |
| 6. What name is given to a cow that has not had a calf? | 13. What is the animal symbol of the motor manufacturer Suzuki? | 19. How many times does an elephant change its teeth? |
| 7. What is Sake made from? | | 20. Which 12 letter word is a food where every other letter is an A? |
- Answers below*

Answers below



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

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

1. 16lbs; 2. The Aristocrats; 3. GI Blues; 4. Borodin; 5. Deer; 6. Heifer; 7. Rice; 8. Otto Von Bismarck; 9. Malcolm X; 10. Oahu; 11. The Equator; 12. Starbucks; 13. The Rhino; 14. Wimbledon Ladies Singles; 15. Spooky (Fox is his forename NOT nickname); 16. Catherine Parr; 17. The South African Rand; 18. A Sow; 19. 6 Times; 20. Taramasalata.

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

Horoscopes

Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

A careless approach to doing business could land Aquarians in hot water this week. This is not the right time to take support from others for granted and verbal agreements should not be relied upon. A Piscean colleague can be trusted, but Aries could veer off in another direction at any moment. Those who are celebrating a birthday in the last week of January will enjoy romantic fulfillment in the year ahead.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Persistent Pisceans stand a good chance of ending the first month of the year on a much stronger note than it started. Your will to succeed is forecast to remain strong until the middle of March and even tentative opportunities will be worth grabbing. New romance could be subject to misunderstandings this weekend – if this is due to a communication barrier, you could soon be having second thoughts about the relationship.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Those born under the sign of Aries who want answers to a puzzle in their personal lives should receive clarification this weekend. Your chances of romance with Leo look slim, but Cancer has plans to get to know you better. A casual employment inquiry made late last year is due to be rekindled – this could be the ticket to success you've been dreaming of. Wear the color sunset orange to encourage positive expectations.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Life finally slows down for most Taureans and there is hope on the horizon that a more restful period will continue until spring. A surprise visit from a friend can lead to an enjoyable sightseeing trip – you could discover a new interest along the way. Romance proceeds at a pace that suits you, although a relatively new partner may show signs of wanting more commitment. Number eight is lucky on Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis can often charm the birds out of the trees, but you could be disappointed by the lack of response from others this week. Those who would like to make a romantic impression on Leo are advised to remain in the shadows for the time being. Where business is concerned, action speaks louder than words. Travel plans are forecast to become more complicated than you had hoped for, but money matters are well-starred.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

A dream is forecast to come true for Cancerians before the end of this month. This could very well concern work, where chances of success are particularly strong until the middle of March. Romance brings some happy moments this Sunday, but Sagittarius is starting to become jealous. Investments should be kept low-key, especially where property is involved. The number four can open a lucky door next Thursday.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Life is a walk on the beach for most of those born under the sign of Leo until the end of January. A calmer atmosphere, both at home and at work, allows you to make steady progress. One particular goal should be reached within the next few weeks and this is related to success in independent business. Romance could require astute handling this weekend when a partner's feathers are ruffled.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans' earthy outlook on life could irritate friends who prefer to spend their time dreaming of the impossible. You are advised to keep your opinions to yourself, especially where airy Aquarius is concerned. Money is forecast to flow your way, but an unexpected bill is also set to cause some financial juggling. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for business related appointments. Wear the color sandstone to promote a trustworthy image.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

Your confidence is strong until the end of this month. Librans who have been considering a change of career should do well in interviews during the coming days. This is not the right time to be carefree with cash – a family member could put pressure on you this weekend for an unrealistic loan. New romance will bring excitement, but those already in a relationship may have to pacify their partners.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

An earth sign friend spills the beans this weekend, but knowing how to react to this information could prove tricky. Scorpions are advised to keep secrets locked away – a little knowledge could be a dangerous thing in the not too distant future. Your luck in love improves towards the end of January and a casual relationship is forecast to become something more solid. The number nine can bring some good fortune on Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Too many challenges at the same time could stress some Sagittarians this week. An invitation from a friend to get away from it all on Sunday should be accepted, even if you would prefer to stay at home. Libra is thinking of ways to make their feelings known – a chance encounter midweek may not be as unexpected as you think. Wear the color chestnut to encourage steadiness of spirit.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Capricorns who are frustrated by the lack of support from others in the world of business are advised to focus on working with other earth signs.

Taurus is ready to provide reliable backup and Virgo would like to follow in your footsteps. Your usual method of flirtation won't impress Aries, so try acting impulsively this weekend and see what happens. The results could be surprising.

If you're already in a relationship, your partner will appreciate a romantic gesture.

Surviving the meltdown

If you're the kind of person who reads newspapers (and something tells me that you are), then you'll probably have noticed the end of the world. It's scrawled all over the pages, you can't miss it. Fire and brimstone are pouring from the sky and the four horsemen of the apocalypse have been joined by a new rider, "lack of liquidity in the financial markets". He's suited and balding, he listens to Dire Straits and Phil Collins and he wants the shirt off your back. Ah yes, and everything else you bought with that credit card.

We had some good times though didn't we? For many of us, it seemed like they would always roll; we made hay while the sun shined and lay basking on the bales for hours, idly twirling iPod dials and shifting only to sip from vast cartons of branded coffee. Mostly froth and over-priced, alas, it aptly characterised the age.

The party, it seems, is over. Now begins the long hangover of global recession. Fear not, however, for a bloody mary of sorts is at hand in the form of my guide to surviving the global economic crisis. The following suggestions will help you increase your income, reduce your outgoings and come out of the other side of the global recession smiling.

Sell everything

Sell everything you own and live off the proceeds. Think Buddhist: abandon attachment. You don't need any of that stuff anyway. Apart from your clothes, of course. That goes without saying, really. You'd get arrested without clothes. And you'll need a toothbrush too. Just because the global economy is bad, it doesn't mean your breath should be. And keep the iPod. It's a triumph of design and the bloody thing's got your entire record collection on it. All of it! Amazing! But apart from your clothes, your toothbrush and your iPod, sell everything.

Sell yourself

You can sell anything in Thailand, even yourself. Especially yourself, if some neighbourhoods are anything to go by. Don't sell yourself too cheap. You're worth more than a Yakult and a Chicken Steak Burger, champ! Wear mink, suck in the gut and position yourself as an affordable luxury.

Save money, save face

This being Thailand, you will need to ensure you save money whilst also saving face – your mask of poise, propriety and prosperity that must never, ever be



allowed to slip (except in singular, spectacular acts of violence, or karaoke). Steam the label off an expensive bottle of imported vodka and use it to "pimp" the lao khao you'll be drinking instead.

Steal

Phuket is flush with opportunity. I mean, how hard can it be to hotwire a yacht?

Moonlight

Here in Thailand, your ability to speak English is worth its weight in gold. Or would be, were it possible to weigh language skills. Why not moonlight as an English teacher? Students are easy to find, especially if you're pro-active and wear a sandwich board. Remember that being a teacher is a position of great responsibility, so be professional and get a TEFL certificate – nobody in Thailand ever learned English from an unqualified drunk, after all

Drink less

A simple way to lower your outgoings is to cut down on your booze consumption. This may have the effect of provoking intense feelings of boredom and listlessness. Of course, the only way to combat intense feelings of boredom and listlessness is to drink more. And so we arrive at man's eternal conundrum...


The best things in life are free

It's a cliché to say it's a cliché because it's true, but it's a cliché because it's true.

And finally...

George Orwell, who was right about most things, wrote in *Down and Out in Paris and London*, "It is a feeling of relief, almost of pleasure, at knowing yourself at last genuinely down and out. You have talked so often of going to the dogs - and well, here are the dogs, and you have reached them, and you can stand it. It takes off a lot of anxiety." So we've nothing to fear from ruin? Marvelous. Pass me the credit card...

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Warn travelers of smuggling risks

The campaign by the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) using billboards to warn travelers at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport of the stiff penalties they face if caught bringing counterfeit goods into foreign countries is not only commendable, but overdue.

Given the scale of the trade in counterfeit goods in Phuket and the number of direct international flights out of Phuket International Airport (PIA), the *Gazette* recommends that the DIP extend the campaign to PIA as soon as possible.

While this editorial writer finds it odd to be arguing in favor of billboards, the DIP signs carrying vital warning messages are worthwhile if they prevent even just a few travelers from having to pay huge fines – or possibly even serve jail time – for unknowingly “smuggling” counterfeit goods into countries like France, where IP laws are not only strict – but strictly enforced.

The *Gazette* agrees that those involved in the manufacture, wholesaling, retailing and intentional high-volume smuggling of counterfeit products across borders certainly deserve harsh penalties. However, holidaymakers unaware that the designer handbag they bought in Patong is a fake certainly do not.

Like his predecessors, Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan has asked police to crack down on the sale of counterfeit goods. Yet the trade continues more briskly than ever, with the local cost of high-quality pirate DVDs now down to just 50 baht a copy from 100 baht a few years ago.

Not only is the counterfeit goods trade carried out in full view of police, but it is conducted in large part by foreigners of dubious immigration status who make a mockery of laws restricting retail work to Thai nationals. Even worse, their incessant and annoying “sales tactics”, which include physically accosting passers by, have done untold damage to the island's reputation over the years.

The DIP website presents figures showing progress in the fight against copyright infringement and credits the Royal Thai Police and DSI for making 7,118 arrests nationwide in IP cases in 2007, up from previous years.

While this may represent “progress”, the number of arrests remains minuscule compared with the actual scale of this illegal industry. Without a sea change in the way Thai law enforcement chooses to enforce IP law, the DIP is as far away as ever from meeting its goal of bringing Thailand up to the standards of more developed countries.

In the meantime, the effort to prevent foreigners from getting into trouble when returning abroad with counterfeit goods is money well spent.

-The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?

Email editor@phuketgazette.net

Phuket Gazette

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Letters

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

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

Gridlock imminent

It is heartening to see that our new Governor is trouble-shooting around the island. Still, one of Phuket's main problems is growing and growing. I refer to the traffic snarls and general chaos on the roads.

I live a mere 17km south of Phuket Town and yet spend ten hours a week commuting twice a day. That works out to 170km at an average speed of 17km an hour – parts of Bangkok are easier going than that. Surely it is high time to address the problem of a lack of public transportation before the island finally grinds to a gridlocked halt. An outright (and enforced) ban on trucks during rush hour would be a modest start.

Sam W.
Rawai

Construction on Koh Kai is not what tourists want

I have been visiting the naturally beautiful Koh Kai islands for almost 10 years, but the largest of these islands now looks like a dump with sun chairs.

Also, the smallest island is a construction site with a new sala being built, taking up almost the entire length of the beach on one side.

What happened to the natural beauty that TAT is so keen on promoting?

I have also been told that tourist shops are being built on Koh Yao Yai and that they will cover the entire beach. Who will want to go to this island ever again?

Surely not tourists.

