



# Phuket Gazette

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## INSIDE



### King of Snakes

John "Caveman" Gray comes face-to-face with an eight-meter King Cobra and lives to tell the tale.

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## Canadian developer slain by gunmen

PATONG: A Canadian real-estate developer died on his 34th birthday after he was riddled with bullets by two men, in what appeared to be a professional killing.

Francis Alex Degioanni was sitting in his black Toyota outside his home and office in Soi Ton Village at around 6:30 pm on February 19 when the two men approached and opened fire.

He had already survived a previous attempt on his life, according to family members.

A medical examination showed Mr Degioanni had sustained bullet wounds to his arms, head, neck and chest.

On February 20, a local cable television news program in Phuket City broadcast extended and graphic footage of Mr Degioanni's naked body being examined by medical staff at Patong Hospital. One of the slugs had entered his neck near the carotid artery.

The exact circumstances surrounding Mr Degioanni's murder have been difficult to determine, since police have been unwilling to give out extensive information for fear of jeopardizing the investigation.

Initial reports said that Mr Degioanni had just got into his car when the attack came, though others claim he was stopped by his killers after setting off.

A local Thai language newspaper reported that Mr Degioanni's girlfriend, Nanthawadee Phenjaroenwattana, said that before the incident the two of them were in the building waiting to go out to celebrate his birthday.

Mr Degioanni received a telephone call and told her he had to go out for a short while to take care of some business, she was quoted as saying.

She reportedly heard the



LEFT: The victim's home and office in Soi Ton Village, where the killing was carried out. RIGHT: Francis Alex Degioanni.



gunshots shortly afterwards.

Kathu Police Superintendent Grissak Songmoonark said that Mr Degioanni had been doing business in Phuket for five years, selling condominiums in Patong to foreign tourists.

The attack may have been the result of a business dispute. At the time of his death, Mr Degioanni was involved in a court case, having allegedly been cheated out of 20 million baht in a real-estate scam, Col Grissak said.

Police have not yet ruled out other motives, including romantic jealousy or a personal financial dispute.

Mario Degioanni, the victim's father, told the Canadian press that his son had told him he had been poisoned just weeks ago.

He told his son to report the incident to the police but Francis replied that "it would be very hard involving the police."

Charmaine Castonguay, Francis's stepmother, told Canadian broadcaster CBC that they had asked Francis to return to Canada several times but he insisted his life was here in Thailand.

He had lived in Thailand for nine years and had a three-year old daughter who remains here, Mrs Castonguay said.

Francis had worked as a model in Bangkok before moving into the property business. He was in the process of developing a seven-storey luxury condominium block, Panorama Condominium, in a hillside area off Nanai Rd in South Patong at the time of his death.

Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan on February 20 said he had ordered an expedited investigation because a quick arrest would help maintain Phuket's image as a safe tourist destination.

Meanwhile, Police Region 8 Commander Santarn Chayanon arrived in Phuket on February 20 to personally oversee the investigation into the murder.

That regional police are directly involved in the investigation reflects the high-profile nature of the case, which has drawn more international interest than any of the many killings in Phuket since the stabbing murder of Swedish tourist Hanna Backlund last March.

## New police stations on the way

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Police plan to establish two new independent police districts on the island to take pressure off Chalong Police, who currently cover all of Chalong, as well as tambons Rawai, Karon and Wichit.

Pol Col Peerayut Karajede, Superintendent of General Staff of the Phuket Provincial Police, said the two new districts would be for Karon and Wichit. The dates when the stations would open have yet to be announced.

The Wichit station will be developed on a five-rai plot off Chao Fa West Road donated by the Anuphas & Sons group, owned by the family of Senator Phummisak Hongyok.

The station will occupy three rai, with a further two rai – some 300 meters away – being allocated for police housing. Housing will comprise forty units in four separate blocks.

The Royal Thai Police have already approved a budget in excess of 30 million baht for the construction of the Wichit Police housing. However, budget approval for the new police station building is still pending, said Col Peerayut.

"We still can not say when we might get the approval. We may set up a temporary station at the Wichit Tambon Administration Organization offices until the new Wichit Police Station is finished," he added.

Karon has also received a private sector land donation near the Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa.

"We are still processing the paperwork and for now we can not confirm when construction of the station or housing will begin. In the meantime, we might use Karon Stadium to serve as a temporary police station," Col Peerayut concluded.



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# Englishman clubbed to death

KATHU: Police investigating the murder of an Englishman on February 24 suspect the killing may have been motivated by a real estate dispute.

At 10:30 on Tuesday morning, Tung Tong Police were notified by security guards of a murder at the Royal Place project on Phra Phuketkaew Road, at the Tesco-Lotus junction.

The victim was later identified as Ian Kenneth Stuart, 61.

Police including Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong rushed to the scene, a three-storey office of the St James Property Co Ltd real estate firm. Mr Stuart lived alone on the third floor.

Inside the bedroom police found the body of the victim lying on the bed. He had been beaten around the head with a blunt object, which police have not yet recovered.

Police found a gold Rolex watch and on his left ring finger, a gold ring. They estimated the time of death at no fewer than six hours earlier.

Inside the room a chest of drawers appears to have been searched. A trail of blood droplets led downstairs, where the intruders removed a pane from a sliding glass window to gain entry.

Forensics investigators collected samples of dried blood taken from the walls and dusted for fingerprints from the glass and five bottles of rice whiskey found outside the building.

Police questioned 26-year-old office manager Suttira Noonchoo, who discovered Mr Stuart's body when she reported for work as usual Monday morning.

She said she felt something was amiss when she went to remove her laptop computer from a drawer and found it missing. She then found Mr Stuart dead in his bedroom upstairs.

Another company laptop had gone missing about two weeks earlier, she said.

Describing the victim as quiet and non-confrontational, she said she had no idea what the motive might have been.

Maj Gen Apirak said the at-



The three-storey office of the St James Property Co Ltd real estate firm.

tacker must have climbed up the corner unit and walked across a ledge to the second storey window.

The attackers probably meant to kill Mr Stuart and locate something inside the building. If robbery was the motive, they would not have left behind valuables including his Rolex watch and gold ring. Miss Suttira's work computer downstairs might have

contained valuable information wanted by the intruder, he said.

Police are also investigating revenge as a possible motive, as the victim was recently involved in a fight with local security guards, he said.

The murder was the second of a foreigner involved in the real estate business in under a week, following the still-unsolved murder of a Canadian last Thursday.

## Grandmother killed instantly in tour bus smash

MAI KHAO: A 69-year-old grandmother was killed instantly on February 25 when a tour bus veered off the center of the road and hit her at high speed.

The victim, Mali Burakhan, was pushing her bicycle along Thepkraassatri Road back to her home in Mai Khao Village 3 at the time of the tragedy.

The bus was traveling south past the Hongyokbumrung School at around 8 am when its front-left tire burst.

The driver, 51-year-old Kanasak Manggorn, lost control and the bus veered to the left.

The bus was moving at about 70 kilometers per hour and upon impact fractured Mrs Mali's skull, killing her instantly.

Mrs Mali is survived by two sons and two grandsons.

## Italian found dead in guesthouse

PATONG: An Italian national found dead in a guesthouse on Wednesday night is thought to have died of heart failure.

The deceased was identified as Sergio Pollastro, aged 56.

Kathu Police were notified of the death at about 9:30 pm by Phuket Tourist Police Volunteer Vijay Kumar and a fellow volunteer identified only as Miss Malika.

Mr Pollastro was found lying face up on the bed in his room at a guesthouse located opposite Phuket Simon Cabaret, on the road from Patong to Karon.

There were no signs of foul play found inside the room. An initial examination by doctors suggested the cause of death was heart failure.

## EGCO scraps power plant plans

PHUKET: The Electricity Generating Public Company Limited (EGCO Group) has scrapped its plans for a power plant fueled by garbage in Phuket because of the difficulty in collecting and separating rubbish.

Construction of the power plant was scheduled to begin early this year.

Vinit Tangnoi, president of EGCO Group, said that there were difficulties in the collection and separation of garbage used as fuel in the power plant.

"The company, therefore, decided to suspend the project. We believe that the project is too hard to implement, even though the Energy Ministry would have supported us by giving a beneficial rate for purchasing power from us," he said.

## TAT targets Spanish, Japanese markets

PHUKET: The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) hopes to see a surge in the number of Spanish visitors, following its participation in the *Feria Internacional de Turismo* 2009 tourism trade show in Spain earlier this month. Four Thai hotel operators and 12 travel companies took part in the road show, called "Seven Wonders of

Amazing Thailand".

Tourist arrivals from Spain – particularly to Phuket – are increasing due to a rise in the number of direct charter flights, TAT Governor Phornsiri Manoharn said.

The TAT also hopes Japanese tourists will return to Thailand in greater numbers following a recent visit to the country by

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

TAT officials met with representatives of Japanese travel companies, tourism associations as well as government bodies to discuss a rebuilding plan following last year's political turmoil in the kingdom, she added. Last year, 1.2 million Japanese visited Thailand, generating 42 billion baht in revenue.

## Security guard kills colleague

KARON: Three security guards from the Access Resort and Villas Spa are on the run after one of them allegedly stabbed a colleague in the heart with a sharp hand scraper.

Sunin Saithong, 54, died in uniform outside the hotel on Patak Road in Karon at around 8 pm on February 16.

Duty Officer Anukul Nookade of Chalong Police said he believed the men had fallen out over a work matter, possibly their shifts. The man suspected of the stabbing has been identified only as "Suk". The police were unwilling to release the names of the other two men.

After the attack the three fled the scene and remain at large. Police have issued a warrant for their arrest.

## Phuket Chamber of Commerce gets new president

PHUKET: Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa was elected the new president of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC) at the association's annual election conference, held at the The Metropole Hotel on February 12.

Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa, 51, is an assistant director at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he is a surgeon specializing in urology.

He also holds an MBA de-

gree from Chiang Mai University.

A nephew of former Prime Minister Banharn Silapa-archa, Dr Sirichai moved to Phuket in 1987.

He now operates a clinic that offers computer X-ray imaging, cosmetics sales and other services. The new 25-member PCC board retains a lot of familiar faces, with just six new members. Dr Sirichai will soon arrange a board meeting to assign

duties to these members and discuss policy issues.

The PCC's main goal is to achieve sustainable economic policies that help the people, he said. Outgoing PCC President Eam Thavornwongwongse completed his second two-year term in 2008, the maximum allowed under the chamber's rules. [see First Person, page 25, for views of former president Mr Eam].

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# Governor allays fears in rotten milk scare



Thai schoolchildren get their calcium fix as part of a government scheme to encourage kids to drink milk.

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan sought to downplay concerns following the latest in a series of scandals involving the distribution of rotten milk to Thai schoolchildren.

The governor was speaking in the wake of an incident on February 13, when a consignment of rotten milk was sent to Laem Panwa school in Wichit district.

Upon stabbing straws into the milk cartons, teachers were confronted with a rancid odor and the astonishing sight of maggots crawling around.

Samples taken from the 262 boxes of UHT milk were subsequently sent for laboratory testing.

In addressing the issue on February 23, the governor said that the problem of the defective milk had arisen in the storage and transportation process. He duly issued instructions for milk to be inspected at every school on the island.

Samples of UHT and pas-

teurized school milk were sent on February 25 to the Regional Medical Sciences Center Phuket (RMSC Phuket) in Tambon Srisoontorn for analysis. Results of the tests were expected to be released by Friday February 27.

Chop Boonluer, director of Laem Panwa school, told the *Gazette* that of the 30,000-40,000 schools in Thailand, only two or three had been affected. They had never before experienced any problems with UHT or pasteurized milk, he said, adding that because of the recent spate of similar incidents around the country, it was understandable that the public's attention should be unusually focused on what was ultimately an isolated incident.

Seeking to reassure the general public, Governor Preecha, said, "School milk tastes good. I drink milk every day.

"We do not want to read more into this situation than there is. We will look into the matter [but] this is something that could happen any time," he added.

# French philanthropist decorated



LEFT: Laurent Bili, Ambassador of France in Thailand and Mme Blandine Cressard. RIGHT: Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite.

CAPE PANWA, PHUKET: On a special day for Phuket's French community, Mme Blandine Cressard was decorated with the *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* (French Knighthood) during a ceremony at Novotel Phuket Beach Resort Panwa – of which Mme Blandine is General Manager – on February 23.

The medal awarded to Mme Blandine, a six-armed Maltese cross in silver enameled blue with laurel leaves between the arms, was presented by Laurent Bili, Ambassador of France in Thailand and representative of the President of France, in recognition of her services to the French community in Phuket.

Mme Blandine's award is a result of her dedication to the local and international community, in which she has played several vital roles. Between 2003 and 2005, she was President of the French Speaking Association in Bangkok, which has more than 300 members plus their families.

For the past five years, she has been Vice President of UFE (*Union des Français de l'Etranger* or World Wide Association for French Citizens living abroad) Thailand and in 2008, she became President of Skat International Club of Phuket and South Thailand.

In those roles, Mme Blandine has been instrumental in co-ordinating relief work for French nationals following national emergencies, including the 2004 tsunami, the One-Two-Go air crash and the anti-government protests that caused the airport closures.

# Ministers meet in Phuket

CHERNG TALAY, PHUKET: On Sunday, February 22, finance ministers of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its three East Asian partner nations of Japan, China, and South Korea (ASEAN+3) met at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket in Cherno Talay to discuss joint efforts to revive the regional economy.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva also flew in from Bangkok to attend the meeting.

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# Tsunami warning towers expansion plan outlined

PHUKET CITY: The National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) has outlined its efforts to improve the existing tsunami warning system and expand it into a nationwide disaster alert system for a range of possible disasters, including earthquakes, fire and flash-flooding.

Officials from the six Andaman Coast provinces attended an NDWC-organized seminar at the Merlin Hotel on February 20. The event was co-chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatwichai and NDWC deputy director Srisombut Pornprasit.

Some 50 representatives of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) offices and other related agencies in the six Andaman coast provinces were also in attendance.

Under the current administrative structure, the Nonthaburi-based NDWC falls under the Thai Meteorological Department,

or MET, which controls project budgeting and is responsible for the installation and maintenance of system hardware.

The first phase of the project, completed in 2006, involved the construction of 62 tsunami warning towers, directly linked to receive signals from the Inmarsat satellite in geostationary orbit over Thailand.

Currently, the decision to emit signals to activate the 62 towers is made by NDWC officials, who use reports of seismic activity along the Java Trench and information, via the US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC), from three direct detection buoys currently deployed in the Indian Ocean.

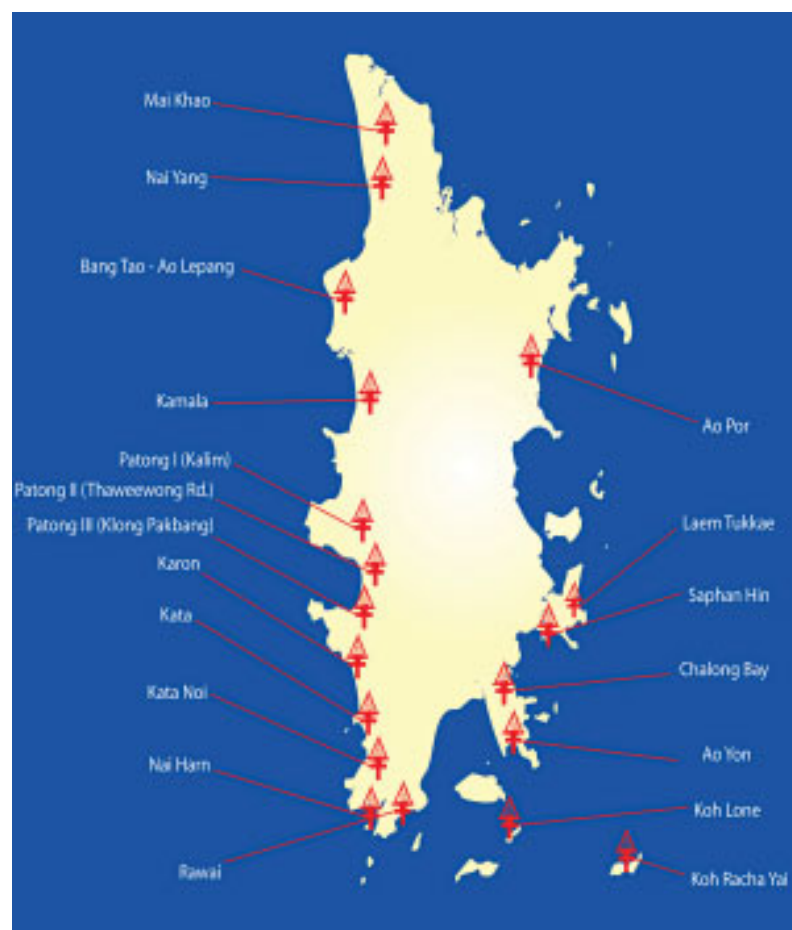
The second phase of the NDWC project, which has also been completed, involved the installation of 48 additional disaster warning towers. Some of these were in the North, thought to be at risk from earthquakes.

The others were installed along the eastern seaboard and Gulf coast, areas which some experts have said face the risk of a storm surge if a tropical storm were to hit during a high tide period.

Phase three of the NDWC project, now underway, will increase the number of warning towers nationwide to 144 in 57 provinces. New coverage areas will include parts of the central plains, the North and Isarn.

Apart from the 144 tsunami warning towers that will receive signals directly via satellite, provincial halls and public radio stations in all 76 provinces will also have this capability.

Phase three will also see the installation of 500 "community broadcast towers", designed to receive signals from 140 "relay points" located in places such as tambon administration organization offices, municipalities and community group offices. Each relay station will also transmit in-



Phuket's tsunami warning tower locations.

formation to 1,500 other locations, such as schools and local public health stations, that will be fitted with special receivers.

The project's fourth phase, still in the planning stage, is expected to receive 215 million baht in funding this year, an NDWC officer told the gathering on February 20.

Phase four will expand the warning system in the six Andaman coast provinces by adding 18 more tsunami warning towers (three per province) and set up 12 relay stations (two per province), with 60 broadcast towers (10 per province) and 90 other locations (15 per province) receiving the information.

Phase four work also in-

cludes monitoring and testing the system, which is due for a full-scale test in July this year. Localized testing and responsibility for organizing practice evacuation drills and other preparedness measures falls under local administrative bodies and the DDPM offices in each province.

Other changes to the system include a reduction in the number of languages in which voice-recorded warning messages will be broadcast. Previously, the messages were broadcast in six languages (Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Swedish, English and Thai). In general, this will be reduced to just two (English and Thai).

"With warnings in six lan-



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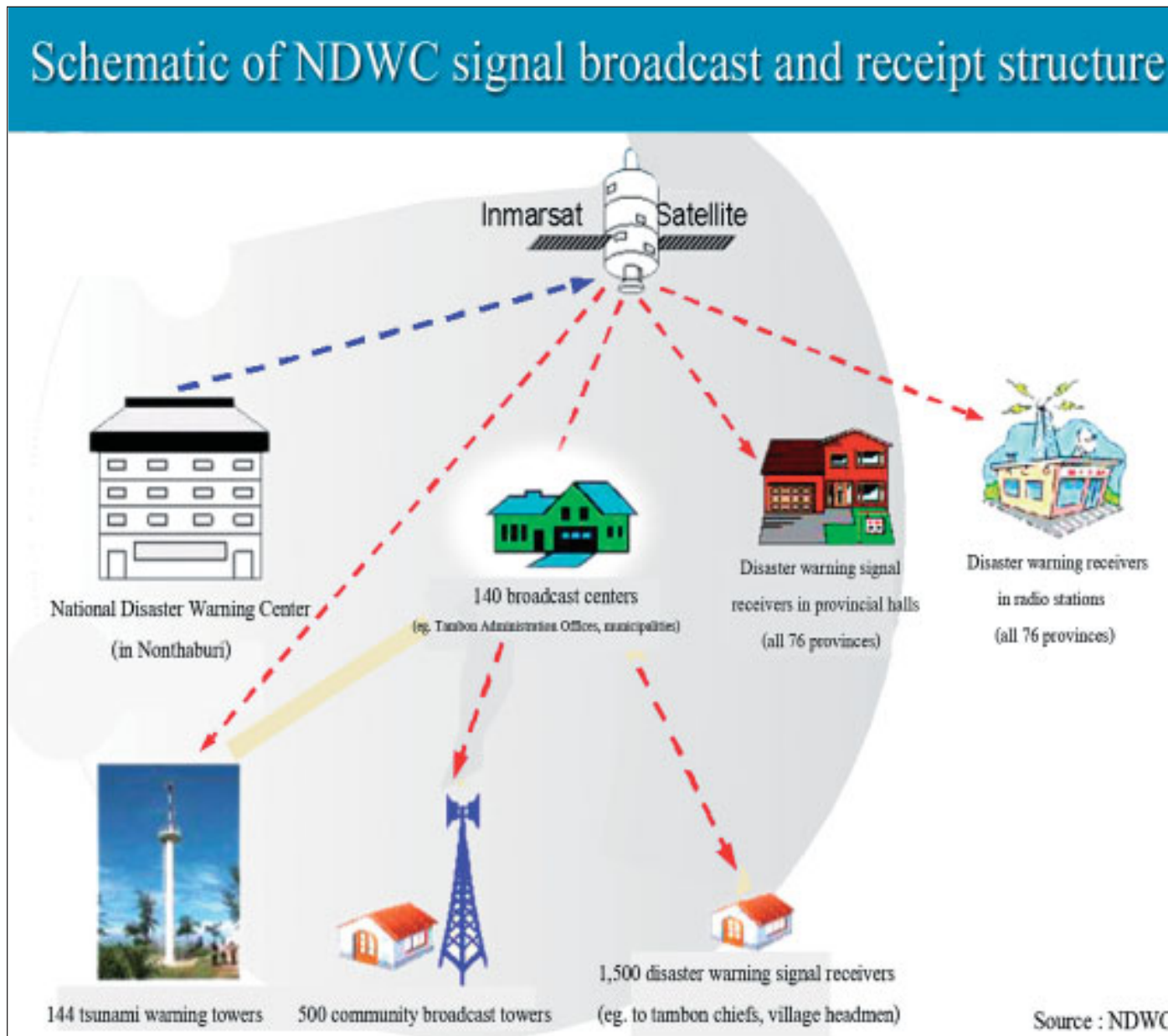
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Saphan Hin disaster warning tower

Schematic of the tsunami warning broadcast system.

guages, it takes too long. That's why we have reduced it to just two," an NDWC officer told the seminar. The system can be tailored to meet local needs, however. In parts of Ranong province, where there are large numbers of migrant workers from Burma, for example, voice recorded messages will also be broadcast in Burmese. All of the warning towers and broadcast towers will also be able to play a sung rendition of the Thai National Anthem, the official said.

Other improvements to the disaster preparedness system will include a survey and review of signs indicating evacuation routes, to ensure they are in the right locations. Missing or damaged signs will be replaced or repaired, while those in the wrong

locations will be moved.

Asked about perceptions that the NDWC was moving slowly in implementing the disaster system nationwide, the officer said there was insufficient manpower and budgeting for a project of such a large scale.

Many people overlook the amount of research and advance planning involved, which included assessing the impact on local communities and the environment, he said.

Hotels and resorts located in risk areas are also encouraged to link up to the warning system, but they would have to pay for the satellite signal receiver and other hardware themselves, he said. The problem facing hotels is that the hardware costs hundreds of thousands of baht.



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## Thailand menaced by at least 11 diseases

BANGKOK: Thailand faces the risk of 11 emerging infectious disease outbreaks due to changes in the environment, transportation and farming systems, a study by the World Health Organization revealed on February 19.

Study leader Dr Ram Rangsinsin said that Thailand currently faced at least 11 diseases, namely: severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS); bird flu and influenza; Japanese B encephalitis; Nipah virus; Hanta virus; West Nile virus; Meningococcal disease; hand-foot-and-mouth disease; Brucellosis; Leishmania and diarrhea caused by E. coli strain O157.

Dr Ram was presenting his report at the "New Infectious Emerging Disease Surveillance System" seminar, held by the National Health Foundation and National Science and Technology Development Agency.

In a bid to reduce the risk

of outbreaks, Dr Ram suggested that Thailand develop a surveillance system to allow rapid detection and monitoring of diseases in animals and humans.

He also suggested that the country's epidemiological agencies develop a reporting system under which samples of deadly viruses are immediately sent for laboratory testing.

Any severe illnesses and unknown deaths must be reported immediately, he advised.

The surveillance system should also have more information on the causes of diseases, particularly those transferred from animals to humans. Building the capacity and ability of government agencies is important in handling outbreaks, he said.

Special teams should be created to survey, investigate, prevent and control severe outbreaks and government agencies need more experts to work on this issue.

## Phew, what a scorcher!

BANGKOK: People in many areas of the country are already roasting under a heat wave that has hit 38 degrees Celsius and arid conditions. With the coming hot season expected to last until May, it well could be even hotter and drier than last year.

Northern and northeastern provinces will swelter under temperatures of up to 42°C in April, said Weather Forecast Bureau director Somchai Baimoung.

The highest temperature recorded by the Meteorological Department last year was 42.4°C in April in Mae Hong Son's Muang district.

However, each time the mercury soars to 40 degrees or higher, it will not stay there for more than four days, he said.

Smith Dharmasaroja, former chairman of the National Disaster Warning Center, expressed concern that this summer could be even more of a scorcher

than last year – and drier too. Reports from December 18 to February 2 showed that drought had already struck 13 provinces.

"Although the La Niña phenomenon (temperature fluctuations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean) is expected to trigger more downpours than last summer, rainfall will not be enough for people to use during this hot season. Agriculture will be affected so people should find ways to store rainwater for both farm and household use," he said.

Tropical storms with gales of up to 40 to 50 kilometers per hour could pose threats to high buildings, houses and billboards that are not safely constructed, he said, adding that a storm surge may hit the Gulf of Thailand in May.

