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Phuket Gazette

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Santa summers in Phuket

IN an exclusive and impromptu Christmas Day interview with the *Gazette*, Santa Claus – spotted arriving at a Phuket beach by long-tail boat on the last of his visits to the island's good boys and girls – said he plans to take time out on the island.

Mr Claus said he was thrown off his sleigh and dumped in the sea when the reindeer were 'disorientated' on the approach to Patong Beach.

Fortunately, a local fisherman plucked Mr Claus and the remaining presents from the water and took him inland so he could finish his deliveries.

"The reindeer were distracted by the bright lights and cacophony of beer-bar music and someone screaming 'tonight, tonight', over and over again," said Khun Santa.

Jolly old Saint Nick didn't seem too worried about losing his sleigh, and was looking forward to sunning himself on the beach before going back to his workshop at the North Pole.

"I need a break, and I've heard there's lots to do here," said Mr Claus.

"I want to try out these jet-ski things and have a pleasant ride in a tuk-tuk," he said.

Mr Claus said he might also

invest in partial ownership of some land and seek part-time employment as an Elvis impersonator [if he can get a work permit].

"I can't keep up with the pace these days. They don't make toys like they used to, and everyone emails me their Christmas lists now," he complained.

"The X Station 6 is coming out next year and we have to test every one of them before delivery. Since *Grand Theft Auto* came out, the elves have been slacking and are now rather aggressive," he said.

Asked which resort he'd be staying at, Mr Claus said he was perfectly happy camping out under the stars on the beach.

However, anyone hoping to see Saint Nick for themselves will have difficulty spotting him.

"I'm going to shave off my beard and put on shorts, a muscle top, sandals and socks to blend in with the other tourists around here," he said.

Asked what presents most Phuketians got this year, Mr Claus mumbled something about a bad Internet connection and not knowing what everyone wanted, so he just gave away discount coupons for tuk-tuk rides because he'd heard they were 'a bit pricey'.

– *Gazette reporters*



Photo by Fraser Morton

Five years on

By Atchaa Khamlo & Fraser Morton



A girl reads the names of tsunami victims at the Wall of Remembrance in Mai Khao.

ON the fifth anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, which swept away 5,395 lives in six Thai provinces, the hardest hit areas in Phuket now bear few physical remnants from the destruction caused by the devastating Boxing Day waves.

In the following years, the number of annual visitors to the

island has fluctuated, but for most in the tourist industry, it's business as usual.

According to the Phuket Office of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, more than a million people visited Phuket in the first six months of this year.

Airport Director Pratueng Sornkham said about 6 million people came through Phuket International Airport between January and November this year.

In November this year, 118,091 tourists were recorded visiting Phuket.

However, hotel occupancy

is about 60% percent less than during the same period last year, said Phuket Tourism Association president Somboon Jirayut.

At 10:10am today, people will observe a minute's silence in Patong, Kamala and Mai Khao. In Patong, a speech written by PM Abhisit Vejjajiva will be read by Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngob.

From 4:30pm, crowds will gather to listen to memorial bands play, hear poem recitals, lay wreaths and light hundreds of candles on Patong Beach.

Continued on page 7

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LA BOUCHERIE RESTAURANT

New buoy on guard PTT expands search for liquid gold off Phuket



The Phuket buoy went almost three years without being vandalized, unlike similar units deployed in Indonesian waters, which were reportedly damaged by fishermen.

THAILAND'S tsunami detection buoy has been successfully replaced. The new unit began transmitting data via satellite at 9:15am on December 17.

National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) staff and technical experts from the US that conducted the mission returned aboard *MV Seafdec* as planned at 8am, December 20.

NDWC Director Viriya Mongkolveerapan said the old unit will be sent to the US for maintenance and analysis.

The 'Dart-II' unit, deployed in December 2006, was given to Thailand by the US government under the stipulation that the NDWC would be responsible for its routine maintenance, including an annual change of battery.

Due to bureaucratic

obstacles, the NDWC did not change the battery.

On September 11, the buoy finally stopped transmitting data.

Rather than perform maintenance at sea, the NDWC decided to buy a second Dart-II buoy from the US and replace the existing unit so that maintenance and repairs on the original unit could be carried out on land.

The NDWC now plans to swap the two units annually.

The center also plans to deploy two more buoys closer to the mainland by the end of next year.

The NDWC is still considering whether to store the original buoy in Phuket or Bangkok once it has been returned from the US, Mr Viriya said.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

PTT Exploration and Production Plc (PTTEP) will continue its search for oil and natural gas reserves off Thailand's Andaman Coast, with the possibility of drilling in 2013, a company project manager told the Phuket Governor on December 17.

PTTEP project manager Bandit Chaisilboon, responsible for three concession areas (A4/48, A5/48 and A6/48) off the Andaman Coast, said PTTEP has divided its exploration program into two phases lasting three years each: February 2007 to February 2010 and February 2010 to February 2013.

The exploration areas, totaling about 70,000 square kilometers, lie 200 kilometers off the coast of Thailand's six Andaman Coast provinces.

Mr Bandit met Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop briefly on December 17 to give him an update on progress made in the first phase of exploration.

Phase one included two-dimensional seismic reflection analysis over cross-sectional areas of 7,200 square kilometers, as well as environmental impact assessment.