Anders Nilsson
Sweden

Plastic Nightmares

Having recently moved to Phuket to enjoy my retirement, I have been astounded by the number of plastic bags that are offered with every purchase.

If I try and buy even the smallest item, the cashier is quick to offer me a plastic bag and I have to refuse. I think the phrase “Mai sai tung”, was one of the very first I learned once I settled in.

I see so many bags littering the streets. These, if not binned, generally get washed down into the sea and are often consumed by the marine life or come to rest on corals depriving them of sunlight.

Surely big companies, Seven-Eleven and Tesco Lotus to name a couple, have a responsibility to help protect the environment. They could start by charging a 10 baht fee every time someone wants a plastic bag and then sell environmentally friendly bags which are reusable, as is now the trend in Europe.

This way they are reducing costs by decreasing the constant number of plastic bags required, making money on the recyclable bags and helping protect the environment and beautiful landscape that Phuket has to offer.

Carolyn Thompson
Cherng Thalay

Queue jumping makes me hopping mad

I love Thai people and their ways. I truly feel that Thailand is “The Land of 1,000 Smiles”. I have met some locals in Phuket who have become true friends,

people who I would help at the drop of a hat and vice versa.

There is, however, one thing that really does bug me. There is nothing more irritating than standing patiently in line at a shop, getting to the front of the queue and having a Thai push in front of you just because you are a “farang” and presumably a lower class citizen.

The first time I witnessed I was shocked; it was something I have never encountered in my home country. If I did that back home to someone for the simple reason that they originated from another country, all hell would break loose.

What amazed me even more was that the cashier nonchalantly served him without a second thought for me and the people behind me.

Having learned enough Thai to now get by, I can now take matters into my own hands and rebuke any queue jumpers either for my own benefit or for the benefit of others.

What really needs to happen is for the cashier to take charge of the situation and condemn the queue jumpers, making them go to the back of the line like everybody else.

Yvonne Lutz
Kamala

New Style?

As a regular reader of the *Phuket Gazette*, I am writing to say that I find recent editions are looking fresher and more colorful than in the past.

If this is a new style, I am all in favor of it. Keep up the good work!

Robyn Thompson
Patong

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

Preserving gentle giants of the sea



FIRST PERSON

Robyn Hasson is a diving instructor from the US. Falling in love with diving prompted Robyn to quit her job and move to Koh Tao, where she began to accumulate the necessary dive qualifications to become a PADI- and SSI-certified instructor. The former marketing and public relations representative is now a partner at liveaboard operators Wicked Diving in Khao Lak; specifically responsible for marketing, environmental policies, events and conservation and education programs. There are a total of four partners at Wicked including founder Paul Landgraver (USA), Marcel Bruijs (Dutch), and Filip Vandevyvere (Belgium). Fiercely determined to protect the world's marine ecosystems, Robyn spoke to the *Gazette* about Wicked Diving's forthcoming Whale Shark Exploration and Education project.

If you ask a diver, "What do you want to see while diving?", at least one of the top three answers is "a whale shark". When I started diving I had no idea what whale sharks were, or where you could see these amazing fish – until my 40th dive, which came at Chumphon Pinnacles, about 45 minutes from Koh Tao in the Gulf of Thailand.

As people jumped in for the morning dive, from the back of the boat we heard an instructor yelling "whale shark!" Everyone got kitted up and jumped in. There it was: a five-meter whale shark. If I hadn't been breathing through a regulator my jaw would have dropped. What a magical experience; what an amazing sight.

This started my personal fascination with the largest fish in the sea – and here at Wicked Diving, we all share these passions and fascinations. This is the primary reason for the creation of the Whale Shark Exploration and Education Program.

Graceful, rare, and mesmerizing, the whale shark can grow up to 12.2 meters long, weigh upwards of 13.6 tonnes and can live for about 70 years. Among the most elusive fish in

the sea, it is found in warm tropical waters and is believed to have originated 60 million years ago.

Currently listed as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the whale shark is frequently targeted by commercial fisheries in many regions. Little is known about this magnificent fish – and even less about its mating habits, migration patterns and size of population.

The staff at Wicked Diving have seen our fair share of whale sharks. Even so, we appreciate how rare these sightings are. Filip Vandevyvere, partner and instructor from Wicked, has over 1,200 logged dives and has worked in the diving industry in Thailand for over seven years. Despite this, he only saw his first whale shark in Koh Tao this past summer.

Seven years is a long time to wait, but it also proves how rare and special these fish are, and how lucky anyone is to see them.

We are fortunate to live near and dive in an area known for frequent whale shark sightings, the Similan and Surin Island National Marine Parks.

There have been multiple whale shark sightings this season – mostly at Richelieu Rock, but also off Koh Bon, Koh Tachai, BonSoong Wreck, and around Island Nine (Christmas Point) in the Similans. More sightings have been reported so far this season than in last year's entire season.

The same is true for manta rays, with consistent sightings at Koh Bon during the first two weeks of January. They have also been spotted recently at Koh Tachai, Richelieu and around Similan Island Nine, Island Seven (West of Eden), and further south around Boulder City and Shark Fin Reef.

I'm proud to be able to offer specialized programs like the Whale Shark Exploration and Education trips, which go in search not only of whale sharks, but also manta rays and other larger pelagics.

The primary goal of these expeditions is to see and dive with whale sharks and manta rays, participate in the ECOCEN digital photographic library for tracking, and to educate the participants on the biology and known information about these magnificent creatures.



We also include a specialty certification from SSI (SSI ECOlogical) on these trips that focuses on diving skills and elements like perfect buoyancy, reef clean-ups, shark biology as well as Naturalist and Underwater Fish Identification.

All of these components are targeted at creating more educated divers with an awareness of the surroundings they dive in, an appreciation of rare species and the motivation to do what they can to preserve them and the habitats that sustain them.

For the 2009 season, Wicked Diving and Golden Buddha resort have teamed up to support continuing efforts aimed at whale shark education, preservation and exploration. There are two periods when people can take part in these expeditions: Febru-

ary 4-6 and March 3-8.

The February excursion includes a minimum of nine dives (Richelieu Rock, Surin Islands, Koh Tachai, Koh Bon, and BonSoong Wreck) with experienced and qualified dive guides and instructors leading to SSI ECOlogical Specialty Certification.

The proceeds are donated back into local environmental programs; educational presentations on whale sharks, other sharks, manta rays and local marine life; scuba equipment; all meals and beverages; underwater digital cameras and instruction.

There will also be a videographer on board, recording the trip and the dive, with a DVD available for purchase.

Robyn can be contacted at robyn@wickeddiving.com

Issues & ANSWERS

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

Write to:

The Phuket Gazette,
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang,
Phuket 83000. Fax 076-
213971, or submit your issue
at www.phuketgazette.net

Is a week enough time to renew all my documents?

My mother was born in Thailand, is a Thai national but she moved to Hong Kong after getting married and has lived there ever since.

She has a brother in Bangkok, however, my mother's name has not been on the house registration certificate (*tabien baan*) since she moved away and her Thai passport has been out of date since 1997.

The Thai Consulate in Hong Kong has told my mother to return to Thailand to apply for a new ID card and passport. Before doing that, she has to add her name to the *tabien baan*.

She has already booked a return ticket to fly from Hong Kong on to Bangkok on January

26, then from Bangkok to Hong Kong on January 30.

I am worried that one week is not enough time to complete all that paperwork, including having a new passport issued. She only has a one-way permit to enter Thailand, so if she doesn't get the new passport in time, she will not be allowed back into Hong Kong.

Please can you tell me if she will be able to add her name to the *tabien baan* and how long it will take if she can do so?

Will she then have time to apply for her new ID card and passport?

Chun kam Hui
Hong Kong

Reply from Talang District Office:

The first thing your mother should do is make sure that her name is still registered with the Department of Provincial Registration (www.dopa.go.th).

This shouldn't take long if she goes first thing in the morning, but it could take all day if there are any issues with her current documents.

However, having this confirmation in hand will help speed up the process for the other documents as she will be able to prove that the papers she carries now are genuine.

Your mother should then be able to register her name on the *tabien baan* and apply for her new ID card on the same day.

Once she has completed those tasks, she can then apply

for her new passport.

One week should be enough time to get all the documentation she needs. Any delays will be due to the place your mother was originally registered on the *tabien baan*.

If she was registered in another province, then she will have to go to that province's district offices to re-register. She should contact that office by telephone first to save time when she arrives in Thailand. If you don't know the telephone number of the office, you can call 1133.

Department of Provincial Registration: Assaparn Road, Watrachaborpit, Pranakorn, Bangkok 10200. Tel: 02-2210151-8.

Last glimpses of the gentle orangutan

I drove through palm oil plantations for three hours to reach Bukit Lawang, outside Medan in Sumatra, the closest location to Phuket where you can still see wild orangutans. My goal was to photograph the “red apes” before they become extinct.

A scientifically credible genetic study released in 2006 says the outside estimate for these animals becoming extinct in the wild is about 20 years. The reason: habitat loss due to agricultural conversion – writ large by the endless palm oil plantations of my journey.

Palm oil, extracted from the fruit of the oil palm, is extremely rich. As well as producing a high yield in biodiesel conversion it is used in the manufacture of numerous household products including soaps, cosmetics, chocolates and trans-fat-free cooking oil. One in every 10 products in a modern supermarket contains palm oil. Combine that fact with the huge demand for biodiesel and a weak, corrupt government and nature doesn't stand a chance.

Ironically an EU environmental mandate for conversion to petrol/diesel mixes with at least 10% biofuel appears to be the final blow for the orangutan. After the mandate, jungles in Sumatra and Borneo were decimated to produce palm oil for biofuels. So much green house gas is released in deforestation and the subsequent agricultural fires, that a plantation requires a century of production to offset those original green house gases – not including the transportation required to get the palm oil to market. With luck, palm oil trees may be productive for one-third of a century.

But palm oil production isn't the only threat to orangutans and their environment. Long-time

Phuketians will remember the great fires across Indonesia and Malaysia during 1997-98. We were told they were “agricultural fires”, with the blame pinned on small-time farmers clearing their ancestral lands in traditional Asian fashion to plant crops.

In fact, they were major industrial fires started by Malaysian logging companies (with a little assistance from the Indonesians) who were granted concessions from the corrupt Indonesian gov-

ernment. Several million hectares of rainforest were cleared at a rate equivalent to three football pitches every minute.

Everybody in Singapore and KL was complaining about the smog and the entire peninsula was reminiscent of Los Angeles before catalytic converters. Tensions rose between KL and Jakarta until it was discovered

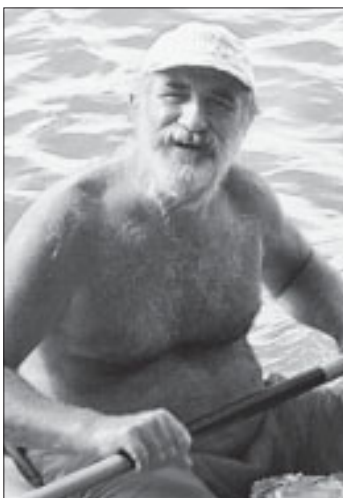
that Malaysian logging interests were behind the fires, not poor local farmers!