Summer diseases, including diarrhea and rabies, are another thing people should be wary of besides severe dehydration and shock.



**FIERY PROTEST:** People and farmers spread chillies and galangal onto floors on February 19 to protest against the Ministry of Agriculture's announcement to place the plants on a list of hazardous substances under the Product Liability Law. PHOTO: Pramote Putthaisong.

## Confidence in education system lacking

BANGKOK: Weak study skills and poor use of Thai language among children indicate a major flaw in the education system, one-third of people surveyed by Suan Dusit Poll believe.

Other problems cited were children's lack of attention and discipline, the teacher shortage, second-rate curricula and inadequate funding for teaching materials, according to the survey.

On the bright side, four percent of the 11,421 people questioned on education reform said opening up educational opportunities for cash-strapped children was a strong point of the education system.

About 20% also said the quality of educational services had improved, while 17% insisted

educational technology was now up to date.

Some 13% said children were more confident about self-expression, and 9% said the quality of teachers had improved.

Almost 90% believe it was time for Thailand to upgrade its education system because neighboring countries had rapidly developed theirs.

On what an enhanced education system should deliver, 46% said better quality students who will become efficient human resources after graduation.

Other respondents called for adequate funds for educational services, the provision of equal educational opportunities and the promotion of morality, as well as Thai culture and traditions.

## It's a bloody shame

BANGKOK: With only 2.3% of Thais donating blood, the country is lagging behind the World Health Organization's standard of 3% to guarantee adequate supplies, the Red Cross Society revealed on February 17.

This year the organization has launched a "Passing the Merit with Blood Donation" campaign to urge existing donors to give blood banks a shot in the arm by upping their own donations to once every three months.

Red Cross blood donation director Wanlop Chiaravanont also invited those who give blood to family members to spread the benefit further.

The campaign is focusing on blood donation as a merit-making activity, encouraging people to donate on birthdays and religious holidays. This would increase the amount of donations and help to meet patient needs, he said.

## Just give me a break

BANGKOK: The Cabinet has agreed to allow government officials to reschedule working days near long holidays and weekends so they can enjoy long weekends, thereby boosting domestic tourism.

If a national holiday falls on a weekend, officials will also get an extra holiday like private employees – but they will not be able to take more than one extra holiday per week, deputy government spokesman Suparak Khunha said.

The spokesman cited the case of long holidays in early July in regard to rescheduling working days. Two national holidays – Asanha Bucha Day (the day before Buddhist Lent) and Buddhist Lent Day – fall on Tuesday July 7 and Wednesday July 8.

To allow government officials to enjoy a long weekend, they can work on Saturday, July 4 instead of Monday, July 6, the spokesman said.

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Owners of gold shops in Nakhon Sri Thammarat attend a shooting training session on February 21. The training was organised by police following a spate of goldshop robberies in the area. PHOTO: Klitsana Thiwatsirikul.

## Budget hike as violence flares up in the South

DEEP SOUTH: As militants continue with their campaign of attacks, the government has approved a 60-billion-baht budget to tackle the violence in the Deep South. The budget was increased from a figure of 40 billion baht in fiscal 2008.

The additional money will be put towards developing the area, Deputy Interior Minister Thavorn Sennieng told reporters.

Some 1.8 billion baht would go towards financing a medical centre at the Prince of Songkhla University in Pattani. The project is aimed at creating a medical school at the PSU within three to four years, he said.

The government is also looking to boost the tourism industry, as well as enhance the logistics and transportation in the restive region, where no fewer than 3,200 people have been killed since January 2004.

Job training at village level is also high on the to-do list, as

well as improving border facilities along the nine Thai-Malaysian crossing points, he said.

Government spokesman Panithan Wattanayagorn said that Thailand would also seek inputs from Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, with regards to the ongoing violence in the South. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who visited Indonesia on February 20, raised the issue of the southern insurgency – now deemed the worst conflict in the ASEAN region.

Indonesia was for decades battling its own insurgency in the province of Aceh, but a peace deal signed with the armed separatist group Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (Free Aceh Movement, GAM) in 2005, has all but ended the fighting in the province.

Violence in Thailand's Deep South saw an upsurge in February with a spate of bombings and two incidents of soldiers being decapitated.

## Second food scandal hits South

CHUMPHON: Latest test results show that free milk given to a school in Chumphon is indeed substandard.

The tests came following a complaint by administrators at Paklek School in Phato District that pupils often threw their milk away. In a bid to boost children's development, the government has provided an annual budget of around Bt12 billion to serve free milk to school children.

It was the second food scandal to hit the South in a month, after rotten canned fish was allegedly distributed in Phatthalung. That scandal forced the resignation of Social Development and Human Security Minister Witoon Nambutr.

"The protein level in the milk does not meet the standard set by the Public Health Ministry," Food and Drug Administration Deputy Secretary General Dr Pongpan Vongmanee said on

February 19.

He was citing findings made at the Regional Medical Sciences Center in Surat Thani.

Dr Pongpan reported that the Paklek School milk gathered for testing on February 16 was from the Namsichon Factory.

The Phato Tambon Administrative Organisation, which bought the milk, had earlier explained to the Interior Ministry that the milk provided to Paklek School was not spoiled, but the students didn't like it because it was bland, a source at the ministry said on February 16.

They insisted the milk – pasteurised ordinary milk – was of good quality, but it was not the sweetened or flavoured type many students preferred. They cited Public Health Ministry's regulations aimed at preventing tooth decay among children as the reason for the unpopular choice.

## Severe water shortages spreading

KRABI: Two of Krabi's districts are already suffering from water shortages and the drought is expected to soon spread to six more districts, according to the Krabi Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation office (DDPM-Krabi).

DDPM-Krabi chief Thalengsak Phuwayanphong said severe water shortages are now being felt in 46 villages in 10 tambons in Khlong Thom and Plai Phraya districts.

The water level in local reservoirs was low and villagers were suffering from a shortage of water for both domestic and

particularly agricultural use. Muang District is likely to be the next area to ask for assistance from the office, Mr Thalengsak added.

In a provincial survey to find out what other areas are likely to suffer from drought this year, the office found that a total of 219 villages in 46 tambons across all eight of Krabi's districts were at risk.

The office has set up a Drought Prevention and Mitigation Direction Center to co-ordinate the provincial response to the problem.

Mr Thalengsak said that

the DDPM had mobilised its two water trucks to distribute water to villagers in areas already hit by the drought. It has also borrowed a third truck from the DDPM-Phuket. The DDPM-Krabi will also work with local and provincial administration organizations to have at least 30 vehicles distributing water through the province.

Mr Thalengsak said that this year's dry season is likely to see more water shortages than the previous one. The problem is regional as Phatthalung and Ranong provinces are now also facing droughts.

## Environmental officer gunned down on doorstep

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: A Tambon Administration Organization officer was shot dead outside his home in Chawang District in the early hours of February 20 as his young wife looked on.

Somphon Suwanmanee, 37, was shot six times with a .38 calibre pistol. He was rushed to Somdej Phrayupharaj Hospital but died on route. Police collected three bullet casings from the scene to be used as evidence.

Mr Somphon, an environmental officer for Sai Ra Tambon

Administration Organization, was a close relative of Sahat "Sor Jor Dik" Suwanmanee, a well-known and influential member of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Administration Organization.

The victim's wife, 18-year-old Maliwal Suwanmanee, said that on the evening of February 19, her husband had gone to a funeral for a recently deceased neighbor.

When he got home just after midnight, he shouted for her to open the door to let him in. As she opened the door, two men on a motorcycle

pulled up in front of the house.

The man riding pillion shot Mr Somphon multiple times before speeding away.

The motorcycle driver wore a helmet, while the gunman concealed his identity with a balaclava, Mrs Maliwal said.

Chawang Police Superintendent Somchai Bunkhrop said that police suspect the killing was motivated by revenge. The victim was very direct and always spoke his mind so is likely to have made enemies in the village, Col Somchai added.



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## Books for the blind

PHUKET CITY: The launch of the Sound Books for Blind People Project was held at Bangkok Hospital Phuket at 10 am on February 10, presided over by Phuket vice-governor and president of the project, Tri Augkaradetcha.

The aim of the project is to have volunteers come to the hospital and read a book out loud while it is recorded by a computer.

Once the book is completed, the recording will be burned onto a CD which will then be sent to libraries in the municipalities of Rawai, Thalung, Kathu and Koh Sireh in and around Phuket, and to the provinces of Phang Nga and Krabi.

Director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket Kongkiet Ketpetch told the *Gazette* that the Sound Books for Blind People Project was important because of the limited amount of information available to blind people in Thailand.

"There are not enough braille books in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi. We have created this project to provide a place where volunteers can come and read a book out loud so it can be recorded and sent to libraries within the three provinces," he said.

# USS Boxer visits Phuket

PHUKET: The 844-foot long aircraft carrier USS Boxer anchored off Phuket for a few days last week to give some of the nearly 2,000 officers and marines on board a chance to touch down on terra firma, after leaving their home port in San Diego, California several months ago.

Displacing more than 40,000 tons and armed with a Sea Sparrow missile system and Phalanx CIWS, the reconnaissance support ship can carry up to 42 aircraft, including helicopters and Harrier Jump Jets.

The *Gazette* was invited aboard on a VIP visit along with members of the Patong Rotary Club, who helped organize "Comrel" projects, in which US Navy volunteers added a coat of paint to Baan Pkhongheep School in Thalung (See page 14 for more details).



**READY FOR TROUBLE:** The 844-foot USS Boxer, which dropped anchor off the Phuket coast last week.



## Aleenta's 2nd Annual Pampered Turtle Lovers Fundraising Dinner



**Date:** Saturday, 14 March 2009  
**Time:** from 6pm onwards  
**Venue:** Aleenta Resort and Spa Phuket – Phangnga  
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The 2nd Annual Aleenta's Pampered Turtle Lovers Fund Raising Dinner has been moved to March 14th, 2009. All proceeds will be used to fund research on the declining marine turtle population in the Andaman Sea. This year, Aleenta will be sponsoring a GPS tracking system that will track baby turtles on their journey into the wild upon their release from the Marine Sanctuary. The study will help us ensure their survival in the sea upon their release!

Buy a ticket and join us on this festive evening. The top 20 bidders will get to name their own turtles, which will be released on the evening. The top donator will get to name the turtle whose journey can be followed with the GPS via satellite broadcasted to an internet site. We are aiming to raise THB500,000 this year. Ticket for the fund raising dinner are THB5,000 per person. Special rate for guests attending the dinner of THB 5,000 per room per night with breakfast in an Ocean View Loft.

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## Shaking it up for soi dogs

PHUKET: The Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) has announced its next fun-filled fundraising event, Salsa, to be held at The Chedi Hotel, Surin Beach on March 27.

All funds raised from the salsa-themed private beach party will go towards SDF's shelter and sterilization and treatment programs, which have so far sterilized more than 21,000 dogs and cats since October 2003.

John Dalley, who runs SDF with his wife Gill, said, "SDF currently spends approximately 500,000 baht a month on its programs, principally in Phuket but also now in Phang Nga and Krabi provinces. As Gandhi once said, a society can be judged on the way it treats its animals. Help us to continue to solve Phuket's stray animal problems."

Salsa will be a private beach party, starting at 6 pm and finishing at 11 pm; dress code is party/salsa attire.

The ticket price of 2,500 baht will include a buffet dinner plus free-flow margaritas, beer, wine and soft drinks.

Music will be provided by Wave Entertainment Phuket with the Sayonara Bella band and DJme. Salsa dancers will also be performing and Gary Holden will MC the event.

Helping to raise more funds at the party will be a silent auction and raffle with some great prizes up for grabs.

The major sponsors for the event are The Chedi, SFC PLUBPLA LTD and the *Phuket Gazette*.

For more information about the event contact Cristy at [cristy@soidog-foundation.org](mailto:cristy@soidog-foundation.org) or T: 085-473 4636.

Information about the Soi Dog Foundation is available at [www.soidog.org](http://www.soidog.org) or by emailing [john@soidog.org](mailto:john@soidog.org).



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**10% Discount**

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**Shooting Cafe'**  
**FREE 1 bullet pack when buy 3 packs of bullet.**

Expiry date: 30 April 09  
Terms and conditions can be changed without prior notice.





# A sunnier side of the blues

Eric Bibb ranks as a genuine contemporary blues superstar. Born and raised in New York in the early 1950s, Eric was surrounded by music – not only on the streets of the Big Apple but also at home where his dad, Leon Bibb, was part of the New York folk scene and is still a successful singer, while his uncle, John Lewis, was a world-class jazz pianist and composer with the Modern Jazz Quartet.

Eric, who picked up his first guitar at the tender age of seven, now takes his brand of acoustic blues to all corners of the globe. At a family party, when only 11 years old, master Bibb met a young Bob Dylan, who told the wannabe blues star, “Keep it simple and forget all that fancy stuff.” It was an encounter and a piece of advice that Eric never forgot, and he now jokes, “I would love to meet him again, just to thank him for all the mileage I’ve got from that one meeting.”

A self-styled exponent of a sunnier brand of blues, the über-cool Eric has toured the world and played to thousands of fans. Ahead of his performance at the Phuket International Blues Rock Festival, he laid down his guitar just long enough to talk to the *Gazette*’s Dan Ogunshakin about



Eric Bibb dazzles the crowd during his performance at the Phuket Blues Festival on Feb 21.  
PHOTO by Dan Miles

the blues, what inspires him and how the blues can be truly appreciated in a tropical paradise.

Music was such a big part of Eric’s life from a very early age, but what inspired him to take up the blues – a genre that is often synonymous with sadness?

“My family were my inspiration for me wanting to make music my livelihood. My dad is a

wonderful singer who’s still working at 87, and my uncle, John Lewis, was a world-famous musician,” Eric explained.

“The decision to make the blues a big part of what I do as a singer and songwriter was mine, but acoustic blues was a mainstay of my musical diet as a kid. The guitar is something I’m passionate about, and the acoustic

guitar is really what I’ve made my way of expressing myself.

“This is basically a continuation of my childhood,” he added. With Eric having experienced – albeit briefly – the paradise that is Phuket, does he believe the blues can be truly appreciated on a tropical island that boasts almost year-round sunshine, white sandy beaches and turquoise

water?

“Yes I do. Personally I’m an exponent of the sunnier side of the blues. For me this language is universal; you can express so many things,” he said.

“Maybe it [the blues] started out as a way of expressing stuff you complain about, but it is something that has evolved as a musical language. You now feel like you have to make it your own. In a sunny environment like Phuket I’ll be pretty upbeat,” Eric added.

Despite a lack of blues history in Thailand, is it a genre that can transcend international boundaries and languages?

“In my experience? Yes. I’ve encountered blues musicians from Poland to the Philippines. There’s something about this music that makes people want to connect with it no matter where they’re from... it makes people want to party,” he opined.

Finally, what is it that motivates him when he’s up on the stage, performing in front of crowds around the world?

“I’m interested in making a connection with new fans and new music lovers. Every time I play to a new crowd, I’m charged and energetic. I want to reach out with my songs and make new friends,” Eric concluded.

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## EXPAT GALLERY

## Howard Digby-Johns

Howard Digby-Johns has had a big career in international finance. As a managing partner in the global firm Price Waterhouse, Howard spent many years based in Nairobi in the consulting division in charge of the firm's large, complex assignments, such as restructuring the Kenyan brewery and working on the development of resettlement communities. "I've always been drawn to working in the developing world as there's immediacy to the work and one can be more effective."

He is also the owner of his own private game park in Kenya, the 24 room Maralal Safari Lodge. "The Lodge is built in cedar forests at an elevation of 8,000 feet. You can hear the large African elephants, baboons, lions and leopards coming through the trees," he says.

More recently, Howard divides his time advising state governments in India on improving efficiency. He was given the considerable challenge of solving the problem of the extravagant waste in the country's electricity systems.

To get away from the stresses of his career, he began coming to Phuket in the 1990s and stayed at Mom Tri's Boathouse. Eventually, he decided that the island would become his home.

Most of us now know

Howard as the genial owner of the Green Man pub in Chalong at the foot of the hills on the road to Kata Beach from the roundabout. The Green Man Pub has become the epicenter for British culture on Phuket since it opened in 2000. Featuring not only English pub food, Howard has created a place where British expats and their guests can feel at home. It's a family type of place with a full menu of British fare and celebrations of English festivals. He produces local plays in his own theater and presents salsa dance classes, and the quiz night held every Thursday pits teams of Brits against one another amidst great fun and frivolity.

The Green Man pub expresses another aspect of Howard's character, one that is quite different from his career in finance.

"As a young man at Plymouth College, I was always interested in pre-history. Little is known about the world before 3000 BC. I believe in the theory of the Great Flood that destroyed the known world five thousand years ago. It accounts for why archaeologists find sea shells at the top of the Andes and why marine skeletons are discovered in the middle of vast inland deserts," Howard explains. "I've studied the history of most of the

world's cultures and I believe that the trauma of these floods was the driving event that stimulated the current world culture."

Howard's interest in pre-history is the reason he calls his pub the Green Man. Before the introduction of Christianity into England, the local people worshiped nature deities and animist spirits. The Green Man was like the Mediterranean god Dionysius, who represented the earthly pleasures and joys of the flesh.

Images of the Green Man can still be found as decorative symbols in many of England's churches.

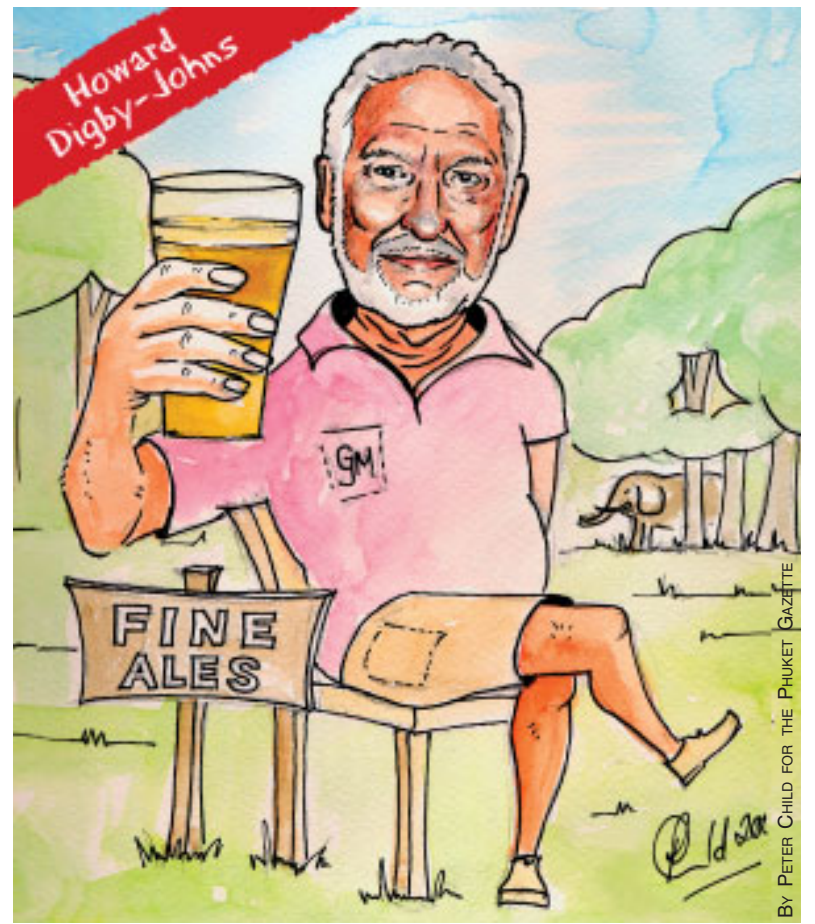
Howard believes that the hospitality industry is in for a tough couple of years.

"We are facing some huge problems on the island – a weak global economy, national political uncertainty and a strong currency which makes a holiday on Phuket expensive. We have to reduce costs and improve competitiveness."

"At the Green Man I plan to offer expanded services. We will open a second restaurant upstairs featuring Mediterranean cuisine with influences from Turkey, Italy, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and foods from Spain to Lebanon."

"I believe in investing in my business during times like these," he says.

– Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

## ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

The individuals profiled in the *Gazette's* 'Expat Gallery' series have been chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and, as foreigners, for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often at a time (mid-80s to mid-90s) when the rules of business were, ah, not entirely clear. Some of our subjects are not business people at all, but have added real value to Phuket as English teachers, journalists, artists, engineers, fund raisers, etc. But all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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# Laguna course set to test the best in Thailand Open

By Jon Bishop

Following a hiatus of almost four years, the Thailand Open makes its long-awaited return in the first week of March here in Phuket. A lack of sponsorship had left the event languishing in the golfing wilderness; that was until the Singha Corporation came to the rescue with the offer to sponsor the tournament and return the Open to Thailand's passionate golfing public. The event was last staged back in 2005 – also in Phuket – at the prestigious Blue Canyon Country Club.

This year's event is being held at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club, which has been selected to host both the 2009 and 2011 Thailand Opens. The Laguna Phuket layout will challenge the cream of the Asian Tour on a course that is described as “a wealth of tropical lagoons with undulating fairways, set against a stunning backdrop of surrounding hills”. The testing setup, combined with Phuket's searing heat and humidity, is set to provide a stern challenge to the players and – after four competitive rounds – a worthy champion.

In recent years, the strength in depth of Asian and indeed Thai golf has advanced in leaps and bounds; so much so, in fact, that there is every chance that this

year's winner will hail from Asia.

With a strong local track record in the tournament – previous winners include Suthep Meesawat (1991) and Boonchu Ruangkit (1992 & 2004) – Thai golf enthusiasts will hope that one of their charges will emerge victorious once more. This year Boonchu will be looking to make it a hat trick of Thailand Opens, and in what would be a fairytale story, Prom Meesawat will be seeking to emulate his father's historic win.

The host nation's contingent is further bolstered by the appearance of Thongchai Jaidee – the first Thai player to win a European-Asian co-sanctioned event and who is currently ranked No. 88 in the world – and Thawron Wiratchant, both of whom have racked up more than 10 tour victories over the course of their careers.

Other Thai players of note include Thammanoon Srirot, his cousin Chapchai Nirat, and Chawlit Plaphol. All the local players are certain to enjoy the support of a vociferous and partisan crowd. With a combination of home support and the chance to compete on home soil once more, Thailand's premier golfers will require no further encouragement to succeed. Standing in the way of Thai success are experienced campaigners from around



The beautiful but testing Laguna Phuket layout, combined with Phuket's searing heat and humidity, is set to provide a stern challenge to the players.

the globe, none more so than US PGA star Daniel Chopra from Sweden, and seasoned European Tour player Jean Van de Velde of France.

A stop-start beginning to his career saw Chopra occasionally fail to retain his European Tour card, but a switch to the US-based professional circuit gave him the platform he required to succeed at the highest level. Chopra chalked up his maiden US PGA tour victory in 2007 at the “Ginn sur Mer Classic” in Teroso and claimed his second title in winning the 2008 season-opening

“Mercedes-Benz Championship”. Jean Van de Velde has two European Tour victories to his name, but will always be remembered for his spectacular final hole meltdown at the 1999 Open Championship at Carnoustie in Scotland. Leading the field by three strokes going to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, Van de Velde found the water surrounding the green. After famously removing his shoes and socks and stepping into the water to consider a shot – to the amazement of veteran BBC commentator Peter Alliss – Van de Velde went on to record a

triple-bogey seven, losing the title in a three-way play-off to Scotland's Paul Lawrie.

With a strong contingent of players from the US, Australia, Italy, South Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan attending the Laguna event, the 2009 Singha Thailand Open promises to be a truly world-class tournament.

Practice days for the players are being held on March 2 and 3 with a Pro-Am tournament scheduled for March 4. The Singha Thailand Open proper commences on March 5 and the winner will be crowned on March 8.



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**JOIN YOUR FELLOW MAN:** US Navy volunteers on R&R in Phuket gave Baan Pkhongheep School in Talang a new coat of paint on February 20 as part of a "Comrel" project jointly organized by the US Navy, Patong Rotary Club and members of the Phuket International Women's Club, who also donated gifts collected at the PIWC Christmas lunch.



**WELCOME ABOARD:** Former president of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce Mr Eam Thavornvongwongse (center left) and board members welcomed the new Phuket Chamber of Commerce president Mr Sirichai Silapa-Archa (center right) and other new board members at the Metropole Phuket Hotel on February 12.



**FAIR TRADE:** Phuket Vocational College students practiced their newly-acquired trade skills during the college's annual Academic and Trade Fair from February 13 to 14. The fair also highlighted the college's career advancement program, which offers certification courses in 108 different subjects.



**CALORIE COUNTING:** Members of the band Calorie Blah Blah, Pongkul "Pop" Seapseung and Ausawin "Win" Duriyangkul, met fans for dinner at Oishi Phuket on February 13. The band then performed at the Simply Blar Blar restaurant in the evening.



**FASHION CONSCIOUS:** Well known fashion model, Thai movie star and VJ for MTV Singapore Ms Sonya "Pim" Cooling (center) holidayed at Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi on February 13. With her here are the resort's general manager Mr Voytek Klasicki (right) and Mr Paul-Dominique "Win" Vacharasinthu.



**AT YOUR SERVICE:** The doors of Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Kamala Beach opened for business on January 24. Pictured are the hotel's General Manager Mr Lutz Mueller (left) and Sales Manager Ms Somying Plangklang (2nd from right), welcoming the hotel's first guests Mr Ulf Svartebagge and Ms Sylvia Rix (right). The event was celebrated with champagne and the guests were given complimentary vouchers for a range of services.



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# Secret lives of the Master Chefs



Chef Jean-Noël believes in presenting a menu that features the essential tastes of the ingredients in the classic style of French cuisine.