Suddenly, complaints from KL stopped. Malaysians know that 80% of worldwide rainforest extraction is by Malaysian-owned companies – and they're ruthless.

In the decade after the fires – which brings us to today – orangutan populations dropped 43%. A recent census shows about 20,000 orangutans remain, down from 35,000 in 1996. Estimates put the number of Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) at around 6,600 in 2004. Now it appears the orangutan will become the first Great Ape to become extinct in the wild – thanks to mankind's newfound “environmental” concern.

Humans abuse those closest to us. Nations war with their neighbors, domestic violence is rampant, David Madoff preyed on other Jews. In Southeast Asia, humans shoot mother gib-

THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray
info@johngray-seacano.com



ABOVE: A glimpse of the gentle, deep and intelligent love as mama orangutan displays her baby before my camera. Even captured by machine, her gentle yet powerful spirit shines.

bons to capture their babies. I've often wondered what we'd be like had we descended from the orangutan or mountain gorilla, rather than the ancestor of chimpanzees and bonobos – unruly, warlike and carnivorous. Conversely, the orangutan is an intelligent, gentle, loving vegetarian. Orangutans share 95-97% of their genetic material with humans – too bad we aren't more like them.

One sign of advanced orangutan intelligence is “calculated reciprocity”, a fancy way of saying, “you scratch my back, I scratch yours.” Researchers from Scotland's St Andrews University studying Bim and Dok, a pair of orangutans at Germany's Leipzig Zoo, discovered the mates displayed this kind of behavior. “It's not just humans that calculate about giving, and it's not just humans who expect to be given something in return when they are co-operative,” claims Dr Valerie Dufour. “Orangutans do that too.”

Experiments aside, I'm big on eye contact to measure animal intelligence. In Bukit Lawang I came close to a female orangutan and her baby. I looked into the mother's eyes, and the depth of pure parental love I saw was breathtaking.

The palm oil plantations surrounding Medan used to be Sumatra's legendary thick jungles – orangutan habitat. A century ago, those jungles were thick and pristine. Then globalization hit and the rape began. Now the canopied jungles are being bulldozed



and cleared by agricultural fires, breaking up orangutan families. Mothers running from the devastation are killed and captured babies sold to unscrupulous millionaires, flaunting their wealth gains by jailing juvenile orangutans.

Everybody loves the orangutan except the palm oil folks, but their plight first came home when I spoke at the 1996 PATA Ecotourism Conference in Balikpapan, Borneo. Transiting Jakarta, I experienced an insight into the problem when I was courted by a politically powerful billionaire. When I asked why he was entering ecotourism, he replied, “We exhausted all our logging concessions, but we have

several hundred four-wheel drive vehicles in inventory, so we decided to run eco-tours.”

Sorry jerk. All the money in the world won't buy you dignity. Unfortunately, this irresponsible fool has the money to buy logging and palm oil concessions from government officials. Neither side cares about the law or the environmental consequences as long as there is money to be made.

But there is hope. In the next column we discuss Willie Smits's experiment to reclaim rainforests from barren lands; ways to cut down on your palm oil consumption and the downsides of ethanol.



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Bukit Lawang's wild orangutans are easy to access from Phuket. Fly KL to Medan on a variety of carriers. Then it's a three hour drive to the orangutan reserve, either a US\$70 cab ride or \$1 on the local bus. There are two lodges, Garden Inn on the road side of the river, and Jungle Inn across the river. One way or the other you'll cross a suspension footbridge about 100m up to get to the orangutans – lots of fun. Lodging ranges 10-20 US dollars per night.

The Jungle Inn was excellent value with great rooms and an excellent restaurant, but the electricity goes off about 11 pm (appropriate for an eco-lodge). My friends stayed at the Garden Inn and gave excellent reviews.

Jannersius "Edu" Lingga is an experienced tour guide in the area. Edu's mobile is 0813 7018 9501, or write to Jannersius Lingga, Perumahan Wisata Blok E 11, Bukit Lawang, Bahorok, 20774.

If you prefer to go with a tour package, go through www.yelweb.org or yel_mdn@telkom.net.id.

For general ecotourism in Sumatra, try www.sumatraecotourism.com

Traveling light? Travel smart

Whether living in Phuket or just transiting this tropical paradise, getting the most out of your time quite possibly involves recording the experience for posterity. And what better way to capture the moment than by taking advantage of some of the best, high-tech, state-of-the-art technology currently on the market. Stopping in at The Future electronics store on the bypass road, the *Gazette* turned up some technological treasures that are well worth a second look.

Vaio Pocket Style PC



From Sony comes one of the most innovative notebooks on the market. Weighing in at just 594 grams, the Vaio Pocket Style PC boasts a lusty three hours of battery time, 64 gigabyte hard drive, 1.6 gigahertz operating system, eight inch screen with a 1600 x 768 resolution, built-in camera and a wireless network adapter.

The Vaio also incorporates all the standard features found on most notebook computers, but measuring a miniscule 245mm x 19.8mm x 120 mm, it will easily fit into your pocket.

No more lugging around that not-so-portable laptop. With the Vaio Pocket Style PC, on-the-go now takes on new meaning.

The Pocket Style PC will be available in Phuket in early February with prices starting at 39,900 baht.

Tramigo T22 Tracking Device



Do you ever forget where you parked the car? Ever lose your luggage? Want to find the dog? If so, Tramigo is just what you need. The Tramigo T22 is a tracking device that is synchronized to a mobile phone, allowing you to know where an item is and how fast it is traveling at any given time. Working via a satellite network, just one SMS can find out where your car, boat, or motorbike is located, or, alternately, where a family member or employee, or dog, might be. The Tramigo also sports a panic button and the ability to initiate a phone call using an external microphone to the mobile phone it is synchronized with. Okay, so maybe not the dog.

It can even be integrated into your car to provide motion sensing and immobilization in case the unthinkable happens. The Tramigo is on sale for 12,900 baht including free installation kit and other accessories. Available from the distributor.

Mio C230 Car GPS Navigation System

A gadget guide for travelers isn't worthy of the title if it does not include a GPS device to connect up to your vehicle.

In this regard, The Mio C230 comes top of it's class.

Just three and a half inches in size, it is, needless to say, extremely portable.

Out-of-the-box readiness makes the C230 a great choice for those who want to know how to get around.

The GPS is pinpoint accurate and comes with everything pre-programmed. An intuitive touch

screen display makes it stylish and cool, and a great toy to show off to your passengers.

The Mio C230 will set you back 13,990 baht at The Future.



Sanyo Xacti DMX-CA8 Camcorder

Recording your island adventures was never easier. The Sanyo Xacti DMX-CA8 Camcorder has a recording speed of

60 frames per second, high definition quality and the robust-ness to continue filming under almost any condition.

Also boasting a still picture function, the Xacti is both light weight and compact.

And if that were not enough, it's waterproof! Operational at depths of up to 25 meters, it is ideal for recording all those precious snorkeling moments, diving expeditions and frenzied shark attacks.

With the Sanyo Xacti, you can now easily document your land, air, and sea adventures enjoyed in Phuket or in the bath for the sub-aquatic price of just 19,990 baht.



MD 88s Talking Dictionary

Talking-Dict, creators of the MD 88s Talking Dictionary, are the market leaders in their field.

For tourists and the linguistically challenged alike, such a gadget can be a lifesaver in foreign climes.

The MD 88s contains 65 dictionaries, including English-Thai and vice versa, lessons in grammar and sentence construction; 512mb of flash memory, USB drives to link with your PC; mp3 and mp4 capabilities, and even the ability to store those valuable 'E-Books', so if you're having a miserable time, you've got something to read. Avoid getting lost in translation by laying your hands on the MD 88s. Currently on sale at The Future for 10,990 baht.



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Triathlon off to flying start



TRIATHLON: The first race in the Triballistic Triathlon Series 2009 got off to a flying start at the JW Marriott Resort and Spa, as more than 100 athletes contested the adult sprint distance race, as well as the junior and 'Splash & Dash' races.

On the morning of the race, the unseasonably chilly winds relented, leaving the sea with just the hint of swell, much to the relief of the assembled athletes.

The first event of the day was the Splash & Dash for the under 8s, which comprised a 50m swim, 1.5km bike and 750m run. The race was led from start to finish by Isee Parthouaud, who had only decided to compete on

the morning of the race. She was closely followed home by Jonathon Lavorel.

Next up was the junior competition, with contenders facing a 200m swim, 6km bike and 1.5km run. The event was split into two categories, featuring under-10 and under-12 age groups, as well as those competing in the team event.

Team Tajosa led from the gun, dominating the race and winning convincingly. In the individual event, defending male under-12 champion, Clement Opportune, raced away from the trailing pack to easily retain his title.

The adult race began in explosive fashion. Defending sprint distance champion, Anton

Kort, took the lead at the first turn and never relinquished his advantage, taking first place despite the close attentions of AJ Anderson, who remained in close pursuit for most of the race, almost overhauling the winner in the final sprint.

The women's race produced an epic battle for first place between Gemma Keoh Peters and Diana Sankovic. The lead changed hands on numerous occasions before Sankovic was able to clinch a hard-earned victory.

After the event, organizer Shaun Boulter paid tribute to the competitors and hosts. "Triballistic would like to offer a big congratulations to all those who took part, and to everybody that finished the race. Also, a huge thank you to the JW Marriott for hosting the race and to all the staff that made the event a great success."

Boulter went on to thank the event sponsors; the Phuket International Academy, the Thai Police, Bangkok Hospital Phuket, the Tourist Police, the local Or Bor Tor, the Mai Khao Turtle Foundation, the *Phuket Gazette*, Andaman News, Jungceylon, Gatorade, RPM Health Club, Thalang Bike, Jeff Foo of Hi Velocity and Laguna.

For full race results and information regarding upcoming events in the Triballistic triathlon series, you can visit the official website at www.triballisticclub.com/events.htm.

Nevertap contest makes Asian debut in Chalong



GRAPPLING: The inaugural Nevertap Asia submission grappling competition took place in Chalong on Saturday January 17. Competitors came from all over the world to pit their ground fighting skills against one another.

Participants were given up to three rounds in which to "submit" their opponents. A submission involves holding an opponent in a position where they are forced to submit, either verbally or through a tap (hence "Nevertap"), or risk serious injury.

If neither fighter is able to submit the other after three rounds the winner is decided by a panel of judges. Competitors are judged according to their aggressiveness, their ability to take the opponent to the ground or avoid being taken down themselves, and their ability to create and take advantage of dominant positions.

Over 68 people took part in the first ever Nevertap event to be held in Asia, with medals awarded

in eight different categories.

Andreas Hesselback from Sweden defeated Sebastian Desvignes via adjudication in the final to take the gold medal in the welterweight division.

Andreas, a Phuket resident, said, "I had to win four

Other winners were:

Open Weight:
Yasubey Enomoto
Featherweight 145lbs:
Attawat Suvinijit
Lightweight 155lbs:
Felipe Enomoto
Welterweight 170lbs:
Andreas Hesselback
Middleweight 185lbs:
Jack Magee
Light Heavyweight 205lbs:
Yasubey Enomoto
Heavyweight 206+:
Jonas Pensar
Girls' Open Weight:
Claire Haigh

matches to get the gold but the final was definitely the toughest because he was very strong and kept trying for submissions. He was much more active than some of the other guys and I was tired."

-James Goyder

Phuket beach volleyball thriving



VOLLEYBALL: The Phuket leg of the womens' volleyball world tour may have concluded but high quality volleyball is still being played on Phuket's beaches.

On the same Karon pitch that hosted the recent international tournament – minus the grandstands, commentators and hordes of spectators – a group of players, including Estonian Olympic volleyball team member Rivo Visek, meet to play every week.

Visek is in Phuket on holiday and was pleasantly surprised to encounter volleyball of this caliber in Phuket. "It's great for me because the season doesn't start until April but this gives me the opportunity to practise a little bit. I can relax, play some ball and have some fun. Playing here is fun and that's the way it should be," he told the *Gazette*.

The same group of players has been playing for the past decade in Phuke. Organizer John Zagan says, "We are a group of expats who have been here almost 10 years and love to play two-on-two beach volleyball."

While the volleyball on Karon beach can be highly competitive – albeit in a relaxed atmosphere – players of all levels are welcome to come and play with the group on either Kata Beach or at the Rawai Sports Club.

"The game in Karon is for experienced players only but we also play six-on-six group-ball every day in Kata and in Rawai, if there are enough players," John adds. Whether an Olympic veteran or an aspiring amateur, if you are interested in playing volleyball you can contact John Zagan at jzagan@gmail.com.

-James Goyder

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Pool villa community planned as intimate addition to Chalong



The nine units will be enclosed by a low-level wall and while access to Patak Place will be through single communal entrance, each property will also possess its own unique entrance and gate.

PHUKET: Patak Co Ltd is currently in the initial phases of its third project, Patak Place, which will be a collection of nine pool villas situated to the rear of Patak Villa (the company's first development).

Patak's philosophy places emphasis on value for money, seeking to provide a high standard of quality at a reasonable price.

Also important is the aspect of a sound community base throughout any project involving multiple units and residents.

While the occupants as a whole are ultimately responsible

for the level of intimacy in any neighborhood, Patak as a developer tries to make such an occurrence possible without any incursions by way of construction or layout. A case in point is the application of security that still allows residents to move freely around within the entire Patak Villa compound.

Patak Place will maintain a connection to the local community while still maintaining an integral level of privacy.

The nine units will be enclosed by a low-level wall and while access to Patak Place will

be through single communal entrance, each property will also possess its own unique entrance and gate.

The Villas themselves are a genuine example of Patak's commitment to delivering value.

Starting at 10.8 million baht, each unit comprises 316.56 square meters of useable space on land plots sized between 564 square meters and 900 square meters.

The rooms are designed to create a semi-enclosure centered around a pool of 35 square meters.

One of the bedrooms is separated from the rest of the roofed structure to promote a sense of privacy and relaxation with its glass door leading straight into the water.

A 36-square meter garage

provides space for two cars. This new development will be a complementary addition the vibrant Patak Villa community, which is currently home to 257 commercial and residential units and a truly eclectic blend of cultures drawn from the world over.

Patak Villa is the largest development in Rawai to have emerged over the past five years. Since the founding of Patak Co and the inception of Patak Villa in 2002, sustained growth has seen the company expand into other areas of Chalong with the commencement of the '@ 5' commercial units.

Attached directly to the 5-way 'Chalong Circle' roundabout, it provides a perfect location for establishing a business with the long-term 10 year lease that is on offer.

Accor to open 2 new hotels in Phuket

PHUKET: Hotel and services giant Accor is to open an additional two hotels in Phuket.

The Novotel Phuket Kamala Bay and Ibis Kata Phuket will join six existing hotels on the island under the Accor umbrella.

The development is part of a move that will add seven properties in Thailand under the Novotel, Mercure, All Seasons and Ibis brands to its current local network of 39 hotels.

Oswald Pichler, Vice President of Operations for Accor in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos announced that while the tourism sector in Thailand continues to be affected by the recent political unrest, Accor remains positive about the long-term future of the tourism industry.

"Thailand has been a popular tourist destination for a long time with diversified leisure on offer.

"Accor's expansion will provide tourists and business travelers more choices in some of Thailand's most popular destinations," he added.

In addition to the hotels in Phuket, Accor is developing the Novotel Bangkok Pratunam, the fifth under the Novotel brand, slated to open in 2011.

The fifth Ibis, located in Nana, will open in the first quarter of 2009 while the other new properties are the Mercure Samui Buri, All Seasons Samui Chaweng and the Ibis Krabi.

"Accor has operated in Thailand for 20 years and we continue to maintain very strong partnerships with developers, hotel owners and key travel operators.

"We are delighted with this continued rapid expansion in Thailand," Pichler added.

In 2008, the Accor network expanded significantly in Thailand with the addition of six hotels; the Ibis Patong Phuket, Ibis Sathorn, Ibis Bophut Samui, Ibis Pattaya, All Seasons Sathorn and All Seasons Nai Harn.

Source: *The Nation*

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Situated on the hills overlooking Patong Beach, this three-bedroom property is perfectly positioned to enjoy the island's sunsets, affording an elevated view of the Andaman Sea and the hills that surround Phuket's most popular beachfront destination.

Located near shopping outlets, golf courses, schools and hospitals, this property also enables easy access to many of Phuket's most important facilities.

The house is built on a 300-square meter plot, offering potential clients three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a lounge, dining room, Western kitchen, laundry room, roof terrace and a communal infinity-edge swimming pool, which also commands a grand view of the sea and coastline.

The open-plan living space consists of a lounge, dining room and kitchen all classically decorated with white ceramic floor tiles and white painted walls. The open design of this section of the house makes it a perfect space for entertaining guests or taking time to relax on your own.

The living area, with cable and satellite, is fully furnished, containing a comfortable leather sofa, stylish wooden coffee table with matching side unit, and a large wooden dining table that comfortably seats six. A few choice art pieces, sculptures and paintings finish the area with a flourish.

The Western kitchen is fully fitted with modern appliances, including an oven, microwave, stove top and washing machine. The large, spacious units and counter tops provide more than enough storage and work space to prepare a plethora of delights for family and friends.

The three capacious bedrooms come fitted with air conditioning and two of them are furnished with double beds and en-suite bathrooms.

Each floor opens out onto a terrace with views of Patong Bay and although the property has no garden, a covered rooftop patio with seating area and small bar is the perfect place to while away the days. A garage/carport is available for vehicles.

The property comes with a Chanote title and is available for freehold ownership at a cost of 15.5 million baht.

For more information contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quoting reference number: HSSV2533. T: 076-288908. E: Patrick@siamrealestate.com. W: www.siamrealestate.com.

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Note: The above details including all pictures are indicative information only. The final details are subject to change(s) made by the Developer without giving prior notice to the customer.

laguna
PROPERTY



Design

Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod



Catering to Oriental infatuation

The first thing that catches the eye when visiting the Andara Resort Residences is the simplicity of some of its exterior features. Many places regularly overlook simplicity in favor of extravagance when trying to create an opulent, luxurious feel, forgetting that it's often the simple things in life from which most pleasure can be obtained.

At Andara, the installation of a large front door is instantly noticeable, making it welcoming for all, and is a step away from the small, cramped doors that adorn many properties in Phuket; simple but effective.

The developers have cre-

ated three separate residence styles: Azure, Celadon and Turquoise. The Azure residences contain four bedrooms, Celadon have three bedrooms and Turquoise two. Azure properties have been designed so the entire floor is dedicated to luxury and privacy, peace and tranquility. Celadon is styled with a "Thai accent", while Turquoise promotes pure relaxation. All three offer the opportunity to "experience living in paradise with like-minded people".

The exteriors have been crafted to afford potential owners a stylish and luxurious area to relax in while soaking up the sun or cooling off in the pool. A

blend of chic, dramatically designed, infinity-edge and penthouse swimming pools complemented by stonework terraces feature views of the Andaman Sea and are finished with traditional wooden sun loungers and cushioned seating areas. The high-end properties, the Azure class, provide outdoor showers to promote "unique openness" and have been designed by the architect to allow "indoor living space to blend with natural outdoor surroundings".

The Andara Residences declare that their properties offer clientele the opportunity to "discover their own private paradise". All the fixtures and fittings are created from locally sourced, natural materials and reflect Thailand and its culture, particularly inspired by the northern city of Chiang Mai. Simplicity, once again, is at the forefront of the designer's thinking. The carefully chosen pieces produce a blend of the history and mysticism of the Orient with the comfort of modern day living. The floor space of the Andara Residences is finished with polished redwood and the same material gives the kitchen units and wardrobes an earthy feel with a European finish. An impressive array of classic Oriental artwork, however, re-establishes the Thai influence over the property. The tall, floor-to-ceiling



windows allow plenty of natural light to enter each room and offer views of Surin Beach and the Andaman Sea.

The kitchen is designed to supply any gourmand with the space and amenities they need to create culinary delights, and although the living space contains an abundance of tasteful furniture, the open-plan feel of each residence allows it to inhabit the space without leaving the occupant feeling cramped.

The bedrooms are the epitome of comfort and finished with soft lighting, helping facilitate a feeling of tranquility that is vital for a peaceful night's sleep. All bedrooms are designed with

privacy in mind and have ensuite bathrooms.

Jonathan James Gascoyne, Director of Sales and Marketing for Andara Residences, told the *Gazette*, "It's a product that many people find special and this has prompted a number of sales; so far things are going well."

With business looking rosy, Andara has plans to expand further afield. "We are looking to develop the Andara brand in other Asian countries. We will remain true to our designs wherever we go. At the moment there is an infatuation with Southeast Asian history and we try to incorporate that both inside and outside the apartments," Mr Gascoyne said.



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Luxury villa market update II



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

As discussed last week, the upper end of the luxury villa market has outperformed the Phuket property market as a whole, with many successful property launches despite political turmoil and global economic woes. In last week's column we drew upon recent market research to outline some trends in the luxury villa segment, defined as projects with units priced at 65 million baht and above. This week, we will take an in-depth look at some of the factors affecting supply and demand for luxury villas.

Looking forward

It is evident from the luxury villa pipeline that upcoming supply is expected to be limited in the next 12 to 24 months. This is due in part to global economic pressures that are likely to result in some projects being put on hold.