As a 'Maître-Cuisinier de France', Jean-Noël Lumineau is a member of a very select group. The distinguished association of 'Master Chefs' boasts a membership of fewer than 300, and comprises the most outstanding French chefs in countries around the world. Jean-Noël is the only chef in Thailand to hold this honor.

"The only way to become a Master Chef is to be invited by other members of the association. It is quite a lengthy process that takes several years. There are numerous secret visits to the restaurant where one is responsible for the cuisine and an assessment is made as to the quality, consistency and standard of the menu," he explained.

Although Jean-Noël only recently moved to Thailand, he is certainly no stranger to this country. Back in 2000, a friend suggested he visit Thailand and meet

with Louis Bronner, the general manager of Mom Tri's Boathouse at Kata Beach. He was soon invited to put on a *Festival de la Gastronomie Française*, a two-week celebration of French cuisine and award-winning wines.

The promotion proved so popular that Mom Tri subsequently entrusted him with the supervision of his five restaurants to ensure that the menu at each has a different personality.

For the past 27 years, Jean-Noël has worked as the executive chef at one of the Loire Valley's most prestigious châteaux, the *Hotel Le Prieuré*. His culinary creations were beloved by France's top dignitaries and media personalities, many of whom would become regular customers.

"When you have guests such as the President of Portugal, Gérard Depardieu, and Claude Chabrol, you need to be

at the top of your game. My menus would evolve according to the season and what was fresh in the markets. In the winter, we would offer venison. In the summer, we featured fresh vegetables such as the coveted white asparagus," he explained.

Chef Jean-Noël believes in creating menus that embrace the essential taste of the ingredients in the classic style of French cuisine. He insists on using natural ingredients and avoids such meats as farmed fish or imported products whenever possible.

"Food must retain the individual flavors of the ingredients. I'm now interested in how Asian spices and herbs and methods of preparation create a fusion of flavor with classic French cuisine.

Thailand has an enormously interesting selection of foods. There are so many new possibilities with the spices, choices of fish and seafood. Thai cuisine is very rich with plenty of flavors," he said.

Fortunately, those on Phuket

who appreciate the finest in French cuisine will have the opportunity to sample Chef Jean-Noël's talents at the *Festival de la Gastronomie Française* – to be held at the new Mom Tri's Boathouse Regatta at the Royal Phuket Marina from February 21 through March 8.

"We will employ only the French method of food preparation. Our four-course set menu at 1,200 baht ++ (or 2,000 baht including a glass of wine per course)

will offer well-balanced flavors that build up in taste intensity. There will also be a three-course menu at 1,000 baht ++, where guests can choose from a variety of menu options," Jean-Noël said.

Enticing menu selections include sea scallops with leeks, bacon and a Chardonnay sauce; beef tenderloin with mustard sauce; and rack of lamb with thyme sauce.

For appetizers, guests can expect *escargots* and duck *foie gras* while desserts include a caramelized *mille-feuille* with

mango and fresh fruit with *Kirsch sabayon*.

Complementing Chef Jean-Noël's festival menu will be a special selection of wines from Mom Tri's vaunted cellar, which includes some of the world's most prestigious and sought-after vintages – officially recognized when Mom Tri's Boathouse won the coveted Best of Award of Excellence from *Wine Spectator* magazine.

Mom Tri's wine cellars are managed by Georges Ciret, who brings a lifetime of experience working with Accor Hotels and Resorts in different parts of the world. He is offering a flight of wines: one red, one white and one port to accompany Chef Jean-Noël's menu.

"We will also offer a cheese buffet during the festival. We've imported 18 different varieties of French cheese, including a rare St. Maure goat's cheese, for the event," said Georges.

Chef Jean-Noël plans to spend his time on Phuket educating local chefs in the subtleties of French cuisine, while continuing to craft the irresistible dishes that made him a Master Chef.

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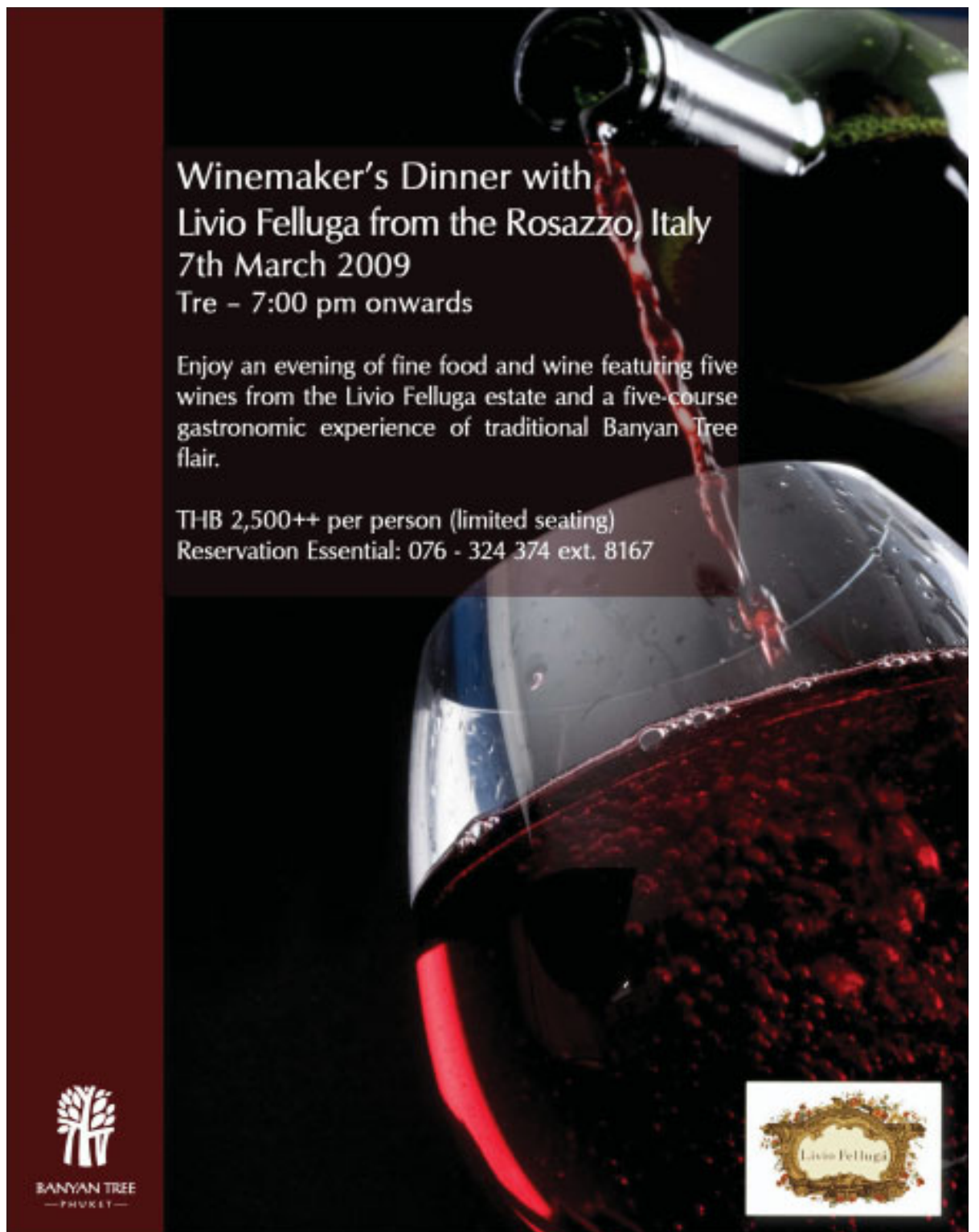
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# Face to face with the king of snakes

## THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

**KATA NOI - 1992:** I awoke in my second-storey bedroom bursting for a pee. Only problem – the loo was on the ground floor. With one hand holding the valve shut, I raced down the stairs, ran through the living room, threw open the door to the kitchen, and stopped dead in my tracks.

On the kitchen floor, directly in front of the door, was a two-meter Monocellate Cobra (*Naja naja kaouthia*), head already up,

scanning the commotion. Nothing to fool with, a bite from Phuket's most common cobra can be fatal within 60 minutes if left untreated.

I couldn't wait. With the left hand sealing the plumbing, I stepped high over the cobra, reached back and closed the living room door, opened the back door, picked up a broom and with one hand, I ushered the cobra back into the wild. I closed the door, took a well-deserved leak, and returned to bed.

Until Saturday February 7, that was my best cobra story.

**CHALONG HIGHLANDS - FEBRUARY 2009:** I was working at home on a quiet afternoon when all the dogs went crazy. It was obvious something was afoot, but I couldn't see it from above (our nine-pole house window), or up close along the split-level concrete walkway that paralleled the fence almost eye level to the ground.

I suspected a snake – impenetrable rubber brush, two to three meters high grows into the fence, a perfect reptile refuge. I'm always on the lookout for cobras, so I cautiously scanned



The King Cobra was eight paces tail to head, not including twists and turns. My paces are about one meter each.

the thick dry leaves. The rubber hadn't been worked in two years, but the paths were recently

cleared by a new contractor. I saw the tail first – at least the back half-meter. It was obvious – this was a huge snake – a full adult reticulating python or King Cobra.

We had a 2.5-meter blood python hanging out in the yard, but I hadn't seen it for a year. This wasn't it – the tail wasn't as fat, and it had pronounced black and brown scales. I already knew what had happened to the python.

Two meters down the fence the midsection appeared through the leaves – thick as my calf, perhaps my thigh. No chickens in there – the lines were sleek and not distended. Huge, but definitely not python. The black and brown pattern blended in perfectly with

another two meters of dry leaves – and there was the head.

With a mouth six inches across and an angry glare in its eye, head far bigger than my size 16 clodhoppers, was a very alert and angry King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), the world's longest and largest venomous snake. Although I was scanning, the cobra saw me first (of course). We were now eyeball to eyeball two meters away. Not good. I talked slow and soothing, slowly spreading my hands to show greater size and multiple targets, and quietly backed up a couple of meters.

Aside from the nine adult street dogs, we have three puppies between 4-6 months old – for some reason, people keep

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dropping them at my house. My adult dogs have plenty of snake experience, but the 'kids' were right in the cobra's face.

And my two-year old niece ran over to catch the commotion. Things were happening fast, coming from all directions. I got my priorities straight, ran back to the main house, grabbed the camera – and a three-meter bamboo stick. We played cobra circus for about an hour. I can't call it snake charming. I picked up my niece, and cajoled the puppies away from the hissing cobra. The cobra was powerful and quick – and the young puppies aren't slow. It couldn't strike with its head down, but it could charge a victim from four meters and get in a couple of injections before you could react.

Two years ago, the dogs were barking at a bamboo beach mat drying over a railing. I expected a small cobra, grabbed a stick and raised the mat. A young Monocellate burst from its hiding place and ran over my foot.

I was quite proud of my reaction – it happened so fast my only safe option was not moving my foot. A movement could have startled the cobra, resulting in a bite. This time I had warning – and control of the situation. First item of business was documentation.

The snake was straight against the wire mesh fence, so I walked the barrier and it was eight paces tail to head, not including twists and turns. My paces are about one meter each. The listed King Cobra length is 22 feet, which is fine with me. At full adult size, this cobra was a large, ominous, intelligent and majestic animal. I don't think I'll go camping in my backyard jungle soon.

I've seen a King Cobra up close before, but nothing this size – far bigger than in any cobra show. The venom is automatic – a King Cobra bite wouldn't be fun, and this guy could pump out a lot of venom – perhaps enough

to make any anti-venom irrelevant, especially for my niece.

If the venom had my attention, the snake's sheer size and power had my awe. If one could grab the head, the thick neck was a two-handed proposition. Without another pair of hands on the tail, the angry midsection and tail would knock a human off his or her feet – the ground is not a good place to be when wrestling a King Cobra.

I avoided brute force and tried to channel it down the concrete walkway between the toilet and the kitchen by banging the concrete blocks, not the snake. Instead of heading straight for the jungle, the cobra went for immediate cover under the house, eventually ending up in a two-meter square storage locker directly beneath the bedroom where my relatives sleep.

Backed into the corner, the cobra took the ultimate defensive position, and no matter what I tried I couldn't get my bamboo at the cobra from any overhead or sideways angle. I was blocking the exit while driving the cobra back into the corner.

The only position I could coax the cobra to move to placed me in the doorway – not good for three reasons. The cobra was cornered, directly in front of me, and its only escape was to charge me. My auto-focus shots of the cobra against the fence were unclear, so with one hand holding the bamboo and the other holding my camera, I got the shots you see. Composing the photo was a bit tense, but these pictures came out OK.

I was rather proud that throughout this Mexican standoff, the King Cobra was never threatened enough to spread its hood. Save that dramatic shot for the cobra show. Doing so would certainly raise the tension level. I chose to negotiate. While taking one-handed photos, I was soothing the cobra with calm tones, telling it I would leave, thereby opening its escape route.

Our backyard jungle was meters away. Once I decided the cobra understood, I slowly backed off, got the dogs in the house and the kid on the balcony. In five minutes the cobra cautiously moved out the door and slithered into the jungle.

We stood on the railing, watching the plants part as the snake moved through our jungle. Eventually, the King Cobra moved into the banana patch behind our house, gone forever – at least I hope so. Success! A King Cobra, as majestic as Thailand's tigers, elephants and crocodiles, was roaming free and uninjured, same as my family.

We hope it doesn't return, but the food chain says to expect it. The King Cobra eats other snakes, including cobras and pythons. Blood pythons eat the toads and frogs attracted to our houselights at night.

Unless you are a loony like me, its best to call the police, who will refer you to a cobra farm. Let the professionals take care of a snake this size. King Cobras are diurnal and generally not a problem at night.

#### WHEN COBRAS BITE

There isn't much to do with the bite of either the Monocellate Cobra or the King Cobra, except to loosely bandage the wound, keep it below heart level, and get to a clinic, fast. Monocellate bites can kill in 30 minutes if untreated. King Cobras inject far more venom and bring death in minutes – five times faster than a Black Mamba.

Do not kill the snake – that won't help the victim – and do not incise (cut) the wound. Do not apply ice.

Statistically, Monocellate Cobras are far more dangerous – more common, work either day or night, and just as deadly as Kings. The King Cobra venom isn't as strong, but it's administered by one-inch fangs in high volume.

## Young yachtsmen take to the seas



The children learned to sail in 'Optimists' - bathtub shaped boats that are ideal for beginners.

Phuket is better known for its yachts than its dinghies but every sailor has to start somewhere, and 12 school children took advantage of their half-term break to do just that. The kids were taking part in a week-long sailing course run by Katy Gooch at the Phuket Yacht Club in Ao Yon. It was an opportunity for them to get their first taste of sailing and Katy, a qualified instructor, is hoping to encourage a new generation to take up the sport. "Dinghy sailing is a great outdoor activity for children because it's challenging, refreshing and relaxing at the same time," she says.

Under Katy's watchful eye, the children learned to sail in 'Optimists' – bathtub shaped boats that are ideal for beginners. Angus Hamilton, 9, said, "I decided to come on this course because I thought it would be fun and it has been. I didn't know how to sail before this week but now I do."

Nicholas attends the British International School, as do most of the other children on the course, and according to Katy, "After five days they will have a good basic knowledge but really they need another week to get good. We only teach half-days here because of the tempera-

ture." Yacht clubs may have a reputation for exclusivity, but Phuket Yacht Clubs' stated aim is to introduce more people to the sport of sailing. As part of this inclusive approach the club has also run free courses for local children in Thai. Once children have learned to sail competently, they can compete in the Phuket Yacht Club open regatta, which takes place every month.

Katy also runs her own company, Topper Sail Phuket. "I was doing volunteer work, teaching here on a Sunday, but so many people were asking about sailing that I decided to bring in some Toppers (11 foot sailing dinghies) and start teaching people myself, independently from the club. The club is open every Sunday and we have been busy after doing the Thai course, so I wanted to give more people the opportunity to learn to sail here," she says.

The scale and expense of prestigious sailing events in Phuket, such as the King's Cup, might put some people off the sport, but this is sailing at its grass roots and anyone can get involved. For more information visit: [www.phuketyachtclub.info](http://www.phuketyachtclub.info) or contact: [phuketyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:phuketyachtclub@gmail.com)

-James Goyder

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island



## Punchline Comedy

### Live International Stand-Up Comedy

### March 10

Punchline Comedy is part of the same comedy circuit that produced such greats as Eddie Izzard, Mike Myers, Lee Evans, Steve Coogan, Jack Dee, and Bill Bailey, to name but six. Punchline, in association with the London Comedy Store and the *Phuket Gazette*, brings the best talent of the UK comedy circuit to Thailand as part of their Asia Tour. This March there's comedy from Britain, America, and Australia/Vietnam at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong from 8pm to 11pm.

For further information contact Khun Boom.

T: 083-6464671 E: info@phuketcomedy.com W: www.phuketcomedy.com.

#### March 1. FREE Computer Clinic - Patong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Patong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com W: www.KhunWoody.com.

#### March 5-8. Singha Thailand Open 2009

The Thailand Open makes an emphatic return to the Asian golfing calendar this month. The Singha Corporation has signed up as title sponsor while the Laguna Phuket Golf Club will be the host venue. The Singha Thailand Open will be played from March 5 to 8 at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, teeing off at 7:30am - 5:30pm, and boasting prize money of US\$500,000. For further information contact Khun Manachai T: 02-5134996 E: manachai@tropicofcancer.info W: www.singhathailandopen.com

#### March 6-8. Whale Shark Exploration and Education

Wicked Diving invites 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. This expedition focuses on educating the participants on the biology and known information about these and other magnificent creatures found in this region. Enjoy 3 days diving (minimum 9 dives) at Richelieu Rock, Surin Islands, Koh Tachai, Koh Bon, and BonSoong Wreck aboard the MV Parinee. From 7am to 8:30pm at Khao Lak, Similan and Surin Islands. For further information contact Robyn Hasson T: 076-485868 E: robyn@wickeddiving.com W: www.wickeddiving.com.

#### March 6. Thai Buffet Lunch @ Mercure Patong Phuket

Savor our unlimited range of hot, spicy, sweet and sour local Thai dishes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from midday to 2.30pm at World Cafe @ Mercure Patong Phuket. Includes free-flow soft drinks. Only 190 baht nett per adult and 95 baht nett per child (6-12 years old). For further information contact Mr. Chonlathich Na Nakorn. T: 076-302100. E: salespr@mercurephuket.com W: www.mercurepatongphuket.com.

#### March 7. Children's Charity Concert with Nantida Kaewbuasai

A charity concert put on by the Lion's Club of the Phuket Pearl featuring Nantida to benefit children in need at the Phuket Sunshine Village. The village was set up for the orphaned, homeless, underprivileged and children at risk after the 2004 tsunami. This homely atmosphere is where children learn and live as children should, but it needs the support

of the Phuket community. Entertainment includes the BIS Youth Jazz band and Karen's Dance Academy. Tickets are 1,000 baht per person or 10,000 baht for each table of ten people. Come and join the fun! From 7pm - 11:30pm at Phuket Merlin Hotel. For further information contact Vilaiwan Dienel. T: 081-3971567. E: info@phuketLP.com

#### March 8. FREE Computer Clinic - Laguna

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

#### March 13-19. Vimon Keawmark Exhibition at Art Rendez-vous

Vimon Keawmark is a talented 36-year-old Thai artist. He lives in Nakornpatom and says the following about his work: "The concept behind my paintings is to portray the human desire for passion. This desire is important for ev-

erybody, but sometimes it is concealed within." Don't miss the Vimon Keawmark Exhibition at Art Rendez-vous Gallery, which starts at 7pm at 69 Yaowarat Rd, Phuket Town. For further information contact Patrick Bois. T: 076-219095. E: art.rdv@gmail.com W: www.art-rendezvous-gallery.com.

#### March 14. Annual Mulligan Reunion Golf, Blue Canyon

The Annual Mulligan Reunion golf competition is open to all. Entry will be restricted to 72 players over 18 holes Stableford on the Lakes course. Prizes and buffet dinner at the Canyon Terrace restaurant. Sponsorship available. Company banners at 3,000 baht per tee, green or fairway. Play from 10am to 9pm at Blue Canyon Lakes Course. For further information contact Mr Vic Curran. T: 087-2636885. E: viccurran@aol.com or leebrook@access.inet.com.

#### March 15. FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com

#### March 22. FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong

From 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com

#### March 27. Soi Dog Salsa on the beach

"Salsa" private beach party begins at 6pm and finishes at 11pm at The Chedi, Surin Beach, Phuket.

Dress to impress in party/salsa attire. Tickets are 2,500 baht each and include a fantastic buffet dinner, plus free-flow margaritas, beer, wine and soft drinks.

Music will be provided by Wave Entertainment Phuket with the Sayonara Bella band and DJ Me. Salsa dancers will also be performing and Gary Holden will MC the event.

To help raise more funds at the event, there will also be a silent auction and raffle with some great prizes up for grabs. See you there. For further information contact Cristy. T: 085-4734636. E: cristy@soidog-foundation.org W: www.soidog-foundation.org.

#### March 29. FREE Mac and PC Clinic - Laguna

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## ON THE MOVE

**Ms Kitima "Goi" Pornmongkhonwat** has been appointed Assistant Manager of the Phuket branch of Exotiq Real Estate, South East Asia. In her role at Exotiq, Goi will be responsible for the company's sales and marketing. First arriving in Phuket in 2006, she worked at Chalong Bay View development as a marketing executive for six months before moving to Karon Hills, a luxury condo project in the southwest of Phuket, where she worked for almost two years before joining Exotiq.



**Mr Phanlop "Add" Ritthirong** has been appointed General Manager of Oriental Events and Leisure. In his new role, Addy will be responsible for the incentive and MICE operations within the company and also the sales and marketing of MV Nara Cruises. Addy has a wealth of experience and knowledge of the MICE industry, having started his career working in some of the country's leading 5-star resorts, including the Sheraton and Le Meridien, Phuket.



**Ms Mary Lei Balajadia** has been appointed to the position of Marketing Manager for Phuket IT & Software Solutions. In her new position, Ms Balajadia will be responsible for the company's sales and marketing. A native of the Philippines, before joining Phuket IT Ms Balajadia worked at Al Murooj Rotana Hotel & Suites, Dubai, as Executive Secretary and at ABQ Zawya, Dubai, as a Business Development Associate.



# The currency of independence



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

**T**he global financial crisis has given rise to a number of questions, one in particular being the relative levels of the euro and the US dollar. In the first half of 2008 the euro appeared to constitute the sanctuary of choice for those wishing to escape the turbulence in global markets, reaching a peak against the dollar of US\$ 1.60. Indeed, the euro appeared poised to make even greater gains against the US currency, but somehow, despite great public enthusiasm, it seemed to simply run out of steam. Technically, the euro should have been the stronger currency as it had offered – and

still does offer – higher interest rates than the US unit.

The euro's member states each issue their own sovereign bonds, and it was the levels that these were trading at by late 2008 that attracted attention, especially when, in theory at least, they should all have been trading at the same price. The sovereign bonds of Greece first showed a widening of yield compared with 'core' Europe – for example Germany with its sovereign bonds or 'Bunds'. Greece had started a trend that was rapidly followed by other member states with weaker economies, namely Spain, Italy and Ireland.

Historically, before the days of the euro, the Mediterranean countries always had an escape route whenever their economies came under pressure. They would simply devalue their currencies and continue from a lower and more competitive level. The adoption of the euro effectively removed that safety valve, and as a result forced up the yields on their bonds during times of stress. Rather than offering an escape route, it was akin to a tightening of the screws. The

single currency (euro) was designed to maintain a strict discipline among its member states and that, to a large degree, has been successful. Sometimes, however, what appears to be a harmonious arrangement during good economic times, is not so successful when stress-tested during difficult times. Every country that joined the euro currency bloc effectively surrendered the right to manage its own individual monetary policy. Each member state did continue to have control over its own fiscal policy but only in accordance with the requirements of the European Central Bank (ECB) and the strictures of membership – i.e. inflation should not exceed 2% and individual governments should not have deficits of more than 3% of their own gross domestic product (GDP).

Ireland, in particular, has felt the chilling effects of the current crisis. Here was a country that, historically, had known only one economic condition – poverty. By the 1970s, Irish governments had transformed their economic policies for the better by encouraging foreign manufacturers to open up businesses in Ireland. They enticed them with very attractive tax incentives; 0% tax on profits for the first 10 years and a gradual

phasing in of taxation between years 10 to 15.

Ireland's membership of the European Union also brought with it large amounts of money. This was mainly before the break-up of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite states. Ireland, at this stage, languished well below the economic standards of the other members and was thus entitled to benefit from many projects, paid for by the EU, to raise it to a common level. This proved no great strain on the other member states since Ireland accounted for only about 0.5% of the

European Union's GDP.

The Irish economy flourished and in addition, to secure employment for its university graduates, investment incentives were offered to foreign companies in the financial sector. Unemployment among university graduates fell quickly from 20% to effectively zero. The country enjoyed such a buoyant economy that foreign investors were forced to open their operations in small towns and villages just to find staff, since in the larger urban areas there were severe staff shortages. Along with this pleasant state of affairs, the living standards of the Irish soared, while the country's property and stockmarket enjoyed the biggest

boom in Ireland's history.

However, the global spread of the financial crisis eventually reached Ireland, and suddenly the good old days came to a crashing halt. The credit crisis stopped the property boom in its tracks, unemployment began to rise and the cost of membership of the eurozone began to be felt.

In neighboring Northern Ireland similar problems were also apparent. Northern Ireland, as part of the UK, is also a member state of the European Union but not of the euro – the pound sterling is still the legal currency. With the recession biting ever deeper, the UK reduced value added tax by 2.5% while, to keep in line with the eurozone deficit rules, Ireland had to raise its own by 0.5%. Meanwhile, sterling had fallen in value against the euro, and since all border controls had long been abandoned between Northern Ireland and Ireland (Eire), shoppers from the south began to flock to the major northern market towns to do their shopping at cheaper prices.