From the lending side, banks are withdrawing commitments to fund projects. Also, buyers are unable or unwilling to fulfill their obligations. In some cases, certain developers may be under cash pressure. While liquidity remains tight, we may see a slowdown in new project launches and progress on developments already underway.

We will likely see more Thai-based developers with access to debt servicing entering the market as opposed to institutional investment vehicles, which are temporarily squeezed. For those with capital (purchasers, investors or developers), there

will be opportunities to benefit from any temporary softening.

Inflationary pressures on construction costs are easing due to decreasing energy costs and expected price stabilization for construction materials in the face of weaker demand. It is likely that well-capitalized developers could benefit from lower development costs and associated risks. As such, projects already launched or about to launch would appear to have a favorable jump start over the next 12 to 24 months.

Another supply issue relates to the availability and pricing of land in Phuket. The scarcity of prime beachfront and sea view property, as well as robust land pricing levels, could also be a contributing factor to the slowdown in upcoming supply.

The shift to less costly parts of Greater Phuket is evident in the location of upcoming supply, with the bulk of announced luxury villa projects to be situated along Phuket's east coast, as well as Mai Khao and Phang Nga. Examples of this trend include new entrants to the Greater Phuket market such as Taj Exotica on Koh Lone and Raffles in Phang Nga.

Demand

In terms of demand, when all of the figures are in, it is likely that we will see a softening in the second half of 2008 luxury villa sales and a weak start in the first half of 2009. This is mainly due to a "wait and see" attitude on the part of potential purchasers, who may be affected by the global financial shakeout.

While Thai political instability is often considered as a factor in reduced demand, we do not see this being a significant or long-term deterrent to potential buyers in the upper end of the luxury villa market. Discussions with real estate professionals in Phuket in-

dicate that while sales are being completed and the top-tier market continues to do relatively well, lower tiered product is facing more of a challenge in today's environment. This is largely due to over-supply and lower quality products at the lower price points. Conversely, the strength of the top tier segment can be attributed to demand drivers such as a shortage of prime sea view or beachfront property in Phuket, high quality concepts and finishes, and a small but exclusive supply of new developments.

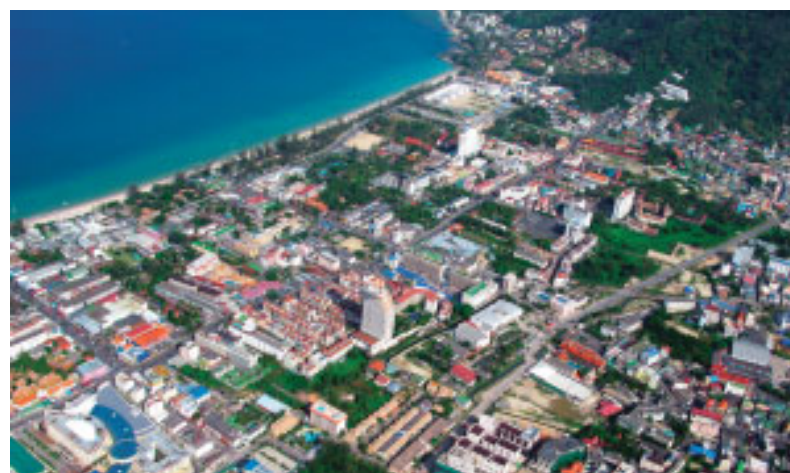
Another valid reason for the continuing purchaser interest in the high-end villa sector is that

luxury buyers in Phuket are largely cash buyers, who may be less affected by the market fallout and liquidity problems. Moreover, Phuket's strong tourism industry

continues to bolster the residential market and this trend appears set to continue. Investment in the lodging market continues along with projected increases in tourist arrival figures. Thirty new hotels are currently at various stages of development, with nearly five thousand rooms due to be added to supply through 2011. Of the existing hotel inventory, about 25% (about 10,000 units) are of international-rated standard. As such, this additional inventory will increase total supply of such properties by 50% in a short period of time.

Villa sales issues

An interesting trend in Phuket is the change to the definition of "luxury villas", both in terms of pricing and location. As pricing levels push upwards, with an average price of 125 million baht in the top tier luxury sector, there is some discussion as to where "high-end" becomes "luxury" and which properties qualify. In the



This aerial view of central and north Patong shows just how scarce open land has become. Patong Mayor Pian Keesin would like to see restrictions eased for building permanent structures above 80 meters to allow more building on high hillside locations. Photo courtesy of Helicam (www.helicam-asia.com).

past, the über luxury was benchmarked to Amanpuri, followed by a few select properties such as Trisara and Banyan Tree.

Now, however, the growing supply of properties coming online in the 100- to 200-million-baht price range is re-defining the luxury landscape in Phuket. Another related change is in that most crucial aspect of any development: location, location, location. It used to be that the west coast with its "Millionaires Mile" in Kamala was the home of luxury in Phuket. However, with a growing high-end pipeline on the east coast with banner projects such as Jumeirah Private Island, Taj Exotica and the Philippe Starck/Jean-Michel Gathy collaboration at The Yamu, it is likely that the emerging landscape of "Phuket 2.0" is going to be a very different from its predecessor.

Pricing

There are several factors which should help sustain or further drive up price values in the Phuket luxury villa market. The following are among them:

Change in demographics

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has been very effective in opening up new tourism markets. Its current focus on increasing the number of visitors from emerging markets. Visitors from China, Russia, India and the Middle Eastern should allow Thailand – and Phuket's property market – to benefit greatly from shifts in global wealth distribution.

Arrival of the 'Super Tourists'

A major trend in the luxury travel market is the increasing impact of a group who have been termed as "super tourists" – conspicuous consumers of extremely high-end products. With the addition of a planned private jet airport, Phuket is positioning itself to be attractive to the extremely wealthy. Furthermore, recent upgrades to the marina sector mean that mega-yachts can presently be accommodated at three local marinas.

Yachting market

Phuket is becoming known as a boating destination. Its sheltered east coast is ideal for marina developments and is a logical access point to Phang Nga Bay. Given the sheer size of the global boating market and the value of boat slips and residential properties at marinas in other markets such as the Caribbean and the United States, this represents a valuable opportunity for developers in the region. At present, Phuket has four private marinas in operation – a figure which will increase to five when Jumeirah opens.

Boutique developments

The shortage of suitable land in prime areas has led to an increase in the number of small-scale developments – those with 20 or fewer units. Examples of this trend include Tamarind and Sava Natai. This trend is expected to continue as availability of land shrinks further.



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Property Gazette

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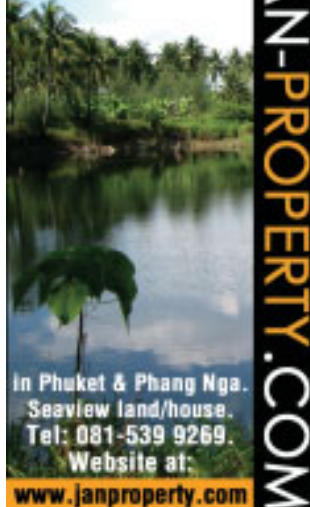
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Corner unit, 26 sq wah. Price: 990,000 baht. Tel: 086-952 9517. Email: condotel@web.de

2 STORY VILLA NEAR LAYAN BEACH

Hardwood floors, 3 bathroom. Wet bar, small plunge pool with waterfall. Private tropical garden. Asking 6.7mil baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.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

LAND IN MAIKHAO

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

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.

NICE HOUSE FOR SALE

Maneeekram 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

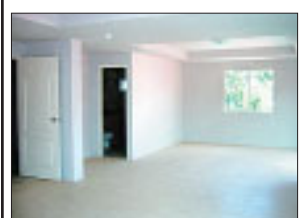
HOUSES, BANGTAO

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

FREEHOLD, PATONG 28SQM

studio, fully renovated and furnished, brand new. Price 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664.

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.

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

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

KAMALA LAKE HOUSE

Big 2 bedroom, European standard. Price for sale 2.9 million baht or 10 year lease for 1 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

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.

1 RAI LOTS

in gated community. Ocean view. East coast, Pa Khlok. Starting at 3.5 million per rai. Royal Coast Company Ltd. Tel: 076-353926, 081-693 2791. Email: eam1008@mac.com

KHO YAO YAI

- 2.9 rai, Chanote title, water, electricity. Near pier. Price: 750,000 baht.
- 2 rai, seaview. Price: 1.5 million baht.
- 2 rai on beach. Price: 8 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

3.5 MILLION BAHAT 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 m² home on 700 m² of land. Quality build inside-out. Tel: 084-850 0568.

PATONG CONDO 56 SQM

freehold. Western style kitchen and bedroom, balcony, large pool and car parking. End unit. Ready to move in. 3.8 million baht. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

BEACH FRONT GUESTHOUSE

for sale, lease or rent! Tel: 076-340454, 081-892 0761. Fax: 076-290221. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-apartments.de

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com Tel: 081-894 1994.

LAND IN RAWAI

Nai Harn and Chalong. Big and small plots. Special plot with wall. 1 rai 43sq wah. 5.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 085-795 5383. For further details, please see our website at www.warmwaterland.com

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.

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Property Gazette

KARON SEAVIEW



Located on the west coast of Phuket island. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Perfect location for business (hotel & resort). Price 300 million baht. No Agents!! Tel: 087-270 9093.

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

VILLA + 2 HOUSES IN PATONG



Villa, 4 bedroom, private pool and good views. 2 houses with 8 small apartments, 700sqm. Freehold land. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se For further details, please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

VILLA + LAND



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

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 Kery off Sai Yuan Rd., Rawai/Nai-harn
- Contact: Khun Kob
Tel: +66 (0) 895892662.
Email: sariyapat-t@hotmail.com
Website: www.siriyahouse.com

KOH YAO YAI



The Phang Nga Bay, Andaman's big opportunity island. Be one of the first developers. Prime beach front real estate and stunning seaview. Crying out for investment. Prices start at 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-267 0714. Email: charles araines@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH HOUSE

2 mins to beach. Great location, 3 levels, quiet street. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 084-840 5834.

BARGAIN RAWAI HOME

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, western kitchen and aircon. Price reduced to 3.5 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

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.

TWIN HOUSE, VERY CENTRAL, NEW

Twin house 59.6 sqw. Just completed on new development Chaofa Gardens near Brit Int School. 2 bed, 2 bath corner unit. Spacious garden. Priced over 200,000 baht below project price. Tel: 089-216 6909. Email: julianburgess@myway.com www.julianburgess.co.uk/chaofagarden for slide show

FREEHOLD PATONG

for sale. New studio with pool. 46sqm fully furnished, price: 3 million baht. Great deal. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: antoniocpala@yahoo.it

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

Full aircon, fully equipped, kitchen, 24-hours security, great location. For sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

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

HOUSE FOR SALE

New townhouse with 3 bedrooms. Width: 6m, 24 sq wah. Opposite Boat Lagoon near British Int'l School. Price: 1.9 million baht. Contact K. Annie by phone or email, as above. Tel: 076-615090, 089-667 1844. Fax: 076-615090. Email: domecellarphuket@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE/ EXCHANGE

3 rai with Chanote. Price 5.8 million baht. Tonsai area for freehold, West Coast Condo. Tel: 081-273 4212.