The advantages of keeping an individual currency and with it the right to follow individual monetary policy, came to the fore. Business television channel CNBC raised the Irish economic issue in mid-February. It concluded that Ireland may have to nationalize its whole banking system and noted that it is not certain whether Ireland would be entitled to any EU aid. Too many comparisons with Iceland were being made to offer any comfort.

Joining economic blocs can help countries in many ways – Thailand with ASEAN, for example – but to abandon an individual currency means losing the ability to navigate an individual course.

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

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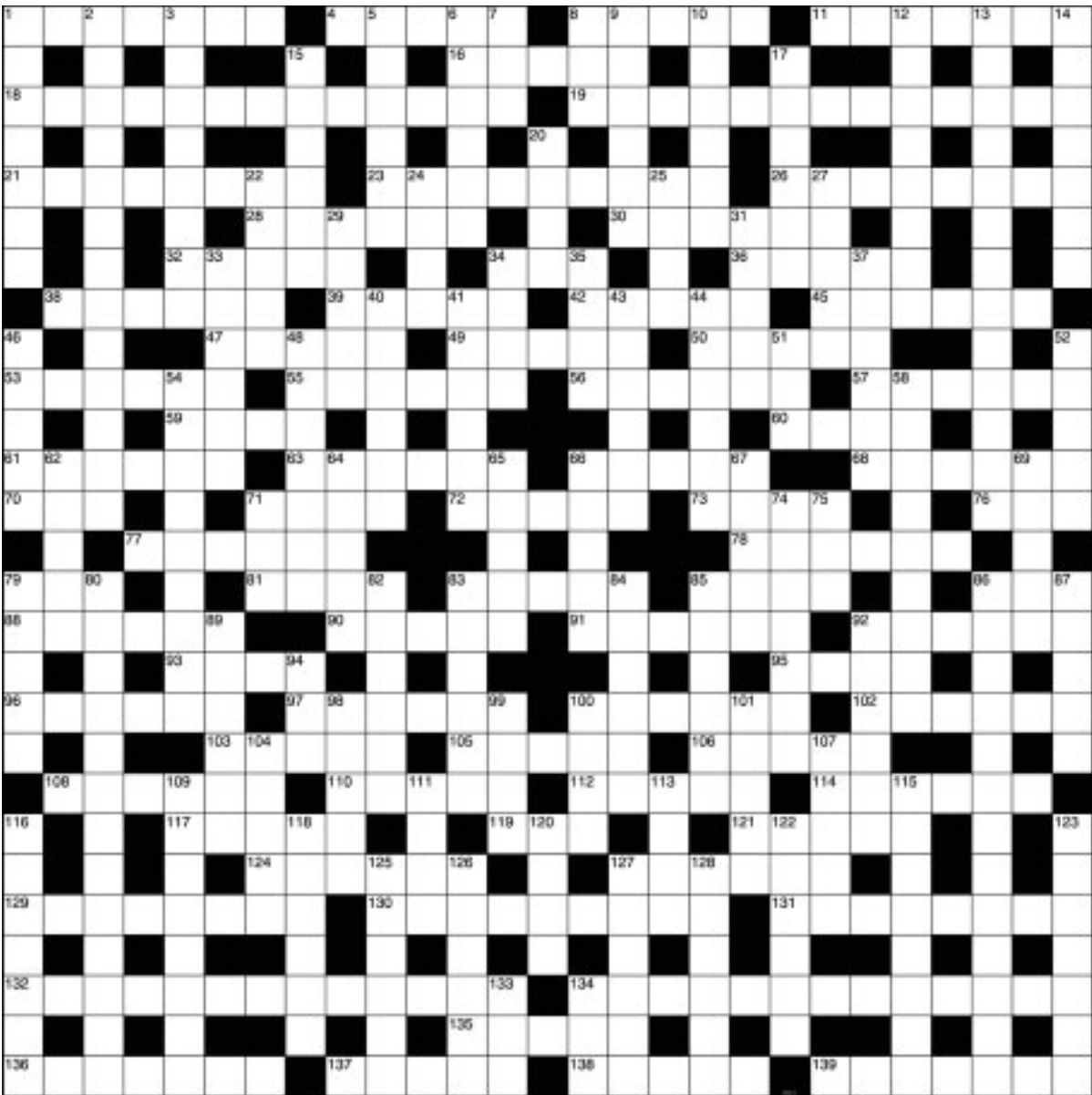
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference

Can you find the ten 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. Putting

4. Cathedral,... Dame

8. Opera solos

11. Twisted

16. Open

18. Misconstrue

19. Appearing in bodily form

21. Sicken

23. Mustiest

26. Church districts

28. Scrape together (4,2)

30. More hasty

32. Every 24 hours

34. Actor,... Gibson

36. Beside

38. Parchment roll

39. West African nation, Sierra...

42. Great sea

45. Tile-chip picture

47. Pixie-like

49. Last Greek letter

50. Grinding tooth

53. Puma

55. Culminate in (4,2)

56. You'll find Belgrade there

57. Fireplace frame

59. Mediterranean volcano

60. Ring of bells

61. Preoccupy

63. Breeding (with)

66. Crow relative

68. Slender

70. Dessert, pecan...

71. Litter receptacles

72. Donor

73. Foolish

76. City,... Francisco

77. Horde

78. Madman

79. Wife's title

81. Leer

83. Repairs

85. Ants' home

86. Pen tip

88. Large property

90. Incited,... on

91. Securest

92. Not relaxed, ill... (2,4)

93. Chilled

95. Small island

96. Battlefield ditch

97. Greatly fears

100. Give ear

102. Simmer (meat)

103. Eightsome

105. Pale beer

106. US bird emblem

108. More hideous

110. Court attendant

112. Approaches

114. Points out similarity to

117. Russian leaders

119.... & outs

121. Fill with joy

124. Tooted

127. Ski race

129. Uncalled for

130. Alpine flower

131. Emery board

132. Removal of state ownership

134. Refuelling place (6,7)

135. US president, Richard...

136. Enrols (5,2)

137. Hold

138. Biblical prayer

139. Mistreated (3-4)

Down

1. Allspice

2. Army obstacle track (7,6)

3. Sly dig

5. Punctual (2,4)

6. Incurs (debt) (4,2)

7. Finish

8. Purpose

9. Death, the Grim...

10. Turns away

12. Metal palings

13. Barbells athletes

14. Absorbs (food)

15. Harrowing trial

17. Disperse

20. Margin

22. Warble

24. Aniseed-flavoured liquor

25. Sensible

27. Smell

29. Singer,... Minogue

31. Vietnamese city

33. Warns

34. Short office note

35. Ship's records

37. Golfer, Greg...

40. Passes (legislation)

41. Observing

43. Roman statesman, Julius...

44. Sauntered

46. Ice cream server

48. Blazing

51. Circuit

52. Travelled by air

54. Having sense of beauty

58. Fine gypsum

62. Coffin stands

64. 90 degrees, right...

65. Taunted

66. Marsh grasses

67. Nominates

69. Peaceful refuge

71. Audience jeer

74. Not eating

75. Explosive compound (1,1,1)

79. Thaws

80. Reinforcing

82. White herons

83. Interfere

84. Lampoon

85. More orderly

86. Races of people

87. Slanted timber cut

89. Resounding noises

92. Even though

94. Early pesticide (1,1,1)

98. Recycle

99. Indian robe

100. Camera's optical part

101. Painting support

104. Crustaceans of the zodiac

107. Peru beast

109. Milan folk

111. Pay attention to

113. Afflicts

115. Punish (sailor)

116. Party titbits

118. Defay

120. Salamander

122. Solitary

123. Gathered bit by bit

125. Tankard material

126. Devils

127. Alarm sounds

128. Stellar

133. Dram

134. Burst

© Puzzles by Pappocom

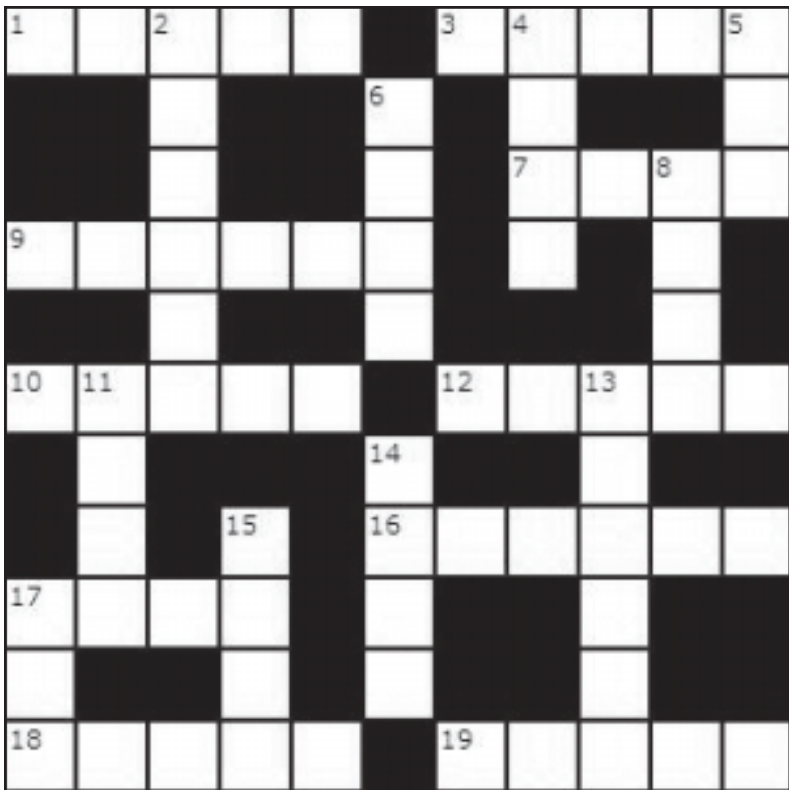
Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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.

Solution on next page





## Quick Crossword

### Across

1. Luck
3. Batman's sidekick
7. Bird
9. Border
10. Breezy
12. Mission
16. Lemon and lime
17. Sell
18. Fatigued
19. Christ

### Down

2. Foolish
4. One time
5. Original
6. Vehicle
8. Betting...
11. Scrape
13. Mistakes
14. Pain
15. Boundary
17. Tax

Solution below

## Get your brain in gear with the

# MONSTER QUIZ

1. Where was the 1994 football World Cup staged?
2. What is the highest capital city in the world?
3. What is the deepest point on earth and where would you find it?
4. Which successful British actor's real name is Krishna Banji?
5. Which former singer's real name is Farouk Balsara?
6. Who wrote the novel *The Rum Diary*?
7. Name the "Wonder of the World" that stood at Rhodes.
8. What is the capital city of Burkina Faso?
9. How many pounds are there in a stone?
10. Who was US President at the Potsdam Conference?
11. What is the literal translation of the Italian phrase "al dente"?
12. On a Trivial Pursuits board, what color is the entertainment category?
13. In what year was Concorde launched?
14. What mythical creature did Theseus battle?
15. Where would you find the world's tallest building?
16. Which musician's nickname was "Satchmo"?
17. Where was Superman born?
18. How many cubic meters are there in a square kilometer??
19. What was the name of the aircraft used by Charles Lindbergh to make the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in 1927?
20. In the US, the Triple Crown of thoroughbred horse racing refers to which races?

Answers below

# Puzzle Solutions

### Solution to this week's Quick crossword



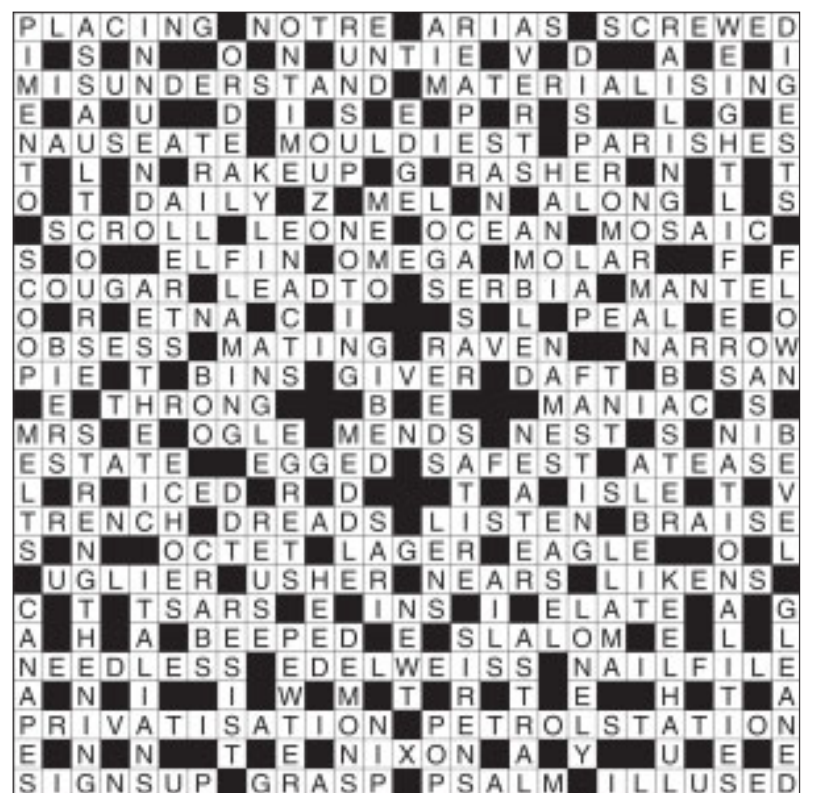
### Monster Quiz Answers

1. The USA; 2. La Paz, Bolivia; 3. The Marianas Trench in the Pacific; 4. Sir Ben Kingsley; 5. Freddy Mercury; 6. Hunter S Thompson; 7. The Colossus; 8. Ouagadougou; 9. 14; 10. Harry S Truman; 11. To the tooth; 12. Pink; 13. 1969; 14. Minotaur; 15. Dubai (The Burj); 16. Louis Armstrong; 17. Krypton; 18. One million; 19. The Spirit of St. Louis; 20. Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, Belmont Stakes.

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



### Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle





# Of rock'n'roll, booming bass and shape-shifting reptiles

By Marque Rome

**D**o you suppose sinister shape-shifting, semi-human, extra-terrestrial reptilians stranded on Earth are trying to take over our brains? I might never have thought so, but since an unreal experience with my next-door neighbor, I am no longer sure.

Existence of these sinister beings was brought to my attention – where else? – in a Chalong bar. “George Bush Sr is one of them,” I was assured by a respectable man as the bass boomed, rap rhythms thumped intoxicatingly, and the paddy-field sybarites danced.

He was in his cups you imagine; but no, he was stone cold sober, a geologist, a yacht owner, a man of the world (though admittedly one who lost a lot in the stock market recently). “David Icke,” he said, “knows the whole story.”

For the uninitiated, Englishman David Icke is a former Hereford United goalkeeper and BBC sports announcer who daily hurls imprecations against this alien race and their myrmidons, and compresses in satisfying detail the whole of human history, weaving a fascinatingly intricate theory of conspiratorial metaphysics – the masterminds of which are the aforesaid reptilians.

Icke attires himself in turquoise because “it is the very base color of the universe” and has acquired a not-inconsiderable following via his website, videos, books, speeches and seminars.

“A pyramidal structure of human beings has been created under the influence and design of the extraterrestrial Prison Warders and their overall master, the Luciferic Consciousness,” he wrote in 1995.

“They control the human clique at the top of the pyramid...”

In 1999's *The Biggest Secret*, Icke described many notables – not only George H W Bush – as reptilian, including Kris Kristofferson, Boxcar Willie and the Queen of England. He drew perhaps a thousand in Vancouver

to one of his speeches and received a standing ovation after a four-hour talk at the University of Toronto.

Well, that many Canadians *can't* be wrong, can they?

In response to critics' ridicule, Icke observed drolly, “Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.”

Icke's theorizing is interesting, to be sure, and affords more real entertainment on a midnight dreary than the stories of Edgar Allen Poe, but in my mundane little life I can't bother too much with the Masters of the Universe Ultimate Plan; I've more immediate concerns – work, shelter, how to vary my diet on an income of 20 baht a day, etc.

Or at least I thought shape-shifting reptilians could have no practical effect on my life until a new neighbor began turning up his home stereo's bass.

Bass wavelengths, as you may know, are long. Unlike shorter treble wavelengths they pass most barriers with little resistance – that's why, from outside a discotheque, one hears only thumping bass. Another characteristic is that most of its impact is in a range below that of the human ear: bass low enough and powerful enough will fry one's liver (to say nothing of one's brain) without conveying the sensation of being especially loud. Yet it is felt. The role of bass at rock concerts is to unite the crowd via hypnotic pulsations; to entrance. I don't know about you, but I find that a little SUSPICIOUS.

My new neighbor is a young fellow: taciturn, sour-visaged and given to wearing his hair brushed straight up – just like a reptile. He doesn't commune much with his fellows. New Year's Eve and the day following he spent alone in his lair, while the rest of Phuket was lost in annual Saturnalia.

I rather pitied him – but not much, for he disturbed me fully 76 hours with non-stop, concert-level Thai rock songs.

Lacking much amusement

besides cigarettes and beer, he sports with the stereo controls, chiefly volume and bass, trying to achieve, I suppose, a sort of aural nirvana that proves ever elusive. I thought him the neighbor from hell, but now I wonder whether he is not really a servant of fourth-dimensional shape-shifting reptiles whose evil commands are delivered via cellphone towers to their zombie minions on earth.

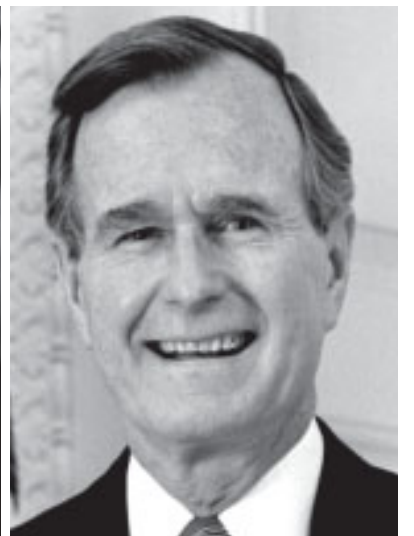
I know, I know, it all sounds rather extreme – but if you lost as much sleep as I have in the last month you might reach your limit, too. I no longer have any peace of mind. Thumping can start at any time, day or night. It seeps through the floor, up through the bedposts and into my pillow. It positively resonates through the walls, shivering plates and loose structural members. It can last a few minutes, a few hours or days. It is a species of torture, the very torture used to drive Panama's Manuel Noriega out of his palace and al-Qaeda's Sheik Khalid Mohammed out of his mind.

So it must be a plot. The more I think on it the more I am sure. Consider: my next door neighbor has a metallic-blue motorcycle, a black jacket with white piping – reptilian colors, to be sure – and a turquoise crash helmet! Well, maybe it's robin's egg blue... still, might not that aspiring hair-do of his be in reality an antennae array?

It sure could! Obviously. Moreover, just as any zombie, he appears incapable of rational discussion. When I tried – politely, in my estimation – to remonstrate over the noise, he lay on his cot without answering, merely glaring back through burning, lizard-like orbs.

On another occasion, when I pointed out that in polite society it is customary to answer when addressed, he shot back in thick southern dialect that I should, “Get out!”

It was then I realized that the marvelous Thai educational system – which has nurtured so many scholars and sages, and produced a timeless literature surely the envy of all – had en-



Four of a kind? David Icke thinks so. Clockwise from top-left: Tony Blair, Kris Kristofferson, George H W Bush, a lizard.

tirely failed to reach this poor, dismal lad.

Why? Mightn't it be because reptilian rock 'n' roll exerts parasitic control over his mind? Yes!

Then, again, when I attempted – cleverly, I thought – to take his opposition en passant by wondering rhetorically why, inasmuch as I had never deposited any of my furniture in his house, he insisted on depositing his sound in mine, his response was not at all to the point.

“You're just a tourist,” he shouted. “This is my country! Get out!”

Finally he snatched a stout aluminum pole, threatened to kill me and vowed I wouldn't live past March – and this from one in the tourism business (he pre-

pares SCUBA diving tanks) who should know what a fine, noble, upstanding community we foreigners constitute.

Clearly, he is completely irrational. That got me thinking: “March, eh, is the reptilian hierarchy planning something for March?” Only time will tell.

In the meantime, I must figure how to overcome the bass-lines, thumping away even as I write. The consensus of those in the know is that through awareness and love we can defeat the reptilians. But I am all too aware of the bass, so more awareness, I think, will do little good; and as for love, where is there evidence that the reptile mind is susceptible to love? It's a real conundrum. Perhaps I'll email David Icke for an answer.

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## Tsunami warning system a welcome development

Plans by the Bangkok-based National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to expand its existing tsunami warning system into a nationwide disaster warning network is commendable [see Inside story, pages 4-5], but the real key to success in conducting a successful evacuation should another tsunami hit will depend more on the "human factor" than technological fixes – and there is still much room for improvement in this regard.

From a technological standpoint, the US government's generous US\$16.6 million of funding to set up the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) program was a solid first step in establishing an "end-to-end" regional tsunami warning system, one that allows for direct detection of tsunami waves and sends out alerts to people in risk areas fast enough to allow safe evacuations to be conducted.

Unfortunately, funding for that project runs out next month and the actual work ended months ago, leaving us with just three detection buoys in the Indian Ocean, at least one of which was vandalized and remains inoperable.

The establishment of the NDWC with Dr Smith Dharmasaroja as its director was one of very few projects with direct, tangible benefits for Phuket put in place under the first Thaksin administration, which otherwise tended to ignore Phuket's growing infrastructure needs.

With 19 tsunami warning towers now in place on the island and three more on the way, it is safe to say that Phuket is now far less vulnerable than it was on Boxing Day 2004, when the only person in Phuket able to read the signs and realize that a tsunami was coming was a British schoolgirl vacationing with her family in Mai Khao.

Of course, the hard-won increase in public awareness about the risks of a tsunami is the single most important reason we are safer now, but a functional warning system is not only an added safeguard but a good public relations tool – comforting potential tourists from places like Japan who still sometimes cite fears of another tsunami as a reason not to take their holidays in Phuket.

One concern for the *Gazette* about the newly-announced plan to link the tsunami system with the national disaster plan is that the 10 new "public broadcast towers" not directly linked to the satellite might be misused by the authorities responsible for them, namely filling the air with propaganda or other annoying and unnecessary noise.

If this happens it will not only decrease public confidence in the system on the whole, but also add to the already considerable noise pollution problem in Phuket.

– The Editor

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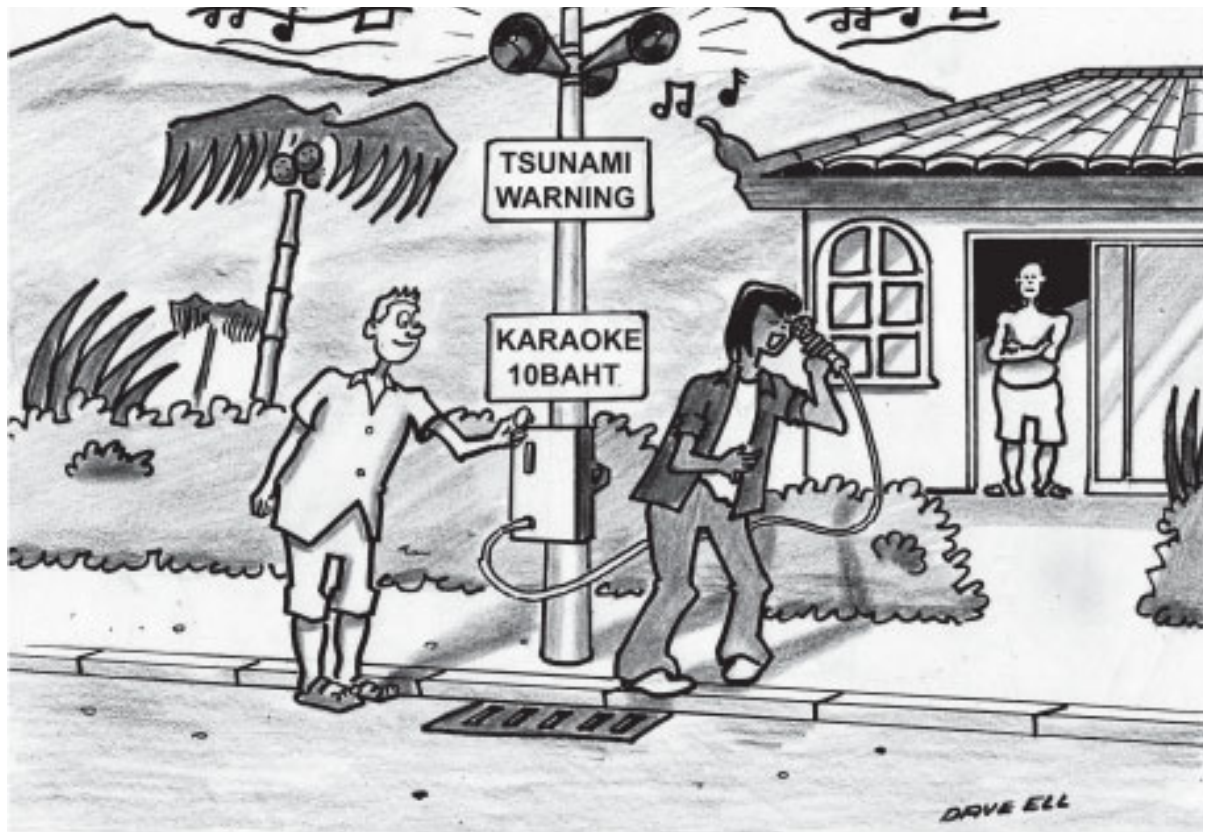
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## Letters

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

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

### Is Phuket safe?

Having read in the news about the murder of two foreign nationals this past week, I feel compelled to question whether Phuket remains a tropical paradise or is now becoming a dangerous place to live.