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT



at Phuket Asialand, Surin Beach. Sale: 7.9 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month with 100,000 baht deposit. Tel: 081-477 2152. Email: info@methaya.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

74 square wah, garden, connected to main road. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 2 telephone lines, ADSL, cable TV and True Visions. Only 7 km to airport and Naiyang Beach. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 076-621021, 081-820 5266. Fax: 076-206220. Email: umavadee@cscoms.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketgifts.com

LAND MUST SELL

Pa khlok, next to Mission Hill Golf Course. 1.1 rai, shared wall with golf course, sea, mountain view. Agent welcome. Tel: 081-958 7612, 081-909 2265.

INEXPENSIVE HOUSE LOTS

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

URGENT SALE

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

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Contact: Lyza Mann
PortfolioCapital8@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU



for sale. 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom. Fully furnished in Kathu. Price 2.5 million baht. Tel: 085-204 3622.

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.

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.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

home for sale or lease includes golf membership. Contact Jim. Tel: 089-648 4911.

RELOCATABLES

Sell/rent. Sales offices, accommodation, toilets, container conversions, self storage from 300 baht. Tel: 076-281283, 081-125 1873. For further details, please see our website at www.safewayasia.com

NEW HOME, LAST CORNER PLOT

at Phuket Thane Village. Direct from owner no agency fees. Ready to move, house 150sqm, land 230sqm, bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big salon, aircon, kitchen, nice garden, covered garage for 2 cars, green public garden at side, corner plot, in a security village close to any facilities at Heroine's Monument, airport, schools, Boat Lagoon, hospitals, beaches. Quick sale by owner: 3,300,000 baht or rent 22,000 baht/month for sale by owner contact 086-2734149.

PATONG DELUXE CONDO

First class modern bldg. Furnished, all amenities. 62sqm, 280' view city/ocean/mountain. Quiet, yet walk to everything. 4,275,000 baht. Tel: 080-797 5263. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

LAND KAMALA 2,200 SQM 9.9 MB

4 plot + house. Elec & water. 900m to the beach. Tel: 076-292596, 086-267 8477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

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

JAPONICA

Stunning, 2 bedrooms, villa. Sea view from every room, overlooking Kamala bay, exotic Zen style, fully furnished with 3 flat screen TV, infinity pool. Japanese gardens with sala, other villas for rent in all price ranges. Contact Kingdom Realtys. Tel: 080-699 2436.

BARGAIN RENT FOR LONG LET

2 bedroom villa fully air conditioned. Tel: 081-004 6328. Email: goggsiehere@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET

for rent. Location on Bypass Road, behind Soi Soho Roast Duck. Fully furnished, cable TV, 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Large kitchen, living room, hot water, aircon, garden, secure, private parking, ADSL. 1.5 km from big Tesco. To Patong Beach 15 mins. Price per month 13,500 baht, long term 12,000 baht. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuket-land-paradise.blogspot.com>

HOUSE IN RAWAI
for rent. Fully furnished, private pool, ADSL, 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom.
Tel: 081-606 7410.

NEW SINGLE HOUSE

for rent. Yoo Charoen Village, 3km from Laguna Phuket, 2 telephone lines, ADSL, 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, warm water, aircon. Price 14,000-18,000 per month. (Eng) Tel: 087-4172757, (Thai) 087-4172756.

LARGE RAWAI VILLA

3 beds, 2 baths, furnished, aircon, cable, big garden. 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288047, 081-894 1660. Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

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

NAI HARN BEACH



House for rent, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 800sqm land, private pool, full furnished, ADSL, Tel, garden. Available from February. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Contact Seru. Tel: 089-572 5378.

PATONG RENTALS

We have number of apartments & houses for rent from 20,000 baht per month through to luxury high-end rentals. Tel: 089-649 8703. For further details, please see our website at www.gardenislandphuket.com

KAMALA VILLAS

Luxury furnishings, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, private estate, Sat TV, ADSL. Long term 20,000 - 35,000 baht a month. Tel: 087-380 8485.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, dining room, living room, kitchen, 2 car parks, garden, Internet and TV. Located near Laguna, 12 mins to Western beaches (Layan, Naithorn, Naiyang). 12 mins to Phuket International Academy School. Price: 65,000 baht per month, including house, pool and garden maintenance. For long term 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



Phanason Kathu, furnished. Single house, 2 bedrooms. Ready to move in. Tel: 089-662 8733.

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 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

CHALONG HOUSE



for longterm rent. Fully furnished, living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, TV, ADSL, Tel line. 3 mins from Chalong Bay. Tel: 081-176 8404.

PATONG SEA VIEW



See the ships come in from this 3 bdrm, 3bthrm, 2 kitchen house with private pool overlooking Patong bay. ADSL, cable and True Vision. Priced right for long term lease. Available Feb 09. Call for showing. Tel: 087-882 1963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

CENTRAL PATONG

2 bed, 2 bath apartment for rent. Clean & spacious. Great value. Great location, minutes (2 km) from the beach, Jungceylon etc. Large communal pool, free satellite TV, WiFi, ADSL. Full info and photos available on request. Tel: 076-512259, 085-071 7134. Fax: 076-512259. Email: robinsonkevin@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.

NEW HOUSE

Near British International School and Heroines Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious living area. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-503 7655. Email: paulaj laydon@hotmail.com

DESIGNER VILLA FOR RENT

Quiet living in gorgeous new small development. Centrally located. 2km from British International School and Royal Phuket Marina. Fully furnished, chic, contemporary-styled villa. 20m x 4m pool with Jacuzzi & bubbler, 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, office, petite guest suite with bath/kitchenette. ADSL/Tre TV. 100,000 baht per month including garden and pool maintenance. No agents, please. Tel: 085-796 9324. Email: oasisphuket@yahoo.com For pictures, please see our website at www.theoasisphuket.com

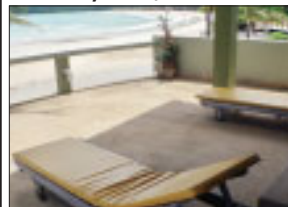
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BEACH FRONT HOUSE - 55,000/MONTH



Directly on Kamala Beach. Western-design house. 55,000 baht/month. Minimum 3 months lease, available Jan 17. One year lease 45,000/month. 2 bedrooms w/aircon, 2 bathrooms. Open plan, fully furnished, ceiling fans throughout. Western kitchen with amenities. 200sqm of privacy. Dining sala, large upper sundeck. Furnished home office. Price excludes utilities, UBC, ADSL. Tel: 081-8943839(don). Email: paddypower99@yahoo.com

KAMALA HOUSE



New Kamala house. Fully furnished, satellite TV, broadband internet, perfect location behind Phuket Fantasea. Only 5 mins to beach. Private. Secure parking. Tel: 087-883 6625, 089-867 5122. Email: sales@eldsat.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-thailand.info

CHALONG NEW HOME

2 bedroom house with telephone line, True TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully-furnished. Aircon in every room, car park, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High-speed Internet and True/UBC satellite TV included. 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Tel: 081-9682855. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th For further details, please see our website at <http://chalongparadise.com>

4 BEDROOM MANSION

Rawai, private pool, big garden, full aircon, western and separate Thai kitchen, completely furnished. Tel: 085-783 1890.

STUDIO PATONG

for rent. New, 46sqm, pool, fully furnished. Daily and monthly. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: antoniocpala@yahoo.it

POOL VILLA RAWAI

Beautiful 2 bedroom villa with private pool. Close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully furnished, aircon. 35,000 baht per month available from 16 February. For long term let. Tel: 081-970 1716.

NEW HOUSE, CHALONG

3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms in very safe, quiet Land & House compound that has a swimming pool, restaurant, gym and parks. Well furnished, full aircon, cable TV and 2 phone lines. 12 months minimum lease. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-092 7668. For further info and pics, email: markmp@weststartv.com

STUDIO APARTMENT KATA

Brand new, elevator, restaurant, swimming pool. Walking distance to the beach, shopping and nightlife. For rent or sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

IDYLIC ISLAND VACATION

house. 25 mins from Phuket Island. Koh Yao Yai Traditional Thai style house with European standard upgrades. 4 bedrooms - 2 with a/c. Fully furnished. Minutes from the beach with beautiful, non-commercial landscape. Ideal vacation property. Price 20,000 baht + utilities for further info contact Charlie. Tel: 087-267 0714. Email: charlesaraines@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLA POOL

2,000 baht daily, near Laguna. Has everything, short or long term, reasonable. Tel: 089-594 4067.

LAGUNA APARTMENT

2 bedroom. 113 Moo 2, Fairway View. Leasehold convertible to freehold. Email: querfurt888@t-online.de

LUXURY

houses & villas with a private pool is in Chalong/Rawai. From 3,000 baht per day (inclusive of maid/pool and gardening service). Move in today call 076-281084 daytime or call Tel: 083-1073022 evening.

CONDO, 1 BEDROOM

for rent. 1 bedroom, aircon, TV, hot shower, furnished, swimming pool, gym, car park. Price 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-893 7145.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

near Palai beach for rent, 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, kitchen, ADSL, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

BUNGALOW RAWAI

2 bedroom, cable TV, ADSL, aircon. Quiet location, washing machine. Tel: 086-279 0837.

RAWAI POOL GUESTHOUSE

Private, aircon room, fridge, cable TV. Wifi. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

Boats & Marine

INFLATABLE DINGHY 12FT/18HP

2007 AquaPro Divemaster 1,198. Aluminum hull, spare tube, cover and wheels. Must see. Tel: 081-693 0079. Email: mark@wunschmedia.com

20M POWER CATAMARAN

Live-aboard, wood-epoxy composite, not finished. 1.8 Million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

2 PROPELLERS

Suitable for sailboat, bronze, 1.5" to 1.25" bore. Port & SB Price 8,000 baht each, ono. Tel: 087-275 9618. Email: seascape@hol.gr

SPEED BOAT 2008

36 FT, 2x200 HP out boards, Thai registration up to 25 passengers + crew. Asking price 1.2 million baht. Tel: 084-4478349 English, 087-284 8154 Thai. Email: pablitobourbon@yahoo.fr

STABLE DAY BOAT

Launched 2003, Bear Cat, 9.5 m with twin Mariner 200hp engines. Ideal dive or day trip boat. Out of water for one year. Boat is on hardstand at the Boat Lagoon for your inspection. Excellent condition. Asking 1.3mil baht. Tel: 081-536 2069. Email: pat@destinationair.com

NEW LUXURY 70FT CATAMARAN

Shangani is a New Luxury 70ft Catamaran Charter in Phuket. Tel: 076-32 6026, 081-968 5357. Fax 076-270678. For further details, please see our website at: www.tigermarinecharter.com Or sent to our email: webmaster@tigermarinecharter.com

SPEED BOAT FOR SALE URGENT

33ft wooden hull, 2x200 hp, Yamaha 2007, 23 + 2 pax. Price 800,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-192 2174.