In addition to these killings, I have heard from friends that a number of burglaries have taken place in their areas. They too are starting to worry about their safety and belongings.

To me, it seems that a foreign national would need to be out of their mind to enter into a business deal in the current climate, where it seems that the slightest disagreement could result in serious injury or death.

I hope this is just the workings of an over imaginative mind and not a realistic depiction of this once peaceful island.

If tourists are to come back to Phuket in force, we need to ensure that their safety can be guaranteed when they get here.

Mark Timmins  
Rawai

### Gazette PAD fan?

How do you suppose that the mention of twenty people from Phuket going to Udon Thani is newsworthy?

Is the *Gazette* a staunch PAD supporter, and you are providing free advertising for them?

Is the aim to try and defend them for shutting down the airport in Phuket?

I am heading to Chiang Mai next week to play golf with twenty friends. Will that headline be in next week's edition?

Jimmy Johnson  
Thalang

### Editor Replies:

The article was not intended to defend or promote the PAD.

However, we felt the event would be of interest to our readers as it was the first report of any Phuket PAD activity since December last year.

### Marque of Quality

I am writing to thank Marque Rome for his wine article in the January 3 edition of the *Gazette* [Six flavors of Italy].

Browsing through the many bottles at Cherng Talay's Wine Collection, a name suddenly leaped out at me and grabbed my attention. It was one of the *Umani Ronchi* productions; a *Negroamaro*.

Remembering how Mr Rome had waxed lyrical about the contents I decided to plump for a bottle, especially as it was priced at only 450 baht – sadly a bargain in these parts.

I'm glad I read his article, because the wine was truly delicious, every bit as good as he had attested to. I for one will scour his pieces in greater detail in the future in a bid to uncover another gem.

Keep up the good work Marque – our taste buds need you!

Rachel Quast  
Bang Tao

### Walking the Line

Driving back from the Blues Rock Festival on Friday night, I was encouraged to see the police check point just outside Kamala being used to stop drivers and motorcyclists. The police were checking if people were driving under the influence of al-

cohol. As I waited patiently in line, two motorcyclists were ordered to undergo breathalyser tests and presumably failed.

There are so many accidents and deaths on Phuket's roads. I have often wondered how many of these are as a result of drink-driving.

I hope that this crackdown is permanent and not just a flash-in-the-pan, although I believe just the thought of being stopped should act as a deterrent to many in the future.

Elena Busche  
Surin

### Phuket City FC?

I've often wondered why there is no Phuket football team in the national league? With so many football supporters – both local and expat – living here, and a large number of migrant visitors coming to Phuket on a regular basis, surely any professional Phuket side would be one of the best-supported sides in the league.

It's been fantastic to have Peter Reid's side come and play at the Surakul Stadium so frequently, and the team has received fantastic support. The infrastructure is here, the fans are here and surely the financial backing is here, given that Phuket is such a wealthy province.

What I'd also like to see is a Phuket provincial league where anyone can participate. I do remember reading about it in a previous *Gazette* edition and I was wondering what progress had been made. I would be extremely interested in taking part should something materialize as I'm sure would many others.

Matt Drury  
Ao Yon

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



# A view on 'conventional' wisdom



## FIRST PERSON

Former Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC) President Eam Thavornwongwongse recently completed his second two-year term, the maximum allowed under the chamber's rules. Mr Eam, Director of the Kata Group of resorts, plans to continue as an active member in the chamber, serving as a senior advisor in an honorary capacity. Here he gives his views on Prime Minister Abhisit's performance in office, the idea of building an international convention center in Mai Khao, and how his group of resorts is weathering the downturn in the tourism trade.

As for Prime Minister Abhisit's economic stimulus package, I do think he is trying to manage the country. But from what we observe – me personally – I think we still have quite a long way to go. Obviously, he lacks management experience and also 'can't see the woods for the trees', especially in terms of helping out the tourism sector.

He is not focusing on the right areas, unlike the previous [Thaksin] government that helped us cope with the crisis after the 2004 tsunami.

As for the idea to build an international convention center near the Sarasin Bridge in Mai Khao, I think it is altogether wrong. The main thing Phuket needs now is an exhibition center, not a convention center. In terms of the convention industry, right now we are probably a few years too late and we cannot compete with well-established centers in places like Hong Kong, Singapore or even Malaysia.

The proposed site at the bridge is wrong and is combined with the wrong motive altogether.

Several years ago, the Kata Group hosted a big satellite and information technology conference. The two visiting professors from the United States said that next time around there would be more people attending, but then they told me that we didn't have to rush into building a big convention hall... and if you look back over the past few years, the big conferences have been taking place in Hong Kong, Singapore and other places.

Here in Phuket we cannot compete with the aforementioned for the large groups of 5,000 or 10,000 people. How are you going to bring them over to Phuket now?

The idea for a convention and exhibition center was first put forward by the Phuket Chamber of Commerce. We wanted to build it on reclaimed land off the left [North] side of Saphan Hin, using material obtained by dredg-

ing Ao Chalong, making the bay deeper. We wanted to make two islands off Saphan Hin, one for a conference and exhibition center and another to house offices for civil servants. Then you could have a causeway across that could be built cheaply; you wouldn't need to build a big bridge like the one in Penang.

The area I am talking about is on the north side of Saphan Hin, starting where the central stage area is located and extending down along the area where they are trying to grow the mangroves.

A bit further on, you can go down to the end, look over to your left [north] and see Rassada Harbour and the old Payathai Hospital in the distance. That is the project area I am talking about, so it wouldn't affect the drainage from Klong Bangyai [as some people have feared].

Another thing people worried about from the Phuket Chamber of Commerce plan was that it would require removing the gymnasium and other existing

structures at Saphan Hin, but in fact the current Chamber of Commerce proposal, the one we have had for the past few years, would not affect the sports facilities there at all.

Another thing to consider is logistics. At Saphan Hin, it would be easy to transport materials and equipment to and from the Phuket Deep Sea Port.

The same cannot be said for the Sarasin Bridge location. Also, if you were to build there, it wouldn't really benefit the Phuket people as a whole. Who is going to travel the almost 100-kilometer distance back and forth to attend a meeting there? Those people in Khok Kloy of Phang Nga and people near the airport would benefit, but I think it is shortsighted.

I think what we need now is a way to help businesses in Phuket Town. Anyway, personally, I don't see this project going forward in the near future.

**PCC Role:** The Phuket Chamber of Commerce is an ex-

tensive association with over 200 members on Phuket, but I think it is a pity that business people don't use this channel enough.

If you look at Malaysia, Singapore or even France, the chambers of commerce there play a very important role in economic planning and development, even playing a role in setting price increases in electricity and oil. But here, they don't pay much attention and I think this is a pity.

**Tourism Picture:** I think the Kata Group of hotels has not been affected as much as some other hotel operators because we have a lot of repeat customers, many of them wealthy Scandinavians who arrive on direct charter flights from Europe.

These were not affected by the closure of the airports in Bangkok. I'd say we were about 40% or 50% affected, but it is better than many other places.

But by the end of March the low season will set in and I think everyone in the industry is going to face quite a hard time.

## 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](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

## Powers of tourist police

I would like to know what, exactly, the white-shirted tourist police volunteers seen walking up and down Bangla Road in Patong in the evening are actually supposed to do.

Over the years, these foreigners have been seen doing honorable work, backing-up the under-staffed and over-worked Patong Police force by assisting confused tourists.

The last time I checked, I was told that their role was limited to liaising between tourists and the police in order to ease relations between the two. It was made clear to me that they have absolutely no police powers whatsoever – and rightly so – as they have no police training, nor are they vetted in any real way before being allowed to join.

On the evening of February 20, I was driving home through Patong's one-way system and was held up in a queue of traffic on the beach road for a full 40 minutes. The hold-up was caused by traffic waiting to get through a check point at the end of Bangla Road. I was surprised to see that the road block was manned exclusively by foreign volunteers, without a Thai police officer in sight.

The volunteers were stopping and searching every car and motorbike going past and they were apparently completely ignorant of the length of time everyone was having to wait in the queue.

How can foreign volunteers have the right to stop and search private vehicles in this way and hold up traffic?

This check-point has become a regular feature over the past few weeks, but while inconvenient and annoying it has until

now been run relatively smoothly by members of the Royal Thai Police force. I object to having a group of untrained amateurs (and foreigners) acting as if they have some kind of authority over me. To repeat the question: Exactly what official powers do the foreign volunteer police assistants have?

Fil Jordan  
Phuket

**Alistair Why, Joint Director of the RTP Tourist Assistance Program replies:**

The volunteers are here to assist the the Royal Thai Police (RTP) in any way that they can, although this is usually limited to using linguistic skills and liaising between the permanent and temporary foreign communities, the RTP and local Thai citizens. The senior volunteers wearing white shirts with RTP Immigration Bu-

reau patches on the sleeves have received training in many aspects of policing, and have been assisting the general public for five years now. Having proved ourselves over time, there are circumstances under which we are ordered by our RTP commanding officers to assist in aspects of general policing as they are indeed vastly under staffed.

Wearing our police uniform, and under the jurisdiction of RTP officers, we have similar powers to the "helping hands" Thai volunteers in light brown uniforms. Those powers are basically as dictated to us at any time by the RTP and as they deem necessary.

The RTP feel that in many circumstances, such as road blocks in tourist areas, we can communicate with foreigners and make the process less frustrating. We receive mostly thanks for our services to the public. We take no remuneration and we pay for our uniforms and equipment.



# A true horror tale

This is a World War II history with a difference. The focus of William I. Hitchcock's *Liberation* (Faber and Faber, London, 2009, 446pp) is from the civilians' point of view. Subtitled *The Bitter Road to Freedom, Europe 1944-1945*, this is the story of the agonies suffered by French, German, Polish, Russian and Jewish civilians.

Liberation often meant death to the innocent. The usual picture of liberated cities and villages is of joyful crowds showering troops with flowers and offering bottles of wine, which was true in some areas but, as in Normandy, families could only gape in horror as their homes and farms and livestock were wantonly destroyed.

"When liberation did arrive, it came not all at once but in a series of devastating, prolonged, murderous blows, delivered by air, sea and ground bombardment and by the lethal weapons of the Allied soldiers," Hitchcock writes.

Once the allies broke through German lines and raced toward the Rhine, their welcome grew warmer from civilians who

hadn't suffered as much. On the eastern front, the deaths of Russian and Polish civilians and, as the war hurtled to a close, Germans, was on an unimaginable scale.

The recent Israeli assault on Gaza caused 1,300 deaths and horrified the world. When the Polish Home Army rose up against the Germans in Warsaw, 40,000 civilians were rounded up and shot in the head. As a footnote to the Holocaust, one correspondent recalls walking along a railway train of 24 boxcars, all of these stuffed with corpses, dead of hunger and numbering 5,000. General George Patton threw up at the sight of Buchenwald.

"In Belsen, as in Buchenwald, accounts of the liberation drew upon a common vernacular that described survivors as locusts, skeletons, the living dead – the stuff of ghoulish fairy tales. Liberators

rarely perceived the camp survivors as human beings. Instead, survivors appeared as apes, mummies, idiots, babies, cordwood, scarecrows, and dying rabbits: a

American lines ahead of the Red Army. The Russians drove all before them, looting, burning and gang-raping every female in sight, in revenge for their own ravaged villages and cities. The reception afforded German women in the Western sector was the exact opposite. "GI and Fraulein were magnet and steel," said one reconstruction official. The borderline between love affairs and prostitution became blurred.

"The GI had an astonishing quantity of goods to offer," Hitchcock writes. "The Army provided him with candy, coffee, cigarettes in limitless abundance, soap, towels, writing paper, pen and ink, clothing, and six quarts of liquor each month. He could get doughnuts, coffee, ice cream, theater tickets, haircuts and recreation. With his pockets filled with desirable and scarce goods, the GI found himself able to buy sex with the greatest of ease."

Surprisingly, many German civilians, emerging from the ruins of their flattened cities, were unrepentant Nazis. "Hitler was

surrounded by traitors who deliberately sabotaged his plans," said one secretary. "You all misunderstand Hitler," said a young housewife.

"He was really an idealist and wanted the best for Germany. He was really a competent leader and it is not his fault that he didn't win the war."

With the end of the war, the fledgling United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was presented with continent-wide chaos. "In the Spring of 1945, as the Allied armies bore into the heart of the Third Reich, millions of captive people inside Germany – prisoners of war, political prisoners, and forced laborers – slipped out of their work camps, factories, farms, barracks and shelters and began searching for a path homeward.

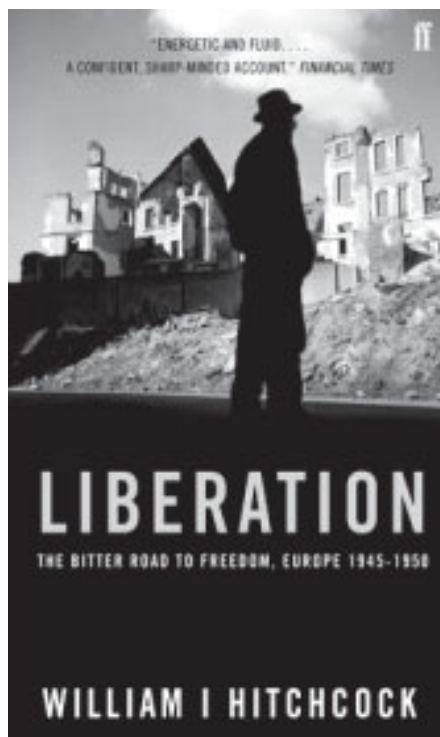
This sudden flood of civilians rushing along the roads and rails features as one of the largest and swiftest mass migrations in history, described by one awed observer as "a tidal wave of nomad people". The Jewish survivors, gathered together in Displaced Persons camps, were quick to organize themselves for their next move: Palestine.

*Liberation* is a sobering book. The tale is not one of heroism but of sheer stubborn survival.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



veritable thesaurus of diminished humanity." Then came the turn of the Germans, fleeing eastern Europe and Prussia for the Anglo-

## Horoscopes

Isla Star

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Flexing your mental muscles comes easily to those born under the sign of Pisces as March begins. You are easily able to sidestep trouble at work this week and may be called upon to aid others who didn't see it coming. A romantic encounter this weekend gives hope for a relationship with Sagittarius. If your birthday falls during the week ahead, a year with financial promise awaits.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Arians who have been carefully planning a new business project are advised to watch out for a cunning Capricorn. This person would like to throw a spanner in the works and reap benefits that are rightfully yours. The safest plan of action is to keep secrets up your sleeve until agreements have been signed. Monday is the best day to schedule important appointments for. The number

eight can bring some good luck this weekend.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): If your romantic world has become hard to fathom, a water sign friend can shed some light on the situation. Where personal relationships are concerned, the astral atmosphere remains less than calm until the middle of March. Those Taureans who are ready to embrace more challenges at work will benefit from meeting someone new this weekend. Wear a piece of turquoise to encourage more confident creativity to flow.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): If your heart isn't really in a new relationship, this is the week to move on. The stars suggest that someone from your romantic past is poised to come close again and commitment is highlighted as summer draws nearer. At work, an event early next week gives

food for thought. Those born under the sign of Gemini who are ready to throw caution to the wind will spot a chance of profit.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): An infatuation with an earth sign could knock Cancerians sideways during the first part of March. If you're already in a settled relationship, the stars are ready to support your efforts to spice up an atmosphere that has become too predictable. Planning a surprise trip is certain to please your partner – a change of scene and pace will have the desired effect. Wear the color hot pink to encourage a more daring outlook.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Those born under the sign of Leo who have been hoping for a family visit may be temporarily disappointed. However, spontaneous travel is forecast during the first part of March and your ability to go with the flow should ensure that a good time is imminent. Misunderstandings are highlighted mid-week – be sure of your facts before confronting people in authority. The number four can bring some good fortune this weekend.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Technical problems could cloud your day on Monday, so remember to back up work and keep batteries charged. Virgoans who find it hard to admit their faults may be caught between a rock and a hard place this weekend. It would be better to come clean and bring more honesty into a personal relationship. Your luck in money starts to improve and reaches a peak of good fortune by the middle of March.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Lucky Librans have more than their fair share of fun to look forward to during the first half of March. This weekend, a water sign friend could come to cry on your shoulder – choose your words carefully when giving consolation or you could find yourself committing to more support than you will want to give. Where love is concerned, the stars indicate that commitment is imminent for those who haven't yet tied the knot.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Misunderstandings close to home are highlighted during the first week of March. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who know that particular neighbors have a tendency to be touchy should ensure that they don't give reason for people to be upset. A break away from your usual routine is highly recommended this weekend and will help you commence the month with new ideas. Wearing the color lime green can promote creative imagination.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Trials and errors in February should pay off during March. Sagittarians receive positive news this week concerning work projects, but must prepare to move quickly and possibly further afield than anticipated. Travel is also indicated in the realm of romance – this could possibly involve meeting up again with someone you encountered on holiday. Put your foot down when a friend with selective memory syndrome asks to borrow money.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): A certain Scorpio friend blows hot and cold this weekend and Capricorns may be forced to find out why this is happening. Although you usually prefer to avoid confrontation, the stars will support your attempts to remain tactful and calm. Money matters are positively highlighted until the middle of March, after which unexpected bills could dampen your spirit. Spend wisely in the meantime. The number nine can bring some good luck on Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): A business scheme that received a lukewarm reception late last year takes on new life as March commences. Your talents for putting a fresh spin on old ideas are due to be recognized and rewarded. Affairs of the heart are less well-starred as someone you would like to become more closely involved with reveals that they have different plans. Wear the color ocean blue to encourage a cooler demeanor.



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# What to expect from Windows 7

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

**S**orry I haven't written for so long. I've had my nose to the grindstone, working on two new books: *Windows 7 All-In-One For Dummies* and *Green Home Computers For Dummies*. The first one weighs in at about 780 pages; the second, a mere 420. They're both due out at about the same time.

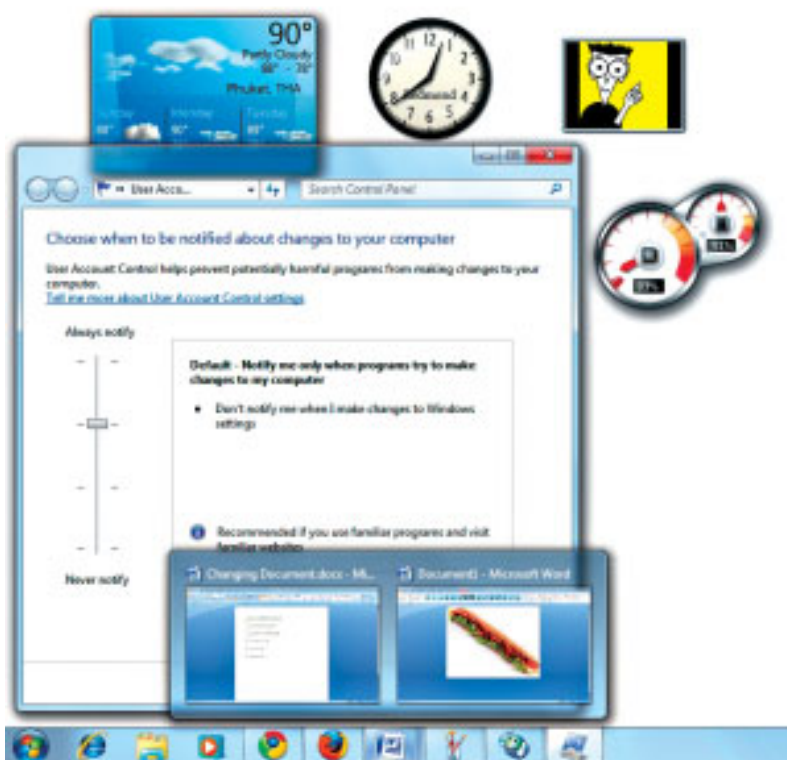
Writing one "For Dummies" computer book under deadline is an enormously intense exercise. Writing two rates as unabashed masochism. And when one of the books is for an operating system that hasn't shipped yet, with no documentation and is essentially a blank slate...

At least I have been able to make the free Computer Clinics on Sunday mornings. At the last meeting near Laguna, many people had questions about Windows 7, the next version of Windows. I figured I'd take a few minutes to write about their questions, and answer them as best I can.

### When will Windows 7 ship?

Nobody knows for sure. Microsoft released a very (remarkably!) stable beta test version, called Build 7000, in early January. I've been using it non-stop since – beating it hard – on a half-dozen different PCs, and I haven't had any lockups or blue screens. None at all. A couple of older pieces of hardware don't work, but they didn't work with Vista either. All of my old programs installed and ran fine.

Current conjecture is that Microsoft will unleash a 'Release Candidate' – theoretically, a version that's ready to be released – in March or April. Personally, I think we'll see the final version (so-called "RTM" or "Released to Manufacturing" build) in late July or early August. I've been betting for more than six months that shrink-wrapped copies will be available on store shelves by September 1. Microsoft may beat that date.



Windows 7's desktop sports a Mac-like toolbar at the bottom, and a slew of interesting new applications.

### What's cool about Windows 7?

For starters, it's faster than Vista. I didn't believe it until I clocked it, but there's no question that Windows 7 runs faster on the same hardware.

There are dozens of improvements to the interface, many of which will leave you wondering why nobody did this before. Case in point: if you drag a window all the way over to the left, Win7 "docks it" - makes it fill half the screen area and sticks it against the left side. If you dock a different window on the right, you suddenly have two documents (spreadsheets, pictures, web pages) open, side-by-side. The gadgets – clock, CPU meter, calendar, weather forecast, stock tracker, and your choice of thousands of others – sit right on the desktop. If you want to look underneath the open windows to check out the time, you run your mouse down to the lower right corner of the screen: all of the windows fade, and you can see your gadgets on the desktop.

There's no quick launch toolbar: you pin applications to the taskbar at the bottom of the screen, much like on the Mac. The icons have "jump list" menus that let you get at specific screens, documents and tasks faster and so on and so forth.

don't mess with it. If you have a Vista computer, though, you might want to consider making the switch, especially if you have a pirate copy of Vista.

Why? The upgrade is relatively painless, and you'll end up with a legit copy of Windows 7. Moving from Vista to Windows 7 is relatively painless primarily because Windows 7 uses the same "driver model" as Vista. Hardware that works with Vista will almost certainly work with Windows 7. If you have a pirate copy of Vista, you're going to want a 'genuine' one soon – Microsoft is getting better at sniffing out pirates, and clamping down, especially by limiting your ability to download or install new, free software. All in all, genuine Windows 7 makes a whole lotta sense.

If you have a pirate copy of Windows XP, you're no doubt experiencing the black screens that come along with failing "Windows Genuine Advantage." You're probably having trouble downloading important software like Internet Explorer 7 (which needs to be installed and patched to keep your computer safe – use Firefox for Web surfing) and Windows Media Player 11.

### Which versions?

Windows 7 will ship in several versions. Starter Edition is made for netbooks. Home Basic will be available in Thailand bundled on new PCs, but I don't recommend it. Almost everyone will want Windows 7 Home Premium. People who need to connect their computers to a 'domain' – a big-company server setup – will want Windows 7 Professional. And those who need to encrypt all of the data on their hard drives should spring for Windows 7 Ultimate.

Oh, don't let the 'netbook' Starter Edition throw you. Microsoft made the Starter Edition so they could have something at a price point that's attractive on netbooks. I've been running the full version of Windows 7 Ultimate on an Asus Eee 1000H

for more than a month, with no problems, and I expect most netbooks will do fine with any version of Windows 7.

Microsoft hasn't announced prices yet, but most people expect prices for Windows 7 will be comparable to Vista. I expect Windows 7 Home Premium will be available on store shelves in the US for about \$130 to \$140.

### Can I upgrade?

If you have a Vista computer, you can install Windows 7 as an upgrade, but I don't recommend it. There's too much that can go wrong. Far better is to wipe out your hard drive and start over from scratch. It isn't easy; I'll have full details in my new book.

If you have a legit copy of XP, you will qualify for upgrade pricing, but Microsoft will require you to wipe out your hard drive before you install Windows 7.

### PC Group Therapy

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning Computer Clinics, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

**On March 1**, we'll be at Sandwich Shoppe Patong, in Aroonsom Plaza, not far from Andaman Beach Suites.

**On March 8**, we'll meet at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna, just before the main entrance to the Laguna complex.

**On March 15 and 22**, we meet at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle, next to Wine Connection.

**And on March 29**, we'll have a special Mac-centric session at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Computer Clinics are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Remember, there's no such thing as a dumb question – only easy answers. Come early to make sure you get a seat: several recent events have been standing room only. Driving instructions at [www.Woody.info](http://www.Woody.info).

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# Phuket FC taste victory in Spicy Soccer Sevens

PHUKET: Phuket FC won the inaugural Phuket Spicy Soccer Sevens Tournament in dramatic fashion last weekend with a 'golden goal' winner that owed more to luck than judgement.

The tournament, held at the British International School, was organized in response to the airport closures, which left many teams unable to compete in the regular 7-a-side competition in November last year.

After a grueling fixture list, which had seen both teams play five times already that day, Phuket FC lined up against the Hanoi Drink Team in the final. In what was a game of few chances,

Phuket FC enjoyed the lions share of possession but rarely tested the opposition keeper.

With neither team able to break the deadlock during normal time, the game went into five minutes of 'golden goal' extra time, in which the first team to score would be the winner. With the seconds ticking away and a penalty shoot out looming, Phuket FC striker Cyril Lugnier somehow contrived to deflect the ball into the net, after colliding with the Hanoi keeper.

As both players lay injured, the ball trickled over the line to give Phuket FC the unlikely of winners. Lugnier, who had been

too busy writhing around on the floor after the collision to celebrate his winner, said, "I hit the ball against the keeper and it rebounded off him, hit me and bounced in. The keeper took me out but I realized straight away I had scored."

Phuket based side Le Shark Town defeated the Calamari Vikings from Singapore 3-2 to win the bowl. Iberos Shanghai beat Bombai Gymkhana on penalties to take the plate. Despite the defeat, the Bombay players were just happy to be in Phuket, having had previous attempts to play here foiled firstly by the Bangkok airport closures and then by the



Cyril Lugnier is helped to his feet after inadvertently scoring the tournament winner.

terrorist attacks in Bombay. Tournament organizer Alain Brulfert said, "In total 16 teams entered from 10 countries, and it's been a great success. There were 14 teams that couldn't come in No-

vember due to the airport closures and some of them had put down deposits so we wanted to give them another chance to play here as soon as possible."

-James Goyder

# Mixed fortunes for Phuket's rugby teams

BANGKOK: The 'hardened' veterans of the Phuket Viagrabonds gathered in Bangkok, alongside the slightly more fresh faced players of the BIS under-18 side, to participate in the Bangkok Rugby 10s last weekend.

With old faces flying in from the UK, Singapore and Kazakhstan, among others, the stage was set for some serious action both on and off the field.

Faced with some 'stiff' opposition in their group in the form of the Thailand Legends, The Gymkhana Club (Sri Lanka) and the Saigon Dirty Geckos (Vietnam), the Viagrabonds did not get off to the most auspicious of starts in the opening game against the Thailand Legends. When fly-half Mike Spackman kicked off, he broke his toe, and was duly helped off the field.

The Viagrabonds recovered

and forced an early try through Angus Kerr but Thailand Legends crossed the line just before half time to go in all square. Thailand Legends introduced three youngsters at half time – somewhat against the spirit of the game – and ran in a further two tries in the second half to win the match.

The second game, against the Gymkhana Club, was a very different affair. Many of the Gymkhana players had previously toured Phuket and there was evidence of mutual respect between the teams. The first half was a rather one-sided affair with the Sri Lankan club going in at half time three tries to the good.

The half-time break and a change of tactics saw the Viagrabond's forwards tighten up the play, with Peter Stubley and Richard Folds outstanding,

and unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions. Once again, however, the lads lost – this time by three tries to nil.

By the time the third game came around, the lads were starting to look a little worse for wear. The previous night's antics were starting to catch up with them and it showed in a lackluster performance against the Saigon Dirty Geckos, who ran out easy winners. Even though the lads lost all their games on day one, they still managed to scrape into the bowl semi finals against the Southerners Old Boys (SOBs). Despite a solid start by the Viagrabonds, the SOBs got on top to earn a hard fought victory by four tries to one.

This defeat meant that the lads ended up in the Shield final in a rematch against the other bottom club, the Thai Legends. In what turned out to be one of the best games in the vets division, the Viagrabonds were outstanding in defence and were led from the front by Kiwis David Adamson and Graeme Spence.

The scores were level at the



Despite losing every game during the weekend, the lads finally won the one that mattered most, and returned to Phuket as Shield Champions.

break with neither side managing to score. The second half saw the more experienced Viagrabonds gain the upper hand and after a period of sustained pressure, Ian Dacre went over in the corner, following good work by prop Peter Stubely, for what turned out to be the winning try. Scrum half Robert Brewer missed the conversion but the

Viagrabonds held on to win 5-0. So having lost every game during the weekend, the lads finally won the one that mattered most and returned to Phuket as Shield Champions.

The BIS under-18 side performed brilliantly in their group and lost narrowly in the cup final to Dulwich Beijing in extra time, 5-0.

-Pat Cotter

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# PYC regatta attracts diverse field

It was race time at the Phuket Yacht Club as dinghies of all shapes and sizes competed in the second of a three month series of regattas.

The boats on display varied from the speedy Multihulls to the more sedate Optimists, with a good mixture of Thai and foreign sailors competing. The day started early in order to take advantage of the morning breeze with the first of three races commencing just after 10am.

The Optimist class, suitable only for children due to the size of the boats, was the busiest with eight boats out on the water. The other classes consisted of a diverse mix of vessels including a Wella trimaran and a number of Tasars.

According to race organizer Katie Gooch, "We put on a regatta at the end of last year and the response was so good we decided to do a three-month series of regattas. There was a race in January, this race and then the final race is going to be in March, but we are going to carry on with the monthly regattas after this series has finished."

25 people took part in the February regatta, competing in three races in four different classes. As well as the Optimists, there were awards for the fast-

est Multihull, Monohull, and single handed boats.

The Monohull class was fiercely contested with four identical boats competing, meaning that the first of the four Tasars over the line would automatically win. After three races there was nothing to separate Muzzar Nordstrands' *Basic Instinct* from Andrew DeBruiens' *Slip Stream* on points, but *Basic Instinct* took the honors, courtesy of having more first-place finishes.

The Multihull class featured a variety of different designs, meaning that the times were adjusted via a handicap system. After the final scores had been calculated, *Rak Talay*, with Roger Kingdom at the helm, was declared the overall winner.

Flying the flag for Thailand in the single handed class was Nitikrang Nokda who triumphed on board *Mo*. Finally in the Optimists, Phillip Johansson, on *Phuket Gazette*, was the overall winner and local lad, Chalit Tayatsut, from Ao Yon, won the novice class on *Image Asia*.

For Gooch it was particularly pleasing to see so many children racing. "We did a course for Thai children last year and the response has been great. Two of the Thai children racing today were from the Sunshine Village,



The Monohull class was fiercely contested with four identical boats competing. After three races *Basic Instinct* took the honors.

they come here all the time and it's a fantastic opportunity for them to get to sail," she said.

Ultimately, Phuket Yacht Club would like to get enough people racing to run the regattas every Sunday. "We have boats

available to rent for people who want to race but don't own a dinghy. Also there are always people with their own boats here looking for crew. I'm sure there are people on the island with boats, or people who know how to sail

already, who would like to race but just don't know about us," Gooch said. For more information on Phuket Yacht Club's monthly races visit: [www.phuket-yachtclub.info](http://www.phuket-yachtclub.info).

-James Goyder

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## Design

## Patong

# Bed Supperclub earmarks new venue for Phuket

Phuket is in the vanguard of the drive to attract high-end tourism to Thailand, with an ever-growing cornucopia of first-class hotels, restaurants, bars, golf courses and boating facilities available to its exclusive clientèle. High-end nightclubs, however, remain conspicuous by their absence.

The über-stylish Bed Supperclub in Bangkok has long been an integral part of the capital's 'Hi-So' nightlife scene. With its self-styled 'dining in bed' theme, the iconic Bangkok venue has been described as a combination of upscale restaurant, club, art gallery, theater and stage – all merged into one.

Seeking to plug the gap in Phuket's up-scale after-dark market, the directors of Bed Supperclub are now set open "Sound Phuket" – a sister venue to the vaunted Bangkok establishment.

Like its elder metropolitan sibling, Sound Phuket will host regular themed events and entertain its guests with the help of top international DJs. David Bell, Sound Phuket's General Manager, told the *Gazette*, "Most of the directors of Bed Supperclub holiday in Phuket quite frequently. Despite loving the island, they were disappointed by the lack of a high-end nightclub."

"These sentiments were echoed by the Bed Supperclub crowd in Bangkok and finally the directors decided that, rather than waiting for a venue to arrive, they would open one themselves," he added. The stunning new venue is being developed inside Jungceylon shopping center and will occupy an entire floor, covering a total floor space of 1,200 square meters.



Directors rehired the original design team that created the chic Bangkok venue and the result was a club interior inspired by the human ear, as befits a venue with the moniker Sound Phuket.

The directors rehired the original design team that created the chic Bangkok venue and charged them with constructing a club that is eye-catching, modern and stylish and will offer a unique clubbing experience, particularly for Phuketians.

The result is a club interior inspired by – and aesthetically modeled on – the human ear, as

befits a venue with the moniker Sound Phuket. Customers will be able to relax in comfortable ear-shaped seating pods, while the dancing podiums and the DJ booth also adopt the auricular theme.

In a bid to ensure the highest possible sound quality, a state of the art sound system is being installed to provide clubbers with

a truly world-class experience. In addition, the club's interior has been designed with virtually no sharp corners, further underlining Sound Phuket's attempts to provide a venue that truly stands out.

One of the many stand-out features of the club is set to be a vast 19 meter LED screen that runs the length of the bar, and which will be synched with the

music, providing clubbers with an ambiance that is in keeping with the DJ's beats and rhythms.

Sound Phuket is scheduled to hold a soft opening in May, followed by a Grand Launch party in June which is expected to attract some of Thailand's highest profile movers and shakers to Phuket.

-Daniel Ogunshakin

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# Arbitration versus Litigation

By Michael Greth

In the event of a dispute between two parties, such as that between a buyer and seller of property, the parties may seek a resolution through arbitration as an alternative to litigation.

In recent times, the process of arbitration has become increasingly popular in Thailand, particularly with foreigners seeking a transparent and clearly understandable means of resolving disputes under foreign legal jurisdictions.

The advantages of arbitration are obvious. Usually, litigation is time consuming and therefore expensive.

What's more, the language used in court hearings is invariably Thai, and no foreign legal representation is allowed, which often leads to communication difficulties.

Parties involved in an arbitration case can also benefit from the appointment of arbitrators with an expertise in the area under dispute.

Arbitration also provides more flexibility in terms of the parties' individual requirements regarding applicable laws, lan-

guage, place, date, time and so on.

Arbitration does, however, have some disadvantages, the most notable being that arbitrators are often not as familiar with the relevant laws as a judge would be.

The new Arbitration Act 2545 came into force in 2002, and essentially follows the UNCITRAL Model Law.

The main arbitration body in Thailand is the Thai Arbitration Institute, which facilitates the process of arbitration as well as establishing and regulating the rules of arbitration as they apply to relevant proceedings.

Parties in any given dispute may also elect to adopt individual or international arbitration rules.

Typically, parties entering into a contract for, say, the sale and purchase of property, will stipulate that arbitration shall be the agreed means by which any disputes shall be resolved.

It should also be noted that the right to appeal against an award granted by an arbitrator is restricted under the Thai Arbitration Act. In this respect arbitration may be seen to be at a disadvantage compared with litigation. This needs to be under-

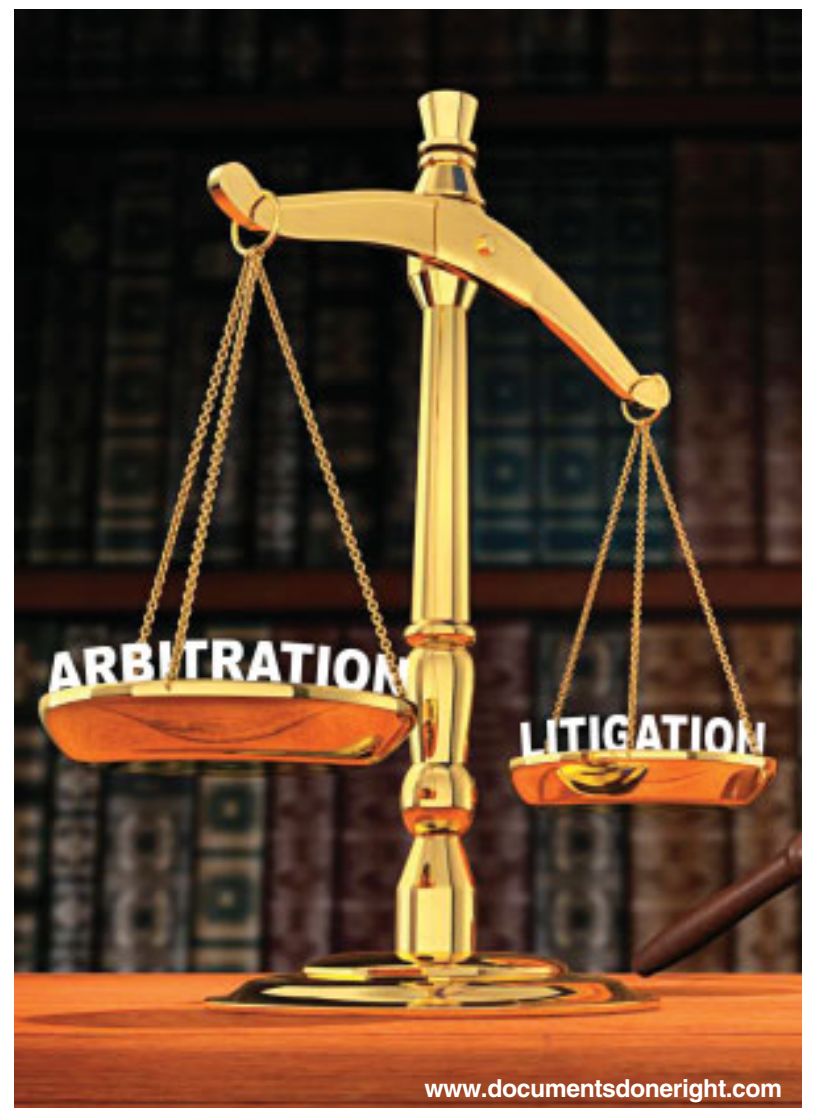
stood by the parties prior to agreeing to arbitration as an instrument for resolving any disputes that may occur.

Under the Arbitration Act, the decision of an arbitrator is binding on the parties. In the event a party refuses to comply with a granted arbitration award, the arbitration decision may be submitted to a relevant Thai court for enforcement.

In summary, arbitration may be preferable to litigation as an alternative means of dispute resolution, considering that foreigners – and foreign investors – may not feel comfortable filing a lawsuit under a foreign jurisdiction.

However, it is advisable to seek advice from a law firm or similar expert whose experience in this regard can help to avoid mistakes, which may lead to possible unforeseen negative consequences.

*This article is written by Michael Greth, Consultant of the Phuket based law firm International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd. He can be contacted by email at michael@ilo-phuket.com or by phone at 076-222191-5.*



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# Gardening in Eden part III

## Painting the canvas

When we talked before about gardens, I let the large plants – the fast-growing shrubs and palms – have their say. Not the most rapid growers. Shrubs such as the banana and the papaya can go from seedling to four meter tree in less than a year. Unfortunately, they can look a bit unwieldy in a domestic garden: a banana planted in the narrow bed beyond the front wall produced the usual attractive fronds and a healthy crop of fruit. But eventually it had to go, since the enormous, fleshy stems were dominating everything within range, and, worse, threatening to crack the wall. The papayas have found their niche in the kitchen garden. Of that more another time...

### Nature & Nurture



By Patrick Campbell

bougainvillea, are all shrubs that erupt into bloom during the dry season. On the other hand, those plants that flower for all or most of the year, regardless of climatic conditions, are to be especially prized.

Third: if you want to organize your flower beds in terms of the colors available to you – which blooms are likely to clash for instance – note that blue flowers are pretty much non-existent here. In this connection, temperate climes do better – think of English woods spring-carpeted with bluebells, summer shows of delphiniums or cornflowers. Such vibrant sky-blues and ultramarines are present everywhere in Phuket's skies and seas; paradoxically, not in its gardens. Mine has blue-ish purple

thunbergias (see pic), and the suggestively named butterfly pea (*clitoria ternata*) which grows wild around Nai Harn Lake. But not much else. So our floral palette will consist of rich reds and yellows, of oranges and pinks and whites. Enough I think.

Of course, Thais love formal gardens – witness the manicured parterres at Suvarnabhumi Airport, or, closer to home, the displays at Phuket Zoo. Thais are here in good company: the desire to harness and control the wondrous excesses of nature, to show that rational man could thereby exercise a beneficial effect on her, was a feature of European landscape gardening from sixteenth century Hampton Court to the formal splendors of Versailles. Shakespeare wrote about this in Henry V, giving a Frenchman (Burgundy) a moving speech about man's neglect of Mother Nature – with the result that 'all her husbandry doth lie in heaps'. I wonder if the bard would feel the same today...

Anyway, I don't subscribe

to the formalist position. I wanted a garden in which plants could grow alongside each other without being clipped or color-coded. If I had a preference, it was for shrubs that flowered well or boasted attractive foliage, were reasonably hardy, and, where possible, smelt divine – both to myself and to butterflies. So some of the first to be planted were year-round bloomers and easy growers: fast-maturing allamandas, oleanders (*nerium*), a Rangoon creeper (*quissqualis indica*) with its clustered panicles of pink-red floret, a rubber vine (*cryptostegia*) and the manifold varieties of hibiscus.

In search of a perfumed garden, I plumped for jasmines, including the orange jasmine (*murraya paniculata*), chose shade-tolerant gardenias, both double white and single yellow cultivars, the unusual flowers of the ylang ylang (*artobotrys nexapetalus*) and *desmos chinensis* (both fragrant), and the popular shrub, *wrightia religiosa* – which is grown in pots everywhere in Phuket. I also transplanted a firebush (*hamelia patens*) which I brought from Chalong to attract hummingbirds – how it hated being moved – and finally, a *buddleia paniculata*. I had earlier tried to germinate some *buddleia* seeds I brought from England – unsurprisingly without success – but while the tropical variety only bears small white racemes of flowers, it makes up for its visual insignificance by exuding the most intense of perfumes.

Earlier I listed some seasonal bloomers which are such a feature of Thai front gardens and patios – ixoras and bougainvilleas. I planted the bougainvilleas where they perform best, against the walls and in full sun, and put in a row of dwarf orange ixora – my sole concession to formal planting – in a curved bed with a brick surround. They are happy bunnies...

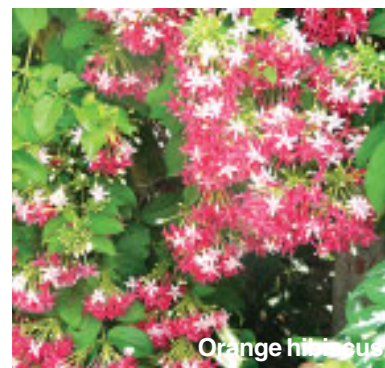
On the other hand, most of my canna lilies, so rampant in the monsoon rains, dislike the dry



Canna lily



Formal planting at Phuket Zoo



Orange hibiscus



Rangoon creeper



Thunbergias

conditions. They will bloom all year, given moist conditions underfoot, but although mine are mostly dormant at present, they are a prized bedding shrub here in Phuket: their underground tubers rapidly close gaps and then send forth fleshy shoots which may exceed a meter before flowering. Cannas come in a range of colors: deep red (my favorite), white, yellow and orange, as well as a pink-flowering variety which grows on the verges of ditches and 'klong' around Rawai. And the lush foliage is a bonus – dark or light green leaves that reflect the intensity or pallor of the head-

high flowers. Thais call them 'poot - araaksa' – a marvelous sounding word. That brings me on to foliage plants...

Dr Patrick Campbell taught English Literature at a London University, and as Visiting Professor at the Universities of British Columbia and Colorado. He led the first MA in Performing Arts in the UK. Author of five academic books and numerous published articles, he recently completed a novel. He lives in Saiyuan, Phuket.

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## Home of the Week

Patong

# A villa fit for a president

Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong Beach, the stunning Villa White House is less than two minutes drive from two of Phuket's outstanding beaches, high-quality shopping, hundreds of international restaurants, and the world-famous Patong night scene.

Located in a quiet and relaxed neighborhood, nestling among swaying palm trees, waterfalls and flowering gardens, this beautiful three-bedroom villa affords the resident peace and tranquility with absolute privacy. Built behind a three-meter wall with remote control security gates, those who dwell within can enjoy total peace of mind. The Villa White House features three master bedrooms, each providing magical views across Patong Bay and beyond.

The color of the interior at the Villa White House is what one would expect. The use of white floor tiles, white paint and stylish and chic furniture – throughout the majority of the property – exudes a sense of luxury and cool refinement. Passing through the foyer, one enters into the spacious and high-ceilinged living room/entertainment lounge. Complete with sound system, LCD TV, private bar, guest restroom, with direct access to the pool, the area is designed to be the perfect party room or a relaxing rainy day retreat. A Western kitchen is located on the middle floor of the villa, adjacent to the formal dining area. The kitchen is supplied with all the amenities required to prepare gourmet delights, while the dining area, featuring two entirely glass walls, offers views

of the tropical gardens – beautiful during the day or by night.

The three master bedrooms on the top floor display beautiful views overlooking Patong Bay. Stylishly finished with polished wooden flooring and furniture, the ensuite rooms offer a different look from the other areas of the house, but the overall feeling of luxuriance is retained. The ensuite bathrooms, like the rest of the villa, are fully appointed with all the latest amenities and are the epitome of style. Surrounding the house is a cultivated rainforest of lush tropical foliage and flowers. The sculpted feel of the exterior is complemented by well-positioned statues and *objets d'art*, which, along with the carefully selected plants, surround the cozy and fully automated swimming pool and waterfall Jacuzzi.

Wireless ADSL internet runs throughout the villa and hardwire connections are available in every room. The Villa White House has a proven track record as a successful rental property. Potential customers can therefore view the property as a business investment as well as a second home. Renting the Villa White House currently costs \$350 dollars per night in the low season, \$450 per night in high season and \$750 per night in the peak season between December 15 and January 15.

The Villa White House was originally priced at 28.5 million baht. The owner, wishing to facilitate a quick sale, is currently open to offers and the property is available as freehold.

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New condo, private road, security, pools, fitness. Good prices. Tel: 083-391 8720.

### SALE OR RENT VILLA

Below market price ( THB ). Normally the villa can lease 300000 to 350000 monthly. But Sacrifice due to poor global economy. It is the most expensive and most beautiful villa next to Loch Palm golf course. We would like to lease minimum 3 years as following conditions. First year annualy 1.5m exclude management, utilities, any extra costs garden, swimming pool and repair costs , 2nd year 2m and last 3rd year 2.5m. Must pay in advance each year. No other deposit required. Or sale 45m. For details, please email me your interests at queenmarines@hotmail.com or call 081-376 7395.

### HERITAGE SUITES

2 bedroom condo. 160sqm, 4th floor, best view on project. Price: 7.6 million baht. Contact Sujit. Tel: 089-119 1155.

### HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

### FREEHOLD CONDO RAWAI



27sqm or 54sqm. 2 studio apartments, 200 meters from the pier. Price 480,000 baht. Tel: 086-640 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### BEST BARGAIN IN PHUKET



Luxury 5 bed villa with 10x5m pool and 5 separate bungalows. All in 1 rai of tropical gardens. Thai company available. Not only a home but a business in Rawai. Only 14.9 million baht. Tel: 086-279 0837, 081-080 2930. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

### PATONG 2 STOREY HOUSE

Soi Sainamyen, near Montes restaurant. 2 bedrooms, office, shop, and living room. Price only 5.9 million baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

### CHALONG TOWN HOME

This immaculate 3 Bedroom home on a new estate is priced to sell. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

### HASIP PEE ROAD

Popular bar/restaurant, 40 covers, owner's 2-bedroom apartment + 3 ensuite bedrooms, and roof terrace - 483sqm in total. Views over Patong Bay and jungle. Chanote title. 13.5 million baht. No agents. Tel: 084-842 1434. Email: colin.turpin@btinternet.com

### VILLA + LAND



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

### CHANOTE, 29 RAI

at 1.6 million baht per rai. Nice and cheap land 12 minutes from Phuket airport. Located 200m from main road, electricity/ water well/ road access to the land. Good for housing project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-538 7050.

### PERFECT LAND

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

### LUXURY NAI HARN POOL VILLA



for sale or rent on 800sqm of land. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living/dining room. Open western kitchen. Fully furnished including washing machine. ADSL, nice garden, 9m pool, electric gate, carpark. Monthly and long term rates. Tel: 089-972 5378.

### NEAR LAYAN HILLS ESTATE

Half rai to 2 rais. 4 million baht per rai for quick sale! Chanote title, road and utilities. Ready to build house. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### GUESTHOUSE BUSINESS

with 5 luxurious apartments directly on the beach. Swimming pool, office, pool bar and pond. Fully furnished. For sale or for long term rent as a business. Tel: 081-892 0761. Email: baannorbert@hotmail.com Please visit our website at the link below, then call or mail for further details. www.phuket-apartments.de

### 1 RAI FOR SALE

Located in Pasak, Cherg Talay. Sale or long term rent. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

### KATA SEA VIEW LAND



4 rai prime land. 30-50m above sea level, electricity, water. Price 11 million baht per rai. And extra 1-6 rai possible. Tel: 081-273 5047.

### 200 SQM PENTHOUSE

Full seaview in Patong. Two-floor penthouse with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and 2 Jacuzzi. 200 square meters. Construction will be completed in April. 15 million baht. Call, fax or mail for further details. Tel: 084-667 9778, 085-055 0259. Fax: 076-512411. Email: frankcyberr@hotmail.com

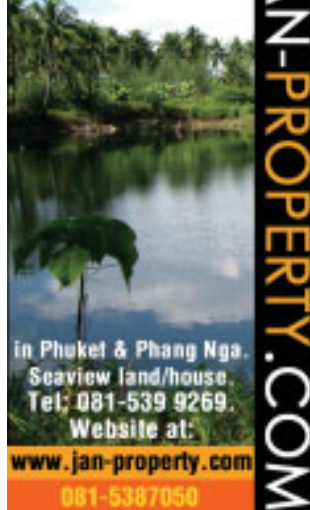
### BRAND NEW HOUSE, KATA

Semi-detached, 100sqm land. 3 bedrooms, 24 hour security. Peaceful area, 2 mins to beach. Quick sale 5.2 million baht. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

### VILLA, SALE OR RENT

Prima Villa unit 4, Karon Beach. Forced sale through term. Payments over 9 months offered for purchase on 40% deposit for right buyer. Price 2.5 million baht below estate prices. Price 10.75 million baht. Cash purchase 9.95 million baht. Contact Mr. Greg. Tel: 084-3279642. Contact Miss Kaew. Tel: 081-719 4688. Email: greggordon2013@y7mail.com

### LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT



in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-539 9269. Website at: www.jan-property.com 081-5387050

### SINGLE HOUSE RAWAI

300m from the beach. New 200sqm, 2-storey house and guesthouse on 460sqm land with wonderful view. 3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, big living room and terraces. Easy to convert into two apartments. Furnished. Quick sale, reduced to only 5.5 million baht. Call David on 083-1814418.