NEW BENETEAU CYCLADES 50.4

2008 direct from owner! 4 cabins, 4 toilets, skipper cabin electronic pack, yacht club sprayhood

- Bimini + davit
- Tender cholamark 3.10 + Yamaha 8HP
- Solar panels
- Safety equipment
- Bedding + towels + galley
- Fans in 4 cabins + salon
- Insurance all risk

The boat is fully equipped for charter and ready to go. For sale by owner contact 086-273 4149.

36 FOOT JENNEAU SAILING

yacht. Originally bought from Sunsail, fully overhauled. Low price. Now at Boat Lagoon dock E7. Tel: 087-626 5396. www.thailandboating.com

FOR SALE

Power boat. Crownline 252EX 2007. Only 69 hrs. 350HP 5.7tr Bravo. Drive on aluminum trailer. 2.3M baht ono. Tel: 081-833 7836. Or send email to: leemapkt@hotmail.com

LONG TAIL FIBER GLASS

Komboda diesel, 1 engine 3 years old. Not used much. Price 45,000 baht. Tel: 085-798 6929.

LUXURY DAY DIVING BOAT

for sale, luxury day/overnight steel diving boat. 26m, 2x cummins 350hp, twin disc gear boxes, 1x50kva & 1x 16kva gen, fully equipped. Price 8 mil baht ono. Contact Phil 084-017 4175. Email: admin@philkade.com

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

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. Candied 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

NORYACHT SPEEDBOAT 470

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. Email: arottes@frisurf.no

SAILING DINGHY

Fun, fast, carbon-mylar rig trailer. 90,000 baht. For picture please email. Tel: 089-972 6017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com

FLYBRIDGE BOAT

for sale. Brand new 36 foot fiberglass boat. Perfect diving, sightseeing or fishing vessel. Contact more details. Email: tony@steppaboats.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: uwed@avia-star.com

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32FT CATAMARAN

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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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2006 Mercruiser 5.0l mpi v8 petrol & alpha 1 stern drive. Thai registered, many extras. 1,350,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 3447. Email: abannock@gmail.com

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

5.5-M CATAMARAN

Huge dinghy, sailing equipment available. 80,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

SECURE BOAT STORAGE

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

HOBIE 16, NACRA 580

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

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

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

SPEED BOAT, 33FT

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

DINGHY

3.1 metres with Yamaha 15hp, red, hyperion, 2.5 yrs old, good condition. Tel: 081-787 4690.

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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

FREE BEER SAILING

Max 6 pax overnight; 14 pax day trip fishing, snorkelling, kayaking. Tel: 081-677 1641.

TWO MILLION BAHT

Fiberglass speedboat, pair of 250hp Suzuki 4-stroke outboards. Used 150 hours. Please contact for additional details at Tel: 076-203010.

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36' wood/fiberglass speedboat in good condition with two 200hp Yamaha engines. Boat is equipped for long distance trips with 800 L fuel tank. Good boat for day trip divers (wooden trailer included in sale). For quick sale; make an offer. Tel: 076-398368, 087-053 0090. Or Fax 076-398365. Contact for more details. Email: blue2997@gmail.com

BRAND-NEW BOAT

Brand-new flybridge boat. Fiberglass. Offers. Please contact for more details. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

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.

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Island Job Mart

Job Openings at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

Director of Sales – Europe (Phuket Based)

Qualifications:

- 7 years' experience in sales, preferably with a 5 star international hotel in Thailand, with at least the past 2 years in the role of a Assistant DOS or Director of Sales overseeing the European tour wholesalers.
- Must have personal contacts with major European tour wholesalers, participated in regional/international tradeshow and is able to effectively manage key accounts in order to build relations and drive financial objectives for this segment.

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

509 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket, Thailand 83100
Tel: 076-396139, Fax: 076-396119
e-mail: kasama.nindaeng@moevenpick.com

www.moevenpick-hotels.com
Passionately Swiss



The new high-end Andara Luxury Boutique Hotel & Villa Resort located at Kamala Beach Phuket is looking for qualified & energetic person to fill in the following positions:

Sales Executive (2 Positions)

Candidates should have proven sales & marketing experience in similar positions as well as possessing the following:

Qualifications:

- Master's or Bachelor's Degree in Sales and Marketing, Business Administration
- Minimum 5 years experience in selling luxury branded residential properties
- Good leadership and experience with proven results of reorganizing and motivating an experienced sales team.
- Highly self-motivated, entrepreneurial skills, good interpersonal skills with 'Can-do' attitude
- Strategic thinker with proven sales process skills, excellent service mind, positive mental approach to challenges faced in business.
- Ability to understand all aspects of sales management.
- Extensive knowledge and experience in the real estate market with successful sales result are essential.
- Highly professional and able to maintain poise under pressure.
- Knowledge Microsoft Power Point, Photoshop, Excel and Auto Cad will be an advantage.

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & a recent photo by fax or e-mail to:

PARADISE GROUP - Human Resources Department

The Plaza Surin 5/50 M.3, Chong Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Fax: 66-76-271242 Email: hr@paradisepuket.com

Mandawee Resort & Spa, Krabi Thailand

A Member of E-Hotels & Resorts
A true professional hotelier

Management

1. F/O Mgr.
2. Executive Housekeeper
3. F&B Mgr.
4. Restaurant Mgr.
5. Controller
6. Chief Accountant
7. HR Mgr.

Experience: Year in same position 3-5 years, good command in English or other languages and computer skills.

General Staff for

1. Front Office
2. F & B
3. Kitchen Department

Experience: Good in English communication and service mind.

Supervisor

1. Chief Receptionist (GSA)
2. Senior Accountant
3. Housekeeping Supervisor
4. Sous Chef
5. Sales & Marketing
6. HR Supervisor

Experience: Year in same position 1-3 years, good command in English or other languages and computer skills.

FULL BENEFIT

1. Attractive Salary
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Contact us: Please send your resume with a recent photo to: mandawee@hotmail.com or E-Hotels & Resorts Klinic Co., Ltd. 979/61 S.M. Tower Building, 23rd Floor Paholyothin Rd., Samsen Nai, Payatal, Bangkok 10400 Tel: (66) 298 0850-1 Fax: (66) 298 0087



ITALASIA GROUP - THAILAND
Phuket Branch 076 262561 - 08 66895837

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY /ACCOUNTING

Qualifications >

- Female, Thai, age 25-35 years
- Minimum 3 years of relevant working experiences in F&B industry or imported goods.
- Excellent command of English (Writing, Speaking and Translate)
- Able to work under pressure and deal with tight deadline.
- Able to handle overall office administration, Self motivated to handle the office business.
- Computer Literate with good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, internet.

Job Description >

- Provide general administrative execution to ensure smooth operation in the office.
- Execute from the same desk general affair jobs, accounting, receptionist.
- Handle phone call from clients and receive purchase orders.
- Coordinate and monitor various activities to support the sales, accounting, logistic.
- Provide professional secretarial and all round support to Branch manager.
- Coordinate with the logistic team for the preparation of the sales orders.

Working
Monday - Friday 8.30 - 17.30

If you would be part of Italiasia Group submit you CV with covering letter in English to email address: italiasiaphuket@me.com

Playgirls Wanted

VIP Company is looking for Playgirls. We are looking for girls who want to be models for us and become a high class female escort. Up to 40,000 baht/week Must speak English Can be available anytime. For casting contact: Mr Ben.

Tel: 084-309-7434
Email: vip.phuket@gmail.com

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Native English speaker for full time work in an international child care center in Rawai. Tel: 076-289784.



Invites dynamic driven individuals with the will to succeed to join their sales team in Phuket. We are now recruiting for the following positions at our new state of the art holiday exhibition centre in Patong.

Senior Sales Manager

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Sales Consultants (English, Scandi, Russian, French, Finnish)

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Work permits included with package.
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If you would like to be part of a winning team and enjoy a fantastic lifestyle here in Thailand come and work with us!

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Job Openings at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

A TROPICAL DREAM

We are looking for an energetic, English speaking expatriate to service existing homeowners and assist sales of remaining villas. Base salary+commission and benefits. Please call Howard at 076-396139.

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

509 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket, Thailand 83100
Tel: 076-396139, Fax: 076-396119
e-mail: howardslowe.chai@moevenpick.com
www.moevenpick-hotels.com
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TOURIST TRAVEL CONSULTANT

We require an experienced female to work at Jungcyclon. Salary of 12,000 baht per month plus commissions. Tel: 080-524 5514. Email: mbohlsen@gmail.com

PHARMACIST

Female Pharmacist wanted for new concept store opening soon. Salary: 40,000 baht per month. Please contact for more info. Tel: 085-619 7492. Email: farangmart@gmail.com

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

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Dive company requires full or part-time experienced MA in European accounting. Role includes general accounting tasks, month-end accounts and annual budget. Must have good Excel skills. Salary negotiable. Immediate start. Tel: 076-340318. Email: diego@divethe-world.com

VILLA STAFF REQUIRED

with western and Thai food background and good English skills. Villa butler who can supervise staff, assist the chef and accompany guests to the market. Tel: 076-318266. Fax: 076-318267. Email: ptkac@mac.com

RESTAURANT RICO'S

at Kata Plaza, looking for English speaking professional staff. Thai and Euro food chefs. Waiters/waitresses/bartender. Tel: 087-499 5164.

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@meteveh-phuket.com

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Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/

Island Job Mart

NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

requires a teacher, must have good English. Car driving license a plus. 40 hour week. Tel: 080-624 7060.

SECRETARY WANTED

We are looking for good English or German speaking, reading and writing staff, with good computer skills. Working 5 days per 1 week. Tel: 089-593 8303.

CASHIER/COOK

Friendly, reliable Thai needed. Good English, good attitude. Tel: 083-690 7737. Email: steveastray@hotmail.com

BABYSITTER WANTED

Looking for an English speaking woman to work every day. Good salary. Tel: 087-627 9312.