### VERY SPECIAL VILLA

Must see. 5 star Marriott Hotel style. 3 bedrooms. Finest location Patong, breathtaking views from all levels. Excellent track record for rental return. Previous price 28 million baht. Quick sale to best offer. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

### CHEAP LAND, AO LUEK

3 rai, nice quiet area. 200m from golf course. Price only 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-272 8684.

### HOUSES IN RAWAI, NAI HARN

Thai-style house, 640sqm, price: 1.1 million baht. House, price: 18 million baht. Contact Nico. Tel: 085-7955383. See website at: www.warmwaterland.com

### URGENT SALE 3.15 MTB



120sqw. at Chaing Mai. Fully furnished. For more picture and details on request. Tel: 083-104 9301. Email: ferdinanddepk@hotmail.com

### LOCH PALM POOL VILLA



600sqm land, 230sqm living space, garden, 4 bedrooms, golf course view, on main road. Ready in 3 months. Partly custom made, fully furnished. Price all in, only 14 million baht. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

### RAWAI LAND

Absolute beach front. 700sqm, 90 years lease. Price 6.5 million baht. Tel: 084-848 6139, 086-279 9807.

### NAI HARN PLOTS

in best location, Soi Maya. Close to beach. 200m to Baan Bua. 19sqm-1/2 rai. Water drainage level 4, underground electric. Price 1.5-6 million baht. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

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# Property Gazette

## MUST SELL MOVING 14 MTB



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

## BANGTONG HILLSIDE KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, 73 sq wah. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 089-908 4873.

## 80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

Located at Natai Beach. 15 minutes drive from Sarasin Bridge. Price 1.6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 082-087-88306112.

## BARGAIN BUILDING

Patong, Bangla Rd area. Huge, 4 storey, 320sqm. Excellent rentals. Offers welcome. No agents. Tel: 087-881 7600.

## 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.

## FREEHOLD, RAWAI



27sqm, studio, furnished, 200 meters from the beach. Asking 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

## BANGLA SUITES SEAVIEW CONDO

Best 5-star furnished condo in the heart of the action, available to 4 owners from:

US\$ 120,000 for Sept, Oct and Nov each year.  
US\$ 190,000 for Dec, Jan and Feb.

US\$ 160,000 for Mar, Apr and May.  
US\$ 140,000 for June, July and Aug.

Share expenses - fully serviced and managed. Rent out or use. Excellent returns on investment. Tel: 081-895 7112. Email: bl@marbella.net

## 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM

pool villa. Large pool, sala, fully furnished, 3 air-conditions, 7 fans. Contact Peter. Tel: 080-5203856. Or contact May. Tel: 086-2182438 (Thai).

## 2 BEDROOM VILLA

for sale. Fully furnished. Patong, seaview. Tel: 086-270 6454. Email: uraiinma@hotmail.com

## EXCEPTIONAL OFFER

Sea view villa, 3 bedrooms, swimming pool, parking area, semi-furnished. Rooms are spacious and the villa can accommodate 2 - 3 families. Exceptional price: 10 million baht. No agents, no brokers. Tel: 076-270863. Email: paolofilipelli@yahoo.com

## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY



for a beautiful house, Nai Harn. 1 bathroom, hot shower, electrical shaving sockets. Small storeroom. Furniture included: 2 king-size beds, 2 wardrobes, 2 dressing tables with mirrors, sofa set, wall cabinet, 29 inch TV. Equipped kitchen: 5 piece wooden dining set, microwave, toaster. Veranda with 2 antique style sitters, glass table. Cable TV, phone line. Price 1.2 million baht for 15 year lease. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

## BALINESE POOL VILLA

2-3 bedroom with built-in furniture, A/C, living room, kitchen, garden. Price 10.6 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-968 3671. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

## SAI YUAN / RAWAI

280sqm of Chanote land for sale at 2 million baht. Alternatively can pay in 3 installments of 700,000 baht each. Call or mail for details. Tel: 081-537 7137. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

## ON THE BEACH

2 bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765 117 Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

## PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Chermg-Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-956-2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

## 2 RAWAI POOL VILLA



sale/lease. Land, company, pool villa with 7 bedrooms. 350 meter from beach, finance available. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

## BEST INVESTMENT IN PATTAYA!

A new condotel project is now available for pre-sales booking reservations. Located in the heart of Pattaya, walking distance to all giant hypermarkets and vibrant nightlife district. Price starting from only 1.4 million baht. Hurry, reserved now before fully sold out. Tel: 038-716222, 089-200 3222. Email: enquiries@eastpointpattaya.com

## KATHU LAND

1,900sqm, lake view. Price 5 million baht. Tel: 086-270 6454. Email: uraiinma@hotmail.com

## VILLA URGENT SALE

4 beds, 6 baths, private pool (4x12) with jacuzzi, security system, solar hot water, sala and landscape garden on a 1,606sqm land. More than 400sqm of living area. Special price at 18 million baht. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

## LAND IN NAI HARN

on Soi Naya, 452sqm. 1km to beach. Great location. Price 3.9 million baht. Tel: 085-793 2667.

## LAND IN PHANG NGA

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

## COCONUT ISLAND LAND



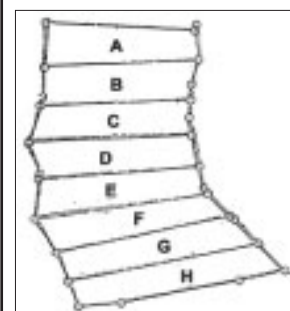
for sale. 4.5 rai. Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha. Tel: 089-290 0484.

## DOUBLE VILLA IN KATA



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

## VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



same as Soi Villas Solitude, Na-Kok, Chalong. 8 rai land for sale, Chanote title. Can buy separate. Price 7 million baht per rai. Contact to see. Tel: 087-689 9679.

## CHERNG TALAY LAND

900sqm, great location, Chanote title. Price 3.4 million baht. Tel: 086-047 2463. Email: jimi\_chance@hotmail.co.uk

## AAAH PANORAMA

4 rai with view of Phang Nga near Mission Hills. 8 million baht. See also the ad below, headlined, simply, "Panorama". Tel: 087-267 5376. Email: w.gabrielle@gmail.com

## PANORAMA

4 rai of high land with view of Phang Nga Bay, near Mission Hills Golf Club. Price now SLASHED to only 8 million baht for the lot. Tel: 087-267 5376. Email: w.gabrielle@gmail.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

## PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai. Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

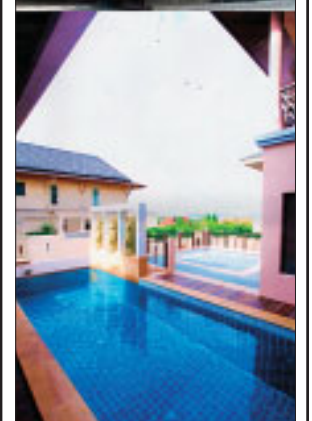
## HILL HOUSE AT KATA

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

## CHEAP LAND SALE

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

## NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for sale or 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

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# Property Gazette

## 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

## FREEHOLD, PATONG 28SQM

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

## NICE 1/2 RAI LAND IN RAWAI

Flat and quiet location behind the Phuket Shell Museum in Rawai. Pond view, large concrete road, electricity, Chanote title. Ready to build on. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-589 0085, 081-091 1097. Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

## PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

Renovated, freehold, 2 rooms, terrace, nice view, pool, 200 meters to beach. Furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 02-392 9327, 086-976 0809.

## NAI HARN POOL VILLA SALE!



5-year-old pool villa on 850sqm of land. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, living room. 2 terraces, big garage, carport, tropical garden. Quiet area. 6.5 million baht. NO BROKER!! Tel: +66-86-682 9709. Email: weidner@loxinfo.co.th

## GREAT BARGAIN, KATA HOME

4 months old. 4 bedrooms, maid's room, home theatre room. Cathedral ceilings, quality finishings throughout. Furniture and appliances included. 12m pool, roof terrace, elevator. Original price 28.9 million baht. New price below construction cost 16.9 million baht ono. 60% financing available at 5.5% interest for 7 years. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

## SHOPHOUSE AND GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Karon beach. For more information, please contact at Tel: 084-670 4308. Email: amorn9999@yahoo.com

## CONDO FOR SALE/RENT



at Phuket Asia Land, Surin Beach. Sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month with 100,000 baht deposit. Tel: 089-474 0461. Email: info@methaya.com

## AO POR LAND FOR SALE



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

**PRIME LAND, CHANOTE**  
4,844sqm. Good location in valley surrounded by rubber trees. Few mins to new international school, 10 mins Thalang fresh market. Total price 5.9 million baht, can sell in smaller pieces. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

## PATONG CONDOTEL

100% freehold for foreigners, own name Chanote title. 28sqm, fifth floor condo. Bathroom, kitchenette. Air con, fan, hot water. Furnished European style with Koncept furniture. Fridge, TV, DVD surround system. Swimming pool. Security and parking maintenance fee 500 baht per month. Price 1.95 million baht. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

## BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai direct beach front land, 80m to the beach. Public road and water at the back. White sand, no rocks, beautiful view, with road side house on it. Priced to sell. Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com

## LAND IN LAND AND HOUSES

for sale. 80sqm in Land and Houses. Good price. Tel: 086-332 0864.

## CHALONG TOWN HOME

This immaculate 3 Bedroom home on a new estate is priced to sell. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

## NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Srisuchart Grandville 3, not far from Tesco Lotus. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 1 car park and little garden. Very nice house contact to come see at 087-2770978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

## SEA VIEW APARTMENT

Simply the best value sea view in Phuket. 2 bed, 2 bath, 140 sqm apartment neighboring the new Ao Po Grand Marina. A very up and coming area and a great investment at 8.5m baht. Tel: 086-943 1601. Email: combe007@yahoo.com

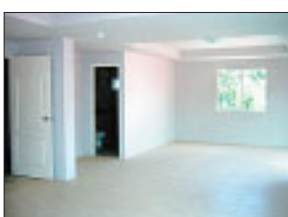
## 4 RAI SEAVIEW PLOT AO POR

Gently sloping hillside plot behind Ao Por Beach Road, East coast. Tel: 076-528014, 087-270 5959. Email: gdublanco@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.aoporphuket.com

## LAUNCHING NEW PROJECT

The only brand new houses (4) coming up soon in Rawai. Best location for living or vacation home. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, carpark for 2, swimming pool. Land size: 400 sqm. Financing available over 10 to 20 years for Thai and foreigner 70% down, 3% interest preapproved don't need to show anything. Call for more information. Tel: 084-626 8105.

## 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: 087-270 9093,  
081-868 7676.

## 15 MILLION BAHT



Patong, sea view, 60sqm 2-storey house. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 15 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093.

## CHALONG OPPORTUNITY

Brand new garden villa, 3 bedrooms. On easy vendor finance. Tel: 089-652 1473.

## GIVE ME 1 MILLION BAHT

and I will give you a house in Kata Beach with a year to pay the remaining 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-840 5834.

## EXCELLENT 3 BR HOUSE

This Swiss designed home with luxury fittings includes 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, a utility room, 4 aircon units, quality furniture, and a lovely garden setting with remote controlled security gate. The home is located in a gated community with club house, swimming pool, etc. Call the owners to buy at 7.9 million baht. Tel: 081-895 7727. Email: info@axiominvestments.com

## HOUSE IN ANUPHAS FOR SALE



60sq.wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 3.7 million baht. For more details, please call 081-691 2526.

## SALE OR RENT STUDIO

New freehold in Patong, 46sqm. Fully furnished, pool. Price 2.9 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

## BEAUTIFUL THAI HOUSE

on new building plot, 10.2m by 7.3m. Living room, bedroom, kitchen, WC downstairs, bar area. Easy to extend bedroom. Teakwood walls, floors, stairs. Peaceful location in Kathu, 5 mins to Patong. Great investment. Price 4.9 million baht. Tel: 086-268 8701.

## PRESTIGE BUILDING LAND

with stunning seaview in Patong Bay. 2.5 and 1.5 rai adjacent to Baan Yin Dee Boutique Hotel. Tel: 081-893 2970.

## FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM

One bedroom, ground floor with poolside balcony. Located in the heart of Patong. Includes car-parking space. Price: 5.9 million baht negotiable. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

## PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



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

## NICE 2- STOREY HOUSE

Perfect house for a family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-891 5296. Email: hkthome sale18@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.jikkycar.com

## TOWN HOUSE NEAR BIS

Sale or rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2-story. Sale: 1.8 million baht or rent: 12,000 baht per month. Opposite Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-979 3369.

## WHITE HOUSE, GREAT LOCATION

Please contact for viewing. Tel: 076-273466. Fax: 076-273-466. Email: pen@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertytrip.com

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Do not Fax!



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS



Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. UBC and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing, pool & gardening service. Daily rental 8,000 baht, monthly rental 120,000 baht. Contact Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-843 6837. Email: suchada\_villas@hotmail.com

### EXCEPTIONAL OFFER

Sea view villa, 3 bedrooms, swimming pool, parking area, semi-furnished. Rooms are spacious and the villa can accommodate 2/3 families. Price: 420,000 baht per year. Tel: 076-270863. Email: paolofilipelli@yahoo.com

### 3 & 4 B/R HOUSES

2 different houses available for rent. 1st house has 3 bedrooms in a private secure estate. 2nd house has 4 bedrooms with private pool. Contact for prices, more details and inspection. Tel: 089-589 0085, 081-091 1097. Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

### CHALONG BEACH HOUSES

Furnished, 3 bedrooms. Internet, Cable TV, swimming pool. Price from 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent, near Palai Beach. 3 bedrooms, air-condition, ADSL. Tel: 089-728 8311.

### HOUSES FROM WELLTA

Renting or buying a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. Call 081-968 0309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

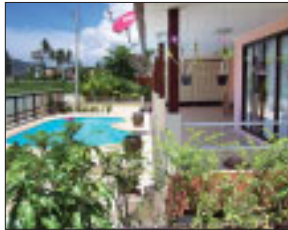
### 2 BED APARTMENT SEA VIEWS

Fully equipped with all western facilities including TV, DVD, satellite, washing machine, full kitchen, communal swimming pool & entertainment area. Tel: 083-550 5958. Send email to: simoncoppinger@yahoo.co.uk

### B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

### RAWAI POOL GUESTHOUSE



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

### 4 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

Unusual 4 bedroom house with stupendous sea views, halfway between Rawai and Laem Promthep. 100,000 baht per month for a 12 month lease. Tel: 081-788 6078. Fax 076-289280. Or sent to email: andrewcolinwhittaker@hotmail.com

### KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS

New, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. Large Western style 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

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

Near Dowrung School. Long lease. Tel: 081-691 2526.

### PATONG APARTMENT

300 meters to the beach, clean, modern, aircon, TV, fridge, double bed, pool, parking. Tel: 081-082 5707. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuket-accommodation.info>

### 13,000 BAHT PER MONTH

New house, fully furnished, 65sqm. Private area, 50 meters from Lotus (Chaofa), ADSL. 70/76 Phuket Villa 3, Soi 8/1. Tel: 081-537 6045.

### PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280 degree panoramic views of the sea, mountains, and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, internet and washing machine. Available from February 18th, 2009. Tel: (011) (86) 1381634 4147. For further details, [www.PatongTowerRental.com](http://www.PatongTowerRental.com)

### SEA VIEW APARTMENT



in Patong Sky Inn. Room with full equipped for long term. 9th floor (minimum 1 month) electricity and charges not included. TV, DVD, aircon, hot water, toilets, shower, fridge, microwave, and safe. 13,000 / month, 800/day. Tel: 080-040 8622. Email: mavieen.thailand@hotmail.fr Website: [www.christianes-blue.com](http://www.christianes-blue.com)

**RAWAI HOUSE for rent. Long or short term, fully furnished, pool.** For further details, please see our website at [www.ferienthailand.com](http://www.ferienthailand.com)

### VACANT ROOMS OR HOUSES

360 degree, panoramic sea view in Cape Panwa. 1,800sqm villa with 2,200sqm garden. The room is monthly US\$1,500 or the house monthly, US\$ 25,000. Golf Course view in Loch Palm. The new house is 850sqm with 1,500sqm garden. The room monthly is US\$500/month or house monthly, US\$5,500/month. Include satellite, water, electric bill and management fees. Please call for details. Tel: 082-418 2188. Email: travelman.more@gmail.com

### SINGLE HOUSE

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

### RAWAI BEACHFRONT



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

### LAGUNA TOWNHOME

Golf course view, long-term only (min. 12 months). 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-305595. 089-873 6151. Fax: 076-362324. Email: [stuartr@laguna-phuket.com](mailto:stuartr@laguna-phuket.com)

### HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE, RUNGRAVEE



Near Phuket Airport. Twinhome with 2 bedrooms. Ready to stay. Tel: 089-133 4447.

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, THALANG



Close to Laguna. Fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath, hot water, washing machine, ADSL. 10 mins to Bang Tao Beach and Layan Beach. Mountain view. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-874 2960. Email: [wawa.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:wawa.phuket@gmail.com)

### 50% OFF FROM THE LEASE

In the past the villa could lease US\$39000 monthly. The villa is located in Panwa Cape with 360 degree sea view. 100m high on hill not far from Sri Panwa. The house has several bedrooms with antique furniture, marble and teakwood floors. One of the best in Phuket. 2,500sqm with 2,800 sqm of garden. Part of car park and swimming pool is being renovated. Due to economy, we would like to lease the villa at very very low price. But must meet minimum of 5 years of following conditions. The lease excludes maids service, management fees, electric and water bills. The excluded expenses cost 70,000(BTH) monthly. The lease must be paid annually in advance. First year 8.4m, 2nd year 9.5m 3rd year 11m 4th year 13m and 5th year 15m. Or sale for US\$10 million. Anyone interested in the above, please call Pensri at 081-535 5910 or email to [vanich@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:vanich@phuket.ksc.co.th) We will email you photos and etc.

### PROPERTY OWNERS

Tel: 076-288654, 081-396 3941. Email: [maydayphuket@gmail.com](mailto:maydayphuket@gmail.com) If you have a property or room for rent, please see our website at the link [www.maydayphuket.com](http://www.maydayphuket.com)

### KATHU GOLF VIEW VILLA

4 bedroom, 5 bathrooms, big pool, 4km to BIS. Overlooking Loch Palm Golf course. Quiet, on top of private hill. Furnished, Wi-Fi, True TV. Long term: 65,000 baht a month. Contact K. Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

### SINGLE HOUSE

near Mission Hill. Price 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-649 1218.

**Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET**

Phase I houses for long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669  
Email: [info@baansuanpana.com](mailto:info@baansuanpana.com) [www.baansuanpana.com](http://www.baansuanpana.com)

### NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bed rooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living, dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936.

### NEW SINGLE HOUSE

for rent. Yoo Charoen Village, 3km from Laguna Phuket, 2 telephone lines, ADSL, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, warm water, aircon. Price 14,000-18,000 per month. (Eng) Tel: 087-417 2757, (Thai) 087-417 2756.

### HOUSE NEAR SUANLUANG



for rent. 1.5 km from Central festival 86 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 bathtub, fully furnished, 5 aircons, European kitchen, resthouse, garden, Call Mr Mongkon. Tel: 084-062 8040.

### HOUSE, VILLA SUANLUANG

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 air-conditions. Price 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-472 9895.

### LARGE 2 BED CONDO (NEW)

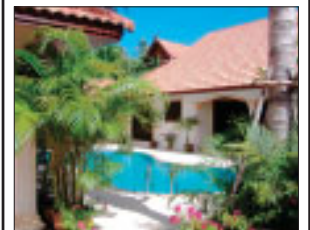
Recently completed, light and spacious with rooftop pool. Comfortable living in the centrally located Soi San Sabai. Tel: 089-732 5769. Or sent to email: [sparky1977@btinternet.com](mailto:sparky1977@btinternet.com)

### RAWAI BEACH POOL VILLA



1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### VILLA IN PARADISE



Stunning new villa near Rawai Beach, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathroom. Guest villa, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, pool table room, full aircon, ADSL, sat TV, furnished, private pool, tropical gardens. Min 6 months, price 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-073 1180.

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

### RESTFUL HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 toilets and shower. TV, 2 carports. 8km from town. Price 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-471 4810.

### CHALONG CIRCLE

Town home, 2 bedrooms. Telephone, cable TV, air-condition. Tel: 089-652 1473.

### HOUSE IN KATHU

Furnished 2 bedroom home in a nice and Quiet area. For long term rent at 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 2227. Or sent to email: [paulstrong23@hotmail.com](mailto:paulstrong23@hotmail.com)

### SURIN APARTMENT

50sqm, pool, kitchen, 1 bedroom. 10,000 baht. Tel: +46-8-4081 8820, +46-70-417 8531. Email: [matsivarbergstrom.spray.se](mailto:matsivarbergstrom.spray.se)

### KAMALA BEACH HOUSE

for rent, 2 bedroom. Price 20,000 baht monthly or for sale 3.9 million baht. Contact more details. Tel: 086-277 3381.



# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted

### LAND WANTED

I want to buy +/- half a rai. Should be in a good neighborhood located anywhere from Kathu to Naiharn. Make me a low price offer. Email: nong.kudeepan@gmail.com

### BUY CONDO CASH

Looking for apartment. 1 or 2 beds, sea view Patong-Kata. Payment from offshore account. Please send to email: jeanp22002@yahoo.com

### SHOPHOUSE WANTED FOR RENT

Shophouse wanted near Surin, Bangtao or Chermatalay! Office space and workshop needed. Tel: 080-075 0700. Email: contex.phuket@hotmail.com

### 12 MONTH LEASE

6-12 month lease wanted on a secure house with garden and pool in Nai Ham, Rawai, Kata, or Kathu. Must be dog-friendly and have Internet connection. Can pay up to 40,000 baht per month. Please send to email: robinldonovan@gmail.com

### APARTMENT SWAP

I am looking to swap rental of my Sydney 2 bedroom apartment for a Patong apartment from December 15 to March 27, 2009 – or part thereof. My apartment has aircon, cable TV, and Internet. Five mins to city and beaches. Tel: +61-2-9904 2073, +61-430-218110. Email: mbohlisen@gmail.com

### FLAT OR HOUSE

from October 8 until March 2009. Could be in Phuket or Krabi, including Koh Lanta. The important things are seaside (or at least sea view) and a swimming pool. Two bedrooms, for a couple. No pets and no parties. Can be a quiet location. Email: office@neubrasilien.at

## Property Services

**INCREASE YOUR RENTAL SALES**

Add your apartment, house, or villa for holiday rental with our **FREE** rental listing.

For more info, contact [rental@phuketbooknow.com](mailto:rental@phuketbooknow.com)

### VILLA MANAGEMENT

by self-employed person. I have 7 years' experience with real estate and property management in Australia. Have worked with hotel management in Phuket resorts for 3 years. I provide high-quality service and villa management at fair prices. Can carry out professional duties set out in the management agreement, including house-keeping & maintenance of property. Can organize flight tickets and activities as well as other requests. Please contact for more information at Tel: 087-100 6111. Email: luckypam@gmail.com

### HOLIDAY HOME

looking for your holiday home. Want to rent/own properties in Phuket? The Network Property, your trusted agency in Phuket, can provide the best quality available for rentals and sales. Please call 084-626 8105, 086-478 0201 or visit our website at [www.thenetworkproperty.com](http://www.thenetworkproperty.com)

### I HAVE BUYERS

for low-priced condos. Please send pics + information to email: [info@phuket-villa-property.com](mailto:info@phuket-villa-property.com)

## Accommodation Available

### NAI HARN BEACH BUNGALOWS

for rent. 1 studio room fully furnished, fridge, cable TV. Air-condition, hot water. Balcony, garden, maid. Price 300 baht per day. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: silanachai@yahoo.com

### RAWAI STUDIO

Available March 17. Only 500 meters to beach. Kitchen, AC, Internet, Cable TV, DVD/CD. 6,500 baht per month. Tel: 084-707 4373. Email: mauigreg@hotmail.com

### HOLIDAY FLAT LONG-TERM

Nice big apartment and bungalows for long-term rent. Tel: 076-333242, 089-651 7818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://capt-horst.com>

### GUEST ROOMS AVAILABLE

Nang Noi's - double room, affordable accommodation. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-732 5769. Email: ketsuda@btinternet.com

### APARTMENTS POOL & VIEW

1 or 2 bedroom apartment, sea view penthouse, swimming pool, car park. Quiet and safe. Hillside location, cable TV, free WiFi, fully serviced. Best rates. Long- or short-term. Please contact us for details. Tel: 076-296621, 081-691 6147. Fax 076-344689. Email: [info@baansuanvilla.de](mailto:info@baansuanvilla.de)

### APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 12,000-20,000 baht per month. Rooms from 800-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151 or 089-290 9567. Or send email: [info@brommathaihouse.com](mailto:info@brommathaihouse.com) For pics, see our website at: [www.brommathaihouse.com](http://www.brommathaihouse.com)

### APARTMENT IN PATONG

Fully furnished, aircon, hot water, internet, big pool. Short and long-term rent. Tel: 076-341562. Email: [corner@royalparadise.com](mailto:corner@royalparadise.com)

### APARTMENT IN PATONG

House also available in Benjamas Housing Complex. Tel: 076-344922, 081-719 7092. Email: [info@bluewaterphuket.com](mailto:info@bluewaterphuket.com) For more details please see <http://www.bluewaterphuket.com>

### 2 BEDROOMS APARTMENT

85sqm. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, new condo in Patong with pool and security. Long term. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-891 5602. Email: [Jankie@bali-kitesurfing.org](mailto:Jankie@bali-kitesurfing.org)

### SURIN / BANGTAO APT

Two bedroom apartment at Club Lersuang. Fantastic facilities for short / long term rent. Tel: 076-271870, 087-079 0650. Email: [martinandlizele@yahoo.com](mailto:martinandlizele@yahoo.com)

### LUXURY HOLIDAY RENTALS

Pool, internet, quality furnishings. Near Laguna. Price 2,000-3,000 baht per day. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### GUESTHOUSE AT CHALONG

aircondition, hot water, Cable TV, free internet, ADSL, new building. Price 5,000 per month or 400 baht per day. Tel: 085-888 5144.