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful guesthouse in Karon. Tel: 084-694-9907. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

TRAVEL AGENT SEEKING THAI STAFF

Asia Sensations travel is urgently looking for 2 French-speaking Thai staff to work in the office. These positions are for Thais only. Knowledge of travel is a must. Please contact Khun Ao. Tel: 076-282906. Email: info@thailande-circuits.com

RECEPTIONIST / TOUR SELLER

We are seeking a Thai national with experience and good English to sell tours. We offer a salary of 8,000 baht per month + 20% commissions. Tel: 081-827 8442. Email: wojidkowbengt@hotmail.com

AUTOMATION SALE

Salary range: 40,000 to 75,000 baht. Experience an asset. Must have technical knowledge be skilled and able to read electrical drawings. Thai national, own car. Please send CV to: info@elec-pro.com

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Full or part-time MA experienced in European accounting. Role includes general accounting tasks, month-end accounts, annual budget. Must have good Excel skills. Salary negotiable. Immediate start. Tel: 076-340318. Email: diego@dive-the-world.com

TOUR/INTERNET SHOP

Looking for 1 Thai person with degree. Excellent English ability. Work at Tour/Internet shop in Karon. Contact Shane or Dee for interview. Tel: 080-079 7711, 081-797-5951. Email: sunchild240@hotmail.com; narainthai@hotmail.com

ADVERTISING COMPANY

seeks Thai national female for office assistant position. Requirements: excellent knowledge of spoken and written English, advanced computer skills. Please send your CV. Tel: 084-844-1469. Email: thairusmedia@gmail.com

COFFEE SHOP PHUKET TOWN

needs staff. English speaking, computer skills, an advantage. Contact Simon for more information. Tel: 086-509 7510.

BOAT YARD MANAGER

Yacht Haven Marina is presently planning a new haul out facility with travel lift able to handle 20 to 25 boats. We are looking for a yard manager with the following: marine engineering qualifications/or strong technical experience in this field, previous boat yard experience, strong communication skills & good command of written & spoken English. Computer literate, proven managerial skills with ability to create & implement systems and a sound all-round knowledge of boats & the industry. This is a full time position.

Tel: 076-206704.

Fax: 076-206706.

Email:

zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com

http://www.yacht-haven-phuket.com

RECEPTIONIST/ ASST TO MGR

- Thai female
- Good spoken english is a must

- Good personality and service minded

- Good computer skills

Send resume to The Sands "Boutique Apartment Resort"

Tel: 076-388329. Email: thesandsjp@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA PROPERTY

in Kathu needs a marketing team. Good conditions. Contact Marc for more additional details. Tel: 087-272 0303.

CHEF WANTED

Chef needed for new restaurant in Karon. Must have experience cooking Farang food. Tel: 089-590 3923. Email: logbass@hotmail.com

CLEANING BAR MAID

Thai woman needed to clean and serve drinks at bar. Contact Andy. Tel: 085-765 4677.

PART-TIME FEMALE WANTED

for a small restaurant in Karon. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

GERMAN STAFF WANTED

Looking for German speaking staff, aged between 20 and 30. Please contact for more information. 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

NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

requires a teacher. Must have good English. Car driving license a plus. 40 hour per week. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-624 7060.

English Pub in Turtle Village Mai Khao Beach Opening Feb 09

Calling all Pub professionals. We are looking for a team to come and work in the newest English Pub in Phuket.

So if you have an interest in English food and drink and have a passion for what you do we would love to hear from you.



Front of House

- Pub Supervisor x 2
- F & B Attendant x 7
- Bartender x5

Kitchen

- Sous Chef
- Chef de Partie x2
- Demi Chef
- Commis x4
- Stewards x4

Transport to and from Phuket Town will be provided.

Submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to email address recruitepub@minornet.com

Good Luck with your application!

THAI LADY NEEDED

Experienced on boats to learn about day tour operation in Chalong. Contact Dave. Tel: 080-144 7101. Email: marinepower76@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT STAFF WANTED

Family run hotel with a large number of repeat guests is currently looking for: waiter/waitress. Enthusiastic, friendly, good command of English. Chef wanted: Thai and international food, minimum 2 years experience. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-280650. Email: office@palm-garden-resort.com

COFFEE SHOP PHUKET TOWN

needs staff. English speaking, computer skills, an advantage. Contact Simon for more information. Tel: 086-509 7510.

SECRETARY WANTED

We are looking for good English or German speaking, reading and writing staff good computer skills, working 5 days a 1 week. Tel: 089-593 8303.

PART-TIME REPRESENTATIVE

Established real estate agency is urgently looking for a part-time representative for its booth at Jungceylon. Candidates must be fluent in English. Salary plus commission is offered. Thai Nationals only. Tel: 087-882 2856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

Employment Wanted

NANNY TO WORK ABROAD

Thai lady, 34 years old to do house work. 10 years now in Australia til February 2009. Prefer go Europe, Canada, USA or Phuket. Available from March. Please contact by email: cindy_siam@hotmail.com

OUTBOARD TECHNICIAN

15 years of experience in outboard service and repairs of Yamaha, Suzuki 2- and 4-stroke engines. All jobs of potential interest. Tel: 085-691 1837. Email: mangelsson@hotmail.com

CHILDRENSITTER 23

Nice girl, German + English speaking. Full or part time Patong. Tel: 083-639 9137.

EXPERIENCED TEACHER

New kindergarten looking for Thai teachers. English necessary. Tel: 076-385795, 085-470 4800.

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

TUTOR AVAILABLE

English tutor for hire. Tel: 085-765 0556, 085-524 3395. Email: dirkvan66@yahoo.com

URGENT - KOH SAMUI

Chief Accountant for the Leading Property Management on Koh Samui with a portfolio of 50+ villas, 200 employees and a good team spirit

- 3-5 years experience as chief accountant
- Able to handle the management of operating accounts for multiple companies
- Able to follow up account closing for all companies with auditor for half and year end
- Work and lead a team of 7 accounting staff + asst Chief ACC
- Reporting to COO and MD
- Good level of English (written and spoken) is necessary due to (limited) communication with property owners
- Salary Level depending on experience and negotiation
- Ideal for candidates who have worked in an accounting firm and want to change environment
- POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

Send resume with picture and salary expectations to
Marc Ribail (Chief Operating Officer)
Samui Villas & Homes
m.ribail@samuivillasandhomes.com

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Business Opportunities

GUESTHOUSE KAMALA

2.5 million baht. 7 rooms, laundry, bar, restaurant. Tel: 087-269 0013. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.kamala-viaggi.com>

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1st phase complete. High quality, high returns. For info email: phuketpropertyinvest@yahoo.com

BANGLA ROAD

bar for sale, Soi Crocodile. Good price. Tel: 089-290 7841.

THAI KARAOKE BAR

Fully equipped, open 2 years, very popular, best location, established clientele. Will help in transfer. Evening viewings. Price 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-843 6400.

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

and Hotel with 10 rooms next to Kamala beach for sale. Fully furnished and operational, good opportunity. Tel: 087-270 5806.

STOP BAR

for sale, newly set up in Soi Sea Dragon. Probably the most beautiful bar in Patong - 2 Units

- Top Location near Soi Bangla
- 12 small rooms
- Top Audio/ video equipment (Bose, Behringer, Sony etc.)
- Fully equipped
- Rent 50, 000 baht/month
- Contract until Feb 20/10
- Extension possible
- Price 2.6 Million baht

Information: STOP-Bar, Soi Sea Dragon, after 9.30pm ask for OSI.

MASSAGE PATONG

Central location for lease until August 2011. No key money, can easily convert to bar or other business. Realistic price. Tel: 085-473 7847. Email: simon@worrall.info

MOTORBIKE RENTAL AND TOURS

Price includes 14x big bikes. Fully equipped office/shop, website, excellent return. 2.4 million baht. Tel: 081-539 1380.

TURNKEY BUSINESS

Travel agency in Phuket City with TAT license and website. Great location with huge potential. Includes 100 sqm bar/rest, at present sub let. Also extra 3 floors over 4 buildings for commercial or residential use Tel: 089-618 6894.

BAR IN KARON

for sale. Fully equiped. Contact George. Tel: 087-418 4329.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Guesthouse 18 rooms + large office/residents, long lease, great location, central Patong. Price: 3.75 million baht. Vendors terms available. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-383 6505. Email: property.thai@hotmail.com

PHUKETREALESTATE DOT COM

Phuket Real Estate dot com is for sale. Please send expressions of interest / offers via email. Tel: 087-888 1921. Email: admin@idevelop.tv For further details, please see our website at: <http://phuketrealestate.com>

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in Phuket town. 2-level shophouse, fully operational with staff, client base, cheap rent, good profit. Must sell. Tel: 084-664 0401.

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in Rawai 6 rooms, aircon, fridge, TV, DVD, company + 1 work permit. 1.9 million baht. Please contact Lars. Tel: 087-095 7597. Email: petter@oslogryta.net

PATONG BAR

for sale. No reasonable offers refused. Tel: 083-393 8414.

KAMALA BAR & RESTAURANT

50-seat bar and restaurant with 2 bedroom house. For sale or rent. For sale 450,000 baht or rent 35,000 baht/month or partner 50% Tel: 081-397 4222.

GUESTHOUSE PATONG

6 rooms, fully furnished, busy bar, 5 years lease, good price. Tel: 084-842 4850.

BAR & RESTAURANT

for sale 800,000 baht. Kitchen, great location, new pool table, big parking space. Contact Meaw. Tel: 084-339 7663.

GUEST HOUSE KAMALA

4 room apartment, restaurant and fully stocked bar. Hot showers, a/c, safe, minibar in rooms. 2 + 3 years lease. Price 2.5 million baht ono. Tel: 089-971 6120.

ELITE CREDITCARD!

Nobody can make a direct application. Issuing in Europe; starting limit Euro 5,000. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

BEST BAR FOR SALE

Star Bar on Soi Crocodile {The Airline Crew bar} is for sale. Price: 4 million baht. 2 years and 11 months left on contract. Huge profits all year. Tel: 076-292820, 089-871 8663. Email: davidhnelson@hotmail.com

NIGHT CLUB

situated in a well known area. 3 year contract, fully equipped. Price 2 million baht. Tel: 081-489 6158. Email: max_w1@hotmail.com

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

KOH PHI PHI GUEST ROOMS

4 twin and fully equipped guest rooms in modern building with long lease. Close to the beach, entertainment and shops. Valued at 4 million baht, but will offer a substantial reduction for quick sale. Tel: 087-461 3121. Email: sgjandubh69@hotmail.com

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.

GAME FISHING BUSINESS

Game fishing business, boat and company for sale. Tel: 086-124 7528. Email: buchwa@yahoo.com.au Website: <http://www.phuket-fishing.com>

HOTEL FOR SALE IN PATONG



Bromma Guesthouse, 22 rooms in 3 units, 800sqm building. 400sqm of freehold land. Sell direct by owner. 45 million baht. Tel: 089-290 9567. Email: lars.micksater@comhem.se Website at <http://www.brommathaihouse.com>

QUIET GUESTHOUSE

near Carrefour. Rooms, pool, fitness equipment & sauna. Small and beautiful. Tel: 081-084 3415.

HOME BUSINESS

that really works. Phuket resident shows novel new concept – not MLM. Website: www.wealthwithlifestyle.com

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BAR & RESTAURANT

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