### STUDIO ROOMS, PATONG

Rent daily, monthly. Newly furnished, studio has pool. Good price. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: [thamad17@yahoo.com](mailto:thamad17@yahoo.com)

### RESORT STUDIO

Available April 9. Seaview balcony, pool, WiFi, Cable TV, DVD/CD, fridge, microwave. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-707 4373. Email: [mauigreg@hotmail.com](mailto:mauigreg@hotmail.com)

### LARGE 2 BED CONDO (NEW)

Recently completed, light and spacious with rooftop pool. Comfortable living in the centrally located Soi San Sabai. Tel: 089-732 5769. Or sent to email: [sparky1977@btinternet.com](mailto:sparky1977@btinternet.com)

### CCR ROOM FOR RENT

Room available at Nanai, Patong. Free Wi-Fi, pool, hot water, car park, quiet area. Nice for living. 17,000 baht per month. For further details, Tel: 089-874 2960. please see our website at <http://www.clubcoconutresort.com>

## Accommodation Wanted

### LONG TERM RENTAL NEEDED

for 1-3 years. 4-5 bedrooms, 3-4 bathrooms. Also need air-condition, ADSL, parking. No pool required. Kathu or Chalong area. Can pay maximum 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-624 7060.

### URGENT NEED, KATA AREA

Room, bungalow or apt wanted in or around Kata, Chalong or Rawai area. Max rent: 15,000 baht per month. URGENT - I need it NOW. But if you are outside the area mentioned, please don't reply to this ad. Email: [micke22c@telia.com](mailto:micke22c@telia.com)

### NEED ROOM NOW

I need a room or condo in Patong from February until middle or end of June. My budget is 12,000 baht per month - maximum. Can pay in advance. Mail me and I can call you back. Tel: +46-22-654304, +46-70-363 3175. Email: [roeltgen@hotmail.com](mailto:roeltgen@hotmail.com)

### WANTED IN PATONG

I will be in Patong from 23 February until 17 May. I am looking for a room to rent. Must be clean; be located in Patong; and have aircon and hot water. I can pay approx 10,000 baht per month. Kindly email details, pics and prices. Email: [userjn34@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:userjn34@tiscali.co.uk)

### 1 WEEK VILLA RENTAL

Our family of five will be visiting Mar 21-28 and are looking for a villa with a pool near a beach. Please provide price, photos and references. Tel: +81-80-3315 3921. Email: [ksa3ch@yahoo.com](mailto:ksa3ch@yahoo.com)

### NEED HOUSE, LONG TERM

Need house for up to 10 years. Require 4 bedrooms, access to pool (not necessarily private), internet access, acceptance of pets, and no through-traffic. It should be in Phuket Town or north of it. Tel: 089-648 4340. Email: [robert@mrlob.com](mailto:robert@mrlob.com)

## Household Items

### NEW CARPETS/RUGS

just arrived. We have over 100 new models in twisted viscose, sisal, hemp and cotton available. Many sizes and colours. Please drop into our showroom near Heroine's Monument. Tel: 081-958 5949. Email: [tookta@seahorse-interiors.com](mailto:tookta@seahorse-interiors.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://www.seahorse-interiors.co>

### MOVING SALE

I have some things for sale, not more than six months old. Mattresses, tables, sofas, tower cupboards, shag rug, and a TV cupboard—all from Index. Email: [luke\\_reeder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:luke_reeder@hotmail.co.uk)

### ESPRESSO MACHINE W/ GRINDER

Krups fully automatic espresso machine for the freshest coffee ever. Easy and clean - used only one year. Has just received maintenance service. New price: 36,000 baht. Asking price: 18,000 baht. Call for pics. Tel: 086-274 4238. Email: [mjderks-spam@yahoo.com](mailto:mjderks-spam@yahoo.com)

### GARDEN ITEMS AND PLANTS

Garden tools, lawn mower, large potted palms and other plants, stone table and seats, large silver water pot. Bargain prices - I need to clear it out. Tel: 076-388348, 085-08578 6675. Email: [ntovey@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:ntovey@loxinfo.co.th)

### SAMSUNG MICROWAVE

3 months old. Bought in Home Pro - still has guarantee. Fancy microwave with all the extras - super fast defrosting, auto cooking, etc. Photo available on request. Cost 3,500 baht; will accept 1,900 o.n.o. Please contact for more info. Tel: 085-641 9979. Email: [vicki\\_hunt@hotmail.com](mailto:vicki_hunt@hotmail.com)

## Household Services

### ENGLISH PLUMBER

Professional service, including electrics, water, sealing, home refurbishment. Damage free quote. Call Richard. Tel: 083-175 0485. Email: [williamsrichy@gmail.com](mailto:williamsrichy@gmail.com)

## Building Products & Services

### QUALITY BUILDING SERVICES

Renovations, construction, carpentry, real wood, parquet, painting. Contact K. Pueng for additional details. Tel: 087-270 9093 or K. Ne at Tel: 087-689 9679 (English/Thai). Email: [allservices29@gmail.com](mailto:allservices29@gmail.com)

### PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Construction, renovation, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, keycard setting, sand wash and gutter. Contact K. Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: [phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com](mailto:phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com)

**Live in Patong?**

**Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Deli Supermarket**



**Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Damrong (076-342275)**

**GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!**  
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

**The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!**

## Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



# Boats & Marine

## DAY CRUISER GOZZO 6.3 MT



Gozzo "Gozzetto 6.30", built in VRP with teak details, honeycomb structure and deck. Interiors in mahogany, inboard diesel from 38 to 85 hp (14 knots with 49 hp), exceptional for coastal cruising and fishing, Italian designer. Starts from 600,000 to 1,200,000 THB. Ready available. Tel: 038-706060. Email: info@andamanboatyard.com www.andamanboatyard.com

## SHARKCAT 23

Refurbished 2007/8. Twin Yamaha 200hp with low hours. Cabin with dbl berth & toilet. Versatile: cruising, fishing, water skiing. Thai registered. Price: 985,000 baht. Tel: 076-348117, 081-8919653. Fax: 076-348118. Or sent to email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

## PLATU 25

A proven race winner. Complete inventory update in late 2006 and has sailed one regatta since. In excellent condition and is dry-stored under cover. 550,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-348117, 081-8919653. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

## BENETEAU CYCLADES 393

Enjoy sailing from Phuket and learn a little. 3 cabins, 2 toilets. Layout excellently maintained and loaded with extras. Thai registered and under maintenance contract with advance bookings. Tel: 076-348117, 081-8916953. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

## 7 AND 9 METERS SUPER RIBS

Four new 2009 ribs - 7m and 9m. The boats include single and twin mounted 225 hp Mercs enabling speeds of 60 knots, new galvanized dual axle trailers, all options, CE, COC, GPS, triple tanks, big sunbrella. All new with full warranties. Come try Tel: 083-6467282, 083-6369327. Email: par.emanuel@xwipers.com

## FISHING BOAT

43ft 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, 083-5207308. Email: gerrybfoster@hotmail.com

## HOBIE CAT 14

with launching trolley & spares, good condition. Price 65,000 baht. Phuket town. Contact more details. Tel: 076-224596.

## POWER CATAMARAN 32 FT



New composite power catamaran, 32 ft, under construction, visible at our website. Price start from 109,000 Euro with two diesel 125 hp. Tel: 038-706060. Email: info@adamanboatyard.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.andamanboatyard.com

## SUPER CHARGED

Sea scooter. New in box, paid 600 euros. Price 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-2945441.

## WELLCRAFT SCARAB 31

2 x 250 hp Mercs, 390 hours, fully serviced. Speeds to 60 knots, bow cabin, portable toilet, GPS, VHF, Sunbrella, all new interior, red and white. Come and see! Offers invited around 1.8 million baht. Tel: 083-6467282, 083-6369327. Or sent to email: par.emanuel@xwipers.com

## LIVE ABOARD FOR FUN OR TOUR



23-meter former live aboard dive boat. Renovated for pleasure or for use as a tour boat. Has 10 small bunk rooms that can be converted to one large bedroom and indoor living area. Also has kitchen and big outdoor areas to laze around on. In good condition and will impress. 5.5 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 02-6841053, 081-9040266. Email: jpowell@saigonnet.vn

## BOAT FOR SALE

3.40m rigid single hull, engines Tohatsu 25cc, cover for inflatable boat, one seat removable. Price: 175,700 baht. Call Mr Dydi at 087-1616984.

## MAXUM 2000 SR - BOWRIDER

Eddie Bauer Edition. Year 1994. Rarely used. Only 300 hours. Very good condition. 895,000 baht. Tel: 02-6617676, 081-6284798. Or sent to email: uwed@avia-star.com

## 36 FOOT JENNEAU SAILING

yacht. Originally bought from Sunsail, fully overhauled. Low price. Now at Boat Lagoon dock E7. Please contact more details. Tel: 087-6265396. www.thailandboating.com

## 32FT CATAMARAN

4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area, 9 HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Contact more details. Tel: +6-87-4618089.

## HOBIE 16

Very good condition. Price 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-4708926. Email: earfieviet@voila.fr

## 2 PROPELLERS

Suitable for sailboat, bronze, 1.5" to 1.25" bore. Port & SB Price 8,000 baht each, ono. Tel: 087-2759618. Email: seascape@hol.gr

## TROLLING MOTOR

Brand new in "Motorguide" Mercury model, 46FB, 12 volts, 5-speed. Dealer price 500USD. Task only 400USD. Tel: 083-6331054.

## SAILING DINGHY 5M50

Motor mercury 60 ch. 1 year 6 months old. Price 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-2667209. Contact more details at email: serge.mages@laposte.net

## SPEED BOAT 2008

36 FT, 2x200 HP outboards, Thai registration up to 25 passengers + crew. Asking price 1.2 million baht. Tel: 084-4478349 English, 087-2848154 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: 081-5362069. Email: pat@destinationair.com

## LUXURY DAY DIVING BOAT

for sale, luxury day/overnight steel diving boat. 26m, 2x cummins 350hp, twin disc gear boxes, 1x50kva & 1x16kva gen, fully equipped. Price 8mil baht ono. Contact Phil 084-0174175. Email: admin@philkade.com

### For Sale Princess 20M

995,000 Euro

• 2 x MAN 1000hp diesel  
 • 2 x gensets  
 • Full beam Master cabin  
 • Bow and stern thrusters

**Inspect now**

Contact: Andrew de Bruin  
Mobile: 081 894 1530  
email: andrew@leemarine.net

## SPEED BOAT FOR SALE URGENT

33ft wooden hull, 2x200 hp, Yamaha 2007, 23+2 pax. Price 800,000 baht. Tel: 086-1922174.

## FLYBRIDGE BOAT

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

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2007 AquaPro Divemaster 1,198. Aluminum hull, spare tube, cover and wheels. Must see. Tel: 081-6930079. Email: mark@wunschmedia.com

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■ Brokerage Office  
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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437  
tel/fax: 076 239 729  
email: andrew@leemarine.net

■ Yacht Haven Marina Office  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
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Mobile: 081 891 3237  
tel/fax: 076 206 260  
email: jim@leemarine.net

■ Pattaya Office  
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach  
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# Island Job Mart

## the Villas overlooking Layan

Exclusive villa development with panoramic views of the entire Bang Tao Bay. THE VILLAS Overlooking Layan, is situated on the hill side behind Layan Beach.

### PROPERTY SERVICE / MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Looking after customer service, administrative work and assist in marketing coordination matters

Highly motivated, outgoing personality with good command of the English language, directly reporting to the Managing Director

- Good command of English language
- Strong administrative background
- Able to interact with foreign villa owners
- Able to interact with property agencies / coordinate marketing issues
- Accounting background an advantage
- Thai national, female

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate

Send your resume with recent photo to e-mail:  
arunwan@thevillasoverlookinglayan.com  
www.thevillasoverlookinglayan.com

## ANDARA resort + residences

We are seeking qualified & energetic people

### SALES & MARKETING MANAGER ( 1 Position )

All applicants must have the following qualifications:

- Positive attitude, self-motivated, strong leadership, proactive interpersonal & communication skills, well organized & able to deal with internal and external customers.
- Applicants must be able to communicate well in English.
- Applicants must have excellent understanding of the service industry with solid values
- Applicants must be enthusiastic and self-starters with HR in their heart.
- Applicants must be computer literate.
- Applicants must be able to work in Phuket.

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & a recent photo by fax or e-mail to:  
e: thisana@andaraphuket.com and copy gm@andaraphuket.com

ANDARA RESORT AND VILLAS CO.LTD.  
Human Resources Department

The Plaza Surin 5/50 M.3, Chermg Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
T: 66 76-386010-2 F: 66-76-386014



### PR / SALES & MARKETING ASS'T

We are looking for an assistant with:

- Excellent/ fluent English
  - Good communication/ social skills
  - Computer/ internet/ email knowledge/ experience
  - Own car
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- Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th



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Tel: 076-396139, Fax: 076-396119

e-mail: [howardslowe.chai@moevenpick.com](mailto:howardslowe.chai@moevenpick.com)

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TEFL qualified English teacher with computer skills, English tutor for hire. Please contact for more information Tel: 087-282 8046 Email: [swell\\_015@bk.ru](mailto:swell_015@bk.ru)

### RECEPTIONIST KATA

Female, Thai national. Must be reliable and speak good English. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### TEACHERS WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking full time native English speakers to teach English, arts, health, mathematics, young guide and hoteling to 11-18 year old students. To begin in May. Salary begins at 30,000 baht. 4 weeks paid holiday, government health plan. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate, or equivalent. Be prepared to present all original certificates at interview. Tel: 084-6663557. Please email CV with covering letter to [ep@satreephuket.ac.th](mailto:ep@satreephuket.ac.th) or to [toptip4736@yahoo.com](mailto:toptip4736@yahoo.com)

### ENGLISH SPEAKING LADY

needed for morning duties: preparing food, cleaning and ironing, etc. Must have own car or motor-bike. Tel: 083-102 8922. Email: [gregmackay67@hotmail.com](mailto:gregmackay67@hotmail.com)

### BAR MANAGER

Soi Gonzo, to take care of evening duties, expert etc. English speaking. Interested? Call Khun Simon. Tel: 085-7965767, 081-5806707.

### AUTOMATION SALE

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

### LOOKING FOR ENGLISH TEACHER

for Italian lady. Please contact Anna for more info. Tel: 081-432 6587.

### BAR AND RESTAURANT MANAGER



required for upmarket restaurant and sports bar. Good salary and working conditions. Must be enthusiastic, motivated and willing to join our great team of workers. A good knowledge of sporting events and the ability to organize various functions is prerequisite, as are good communication skills. Contact Crystal for interview. Tel: 086-282 0567.

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Following skills required: some English, basic computer, MS Office, internet, basic accounting, knowledge. Female, single, age 22-30. Reliable, healthy, hard working own vehicle. Tel: 076-273379. Email: [info@octopusasia.com](mailto:info@octopusasia.com)

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#### Qualifications:

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Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: [hr@pipsphuket.com](mailto:hr@pipsphuket.com)

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# Island Job Mart

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A resort property comprising of 211 stylish accommodations including: 15 Pool Villas and 14 Ocean Villas together with a spa complex, meeting facilities, a Mediterranean restaurant, lobby bar, a swim-up pool bar, secluded beach, three swimming pools, a separate kids club, fitness centre and a children's pool.

### Chief Engineer

Qualifications:-

- Male
- Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or related field
- Experience with contractors, on-site activities and management systems
- Hotel/Resort pre-opening experience is a distinct advantage
- Familiar with the QA/QC system under the relevant ISO standard
- Familiar with property handover procedures from contractor and a proven ability to manage a detailed snagging programme
- Good knowledge of English verbal & written
- Familiar with Thai laws concerning fire systems and licensing
- Computer literate

### Executive Secretary

Qualifications:-

- Female
- 5-7 years experience in executive secretarial functions
- Positive thinking, self-motivated and highly responsible
- Excellent in spoken and written English and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Excellent telephone listening skills
- Able to translate all necessary communicate
- Energetic, enthusiastic and maintain a professional management profile at all times
- Natural ability to serve others with uncompromising devotion

Interested candidates are invited to send a resume, stating present and expected salaries as well as a recent photograph to the address to [ssuthasiri@radisson.com](mailto:ssuthasiri@radisson.com)

**Radisson**  
PLAZA

### 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](mailto:zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com) Website: <http://www.yacht-haven-phuket.com>

### RESTAURANT STAFF

in Patong. Marketing / waiter. English speaking. Tel: 080-125 8454.



### Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa, Mai Khao Beach



If you enjoy being the best, demanding the highest of standards and being a technical expert in your field then you may want to come and be part of the Anantara Story.....We are now looking for the following management positions to lead, inspire and develop our team in to delivering the highest level of service and product to our customers.

#### Executive Chef

Executive chef required to lead an award winning team of culinary experts. The successful candidate must possess trade certificate preferably European exposure and possess solid business unit management skills. He or she would have a passion for achieving creative a la carte and buffet cuisine and have guest interaction ability, whilst managing a diverse operation within an Asian culture environment!

#### Group Director Human Resources

Based at Anantara Phuket, this role will oversee the day to day HR and training function of the property and, in addition, will lead the other Thailand based Anantas in HR policy and procedures, and best practice. This role will suit a confident progressive HR professional who has experience working in Phuket.

To find out more about Anantara Phuket please visit our website [www.anantara.com](http://www.anantara.com)

Submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to email address [recruit\\_phuket@anantara.com](mailto:recruit_phuket@anantara.com)

**Good luck with your application!**

### 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](mailto:thairusmedia@gmail.com)

### Employment Wanted

**RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH** speaking lady seeks position in Phuket, age 27. Experience in marketing/advertising, tourism and hotel business. Contact Irina. Tel: 080-601 7792. Email: [4milonga@gmail.com](mailto:4milonga@gmail.com)

### PROGRAMMER LOOKING FOR JOB

Experienced Danish programmer located in Phuket is looking for work on short/ long term projects. Keywords: PHP, Zend Framework, Java (+JSP/servlets), MySQL, JavaScript, (D)HTML, AJAX, MVC, Linux server administration and object orientation. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: [jan.faroe@gmail.com](mailto:jan.faroe@gmail.com)

### NANNY TO WORK ABROAD

Thai lady, 34 years old do house work. 10 years now in Australia till February 2009. Prefer go Europe, Canada, USA or Phuket. Available from March. Email: [cindy\\_siam@hotmail.com](mailto:cindy_siam@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. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-385795, 085-4704800. Email: [jgearyreilly@hotmail.com](mailto:jgearyreilly@hotmail.com)

### PHUKET MARBELLA VILLA MGMT

Manager and assistant required for all aspects of property care and supervision. Excellent salary and conditions. Tel: 076-527594, 089-195 6722. Fax: 076527593. Email: [jziment@gmail.com](mailto:jziment@gmail.com)

### HOTEL MANAGER

Owner will be changing management of 18 room Kata Hotel during March. I seek an individual with experience as Hotel Manager or Ass't Hotel Manager in Thailand. I also require that the candidate be fluent in English and Thai. For further information, please contact me. If telephoning from Thailand, please dial: 001-1-202-319-8354. Email: [edward.utyro@verizon.net](mailto:edward.utyro@verizon.net)

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needed for fast growing property developer. Must have own transport. Good English, salary plus commission. Tel: 087-264 9900. Email: [kanya@andamanstyle.com](mailto:kanya@andamanstyle.com)

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Kindergarten needs native English teacher for 5 and 6 year olds. Chalong, 40 hour per week. Tel: 080-624 7060.

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We are looking for a Swedish travel consultant, at least 25 years old. Computer/ Internet knowledge is essential, as is a past in the travel industry. Pedantic organizational skills and a really good knowledge of Thailand are desired. Please apply by email. Tel: 076-246427, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: [andersp@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:andersp@loxinfo.co.th)

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Candidates fitting above requirements are invited to send their resume with a recent photograph to:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
PHUKET PAVILIONS**  
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Tel. +66 (0) 76 317660 / Fax. +66 (0) 76 317601  
E-mail: [hrrm@phuketpavillions.com](mailto:hrrm@phuketpavillions.com)  
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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

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Equipment only, new cover, new chromium, new paint. Tel: 086-120 3660. Email: chilli garden@hotmail.com

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All stock must be sold any reasonable offer accepted. Tel: 081-895 3215.

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very good condition. Trainer exercise new 20,000 baht, sell 9,000 baht. HP computer, Laptop and desktop. 1,000 DVX French movies. Tel: 081-294 5441.

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Display cabinet glass front, 4 sides, buffet cabinet, hanging mirror with light, dining room table with 6 chairs glass top. Cost 300,000 baht. Make offer need make room, call 087-276 0529 all in anthice crean.

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Home cinema, entertainment 5.1 sound, Blue Ray DVD, Subwoofer, HDML, USB, 5x surround speaker. Price negotiable. Tel: 082-274 9860.

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Second hand but good condition. Tel: 081-895 4480. Email for pic: mat@pcphuket.com

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Suunto Mosquito dive computer, just serviced, new battery. 2 years old, good condition. Price new was 16,000 baht. I need 6,000 baht. Email: jenchanisa@gmail.com

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3 seater sofa, 2 arm chairs, Italian suede leather, removable cushions. Aquamarine color. Original cost: 280,000 baht. Will sell for 20,000. Tel: 076-279346, 081-597 9744. Fax: 076-279 346. Email: peterb@ji-net.com

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2 months old. Cost 8,500 baht; will accept 7,000. Lat pull, butterfly, bicep curl, leg curl, chest press, and more. One Carabina clip is bent but works fine. Selling due to relocation. 45kg. Tel: 085-724 0796. Email: danm\_uk@yahoo.co.uk

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Want to buy a recumbent exercise bike in good condition. Can collect if the right bike found. Tel: 081-892 7948. Email: jypenman@phuket.ksc.co.th

### CITIZEN DIVER'S WATCH

Citizen diver's watch. Depth gauge, dive log and stop watch. Comes with extra stainless steel strap. Two years old. New: 15,000 baht. I need 6,000 baht. Contact. Email: jenchanisa@gmail.com

### MOVING SATELLITE DISH

Moving Satellite dish for Sale (7 foot), including Dynasat receiver. 10,000 baht. Pick up in Khao Lak. Tel: 086-281 1945. Email: thedivezone@hotmail.com

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For sale at low prices:  
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150W underwater AQUA scooter. Includes charger. Ideal for snorkeling. MAX depth: 20m. Excellent condition. Tel: 084-850 1387. Email: dominic@hitemp.co.za

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'Brown Bear' Baby Cot and mattress. Excellent condition, only 18 months old. Complies to European regulations. Bought at Central for 11,000Baht, will sell for 5,500Baht. Tel: 083-106 6855. Email: lyndon.ellis@luxurycollection.com

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Heavy duty, 2nd hand gas BBQ in good condition. 40,000 baht new; want 15,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-271 0496. Email: rlusted@hotmail.com

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for sale. equipment only. New paint and chromium. Tel: 086-120 3660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

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Krabi Hospital - Krabi  
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(additional Krabi meetings on request by contacting 084-4463103)  
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a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwc.com

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for sale. 60-seat, well established. Tel: 086-120 3660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

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Busy bar for sale in Bangla Road. Prime location and takes lots of \$\$\$\$. Genuine reason for sale. 2.6 million baht o.n.o. For serious inquiries, please contact Khun Darren. Tel: 084-328 3476. Email: darrenwking1@hotmail.com

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### BANGLA ROAD

Soi Eric. Bar for sale. 130sqm, fully furnished. Contract until June 2013. Rent 47,000 baht per month. Price 6 million baht. Tel: 085-691 1482.

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### ANNA BEAUTY

for sale. In Patong, Sainamyen Rd. Beauty salon and massage shop. Call Khun Anna at 081-958 5083.

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chanote title. 1 shop, 154sqm. House 8 bedrooms, bathrooms, terrace 35sqm. 1 apartment, 56sqm, terrace 56sqm. Good location near Laguna Hotel Cherng Talay. Price 19 million baht. Tel: 081-091 5919.

### YOUR OPPORTUNITY

to have your own restaurant or beer bar in Kamala. Tel: 081-737 4655, 081-367 3100. Email: nez\_cool9@yahoo.com

### TOP LOCATION, KARON BEACH

Restaurant located 50m from the beach. 35+ seats, 2 years remaining on the contract, with renewable rent at 10,000 baht per month. Price: 495,000 baht. Tel: 080-693 8459. Email: fredrik.p.j@gmail.com

### GUESTHOUSE 3.5 YEAR LEASE

at Nanai/Banzan Road junction, next to 7Eleven. 6 rooms, beauty salon at bottom, separate entrance to room. No key money. Price 800,000 baht. Contact Mats. Tel: 081-787 2573. Contact Tag Tel: 085-795 2101.

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### GUESTHOUSE KARON

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

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2003, GPR exhaust, 24,000km, good condition. Price 270,000 baht, with book. Tel: 089-971 5664.

### HARLEY DAVIDSON FATBOY

2000. 1,450cc, black, bike book. Price 660,000 baht. Tel: 081-691 9346. Or email: sumon@ridethailand.com

### HARLEY DAVIDSON ROAD KING

1997. 1,340cc, green, bike book. Price 600,000 baht. Call or email for more information. Tel: 081-691 9346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

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### HONDA DREAM 125CC

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