Conclusions of the first-phase survey work should be reached by February 2010, he said.

Mr Bandit said analysis of initial seismic work indicates some potential, but that due to the very high costs of drilling, further analysis was needed before any drilling could begin.

Costs could run as high as US\$100 million per bore hole, depending on the depth drilled.

Earlier work by some foreign firms has indicated there is some petroleum in the concession areas, he said.

If PTTEP determines that significant liquid petroleum reserves are present, they will definitely be developed, said Mr Bandit.

-Atchaa Khamlo

Unemployed lifeguards seek salaries

FIFTY former lifeguards gathered at government offices to demand pay they did not receive for their last two months of work.

The lifeguards, currently unemployed because their contracts expired last month, gathered at the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization's (PPAO's) offices last Thursday.

The guards, led by former head lifeguard at Kamala Beach, Tawee Sariya, were met by PPAO Vice President Chawalit Na Nakorn.

None of the 67 lifeguards received their 9,500-baht monthly pay for the last two months of work, the group claimed.

The lifeguards were employed under a five-month contract between the PPAO and LP Laikham Co. The contract expired on November 18, leaving Phuket beaches devoid of any lifeguards.

The PPAO expects to sign up a new company this month.

It also plans to increase the number of lifeguards to 83.

The former lifeguards also claimed they were not properly equipped with swim fins and life



Former lifeguards gather at provincial offices to demand pay they did not receive during the last two months of their duties on Phuket beaches.

jackets, despite the old contract stipulating that LP Laikham provide such equipment.

LP Laikham bought additional equipment in the final month of the contract, but PPAO inspectors never came to take stock of the equipment until the final month, they claimed.

Mr Chawalit acknowledged the problem and said he would review labor laws to see how the guards could be paid as soon as possible.

The 10-million-baht contract was to provide lifeguards and rescue equipment at a total of 22 locations on seven beaches.

The beaches covered were

Nai Harn, Kata Noi, Kata, Karon, Patong, Laem Singh, Kamala, Surin Beach, Bangtao, Nai Thon, Nai Yang and Mai Khao.

The PPAO is preparing a court case against LP Laikham for breach of contract.

On December 18, all 67 lifeguards gave their names and bank account information to the PPAO so pay for their last two months' work can be deposited when the matter is settled.

The Phuket office of the Social Welfare and Labor Ministry is looking in to the case to see if the lifeguards can receive the money allegedly owed.

- Gazette reporters

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Homeless Swedes face deportation for overstay



Despite a run of bad luck and some time behind bars, the Swedish couple plan to return to Phuket one day.

A HOMELESS couple from Sweden face imminent deportation for overstaying their permits to stay.

Lt Col Boonlert Onklang of the Chalong Police identified the couple as Bjorn Lennart Lundqvist, 59, and his female companion Gabriella Rose-Marie Strand, 58.

Officers found the couple lying on the sidewalk in front of the Bangkok Bank branch in Karon at 1pm on December 16.

Asked to produce their passports, only Ms Strand was able to do so. Her passport revealed that her permit to stay expired January 19.

Both Mr Lundqvist and Ms Strand were in rough shape when found by police. Ms Strand's hair was all tangled up and Mr Lundqvist had numerous cuts and abrasions on his arms and legs.

The next day, Chalong Police took the couple to Phuket Court where they were charged with breaking immigration laws.

Mr Lundqvist initially told police his passport was being held at Patong Hospital pending payment of 20,000 baht in treatment charges following a motorbike accident last month.

The couple, who are not

fluent in English, said they had stayed at the Bamboo Village resort in Karon until their money ran out.

Staff at the resort said the couple stayed there for two months, August and September, before renting a small room nearby to save what was left of their money.

"They were always drunk. Sometimes they asked me for money to buy alcohol," the resort owner said.

Ms Strand said they didn't have enough money to extend their visas because their wallets were stolen last month.

The couple had just three baht between them at the time of their arrest, she said. Despite their run of bad luck, the couple hope to return to Phuket one day.

"If we are sent back to Sweden, I will get treatment for my arthritis there, but we will be back because we love it here," she said.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Chantapol Yongbunjerd updated the case on December 21. They will be deported as soon as the Swedish Embassy arranges air tickets for them, he said.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

English tourist killed in catamaran accident

AN Englishman died after the catamaran he was sailing in with two friends capsized off Koh Hei on December 18.

Chalong police identified the deceased as UK national Kevin Corrigan, a retired former employee of AIG Insurance.

One of the survivors, 67-year-old English expat Bill Dobbs, told the *Gazette* that he and Mr Corrigan left Chalong Bay in the catamaran, owned by another man identified only as 'Peter', about 9:30 on December 18.

They had lunch on Koh Hei, but on the return journey, sudden strong winds broke the catamaran's mast and caused the vessel to capsize.

All three men were thrown into the sea. Mr Dobbs and Peter swam to the surface, but Mr Corrigan did not resurface.

The two men used Peter's mobile phone, which had fortunately been kept in a waterproof bag, to phone friends for help.

Within an hour, a speedboat reached the scene and brought the two survivors back to Rawai Pier.

Mr Corrigan's body was later spotted by speedboat operators ferrying Japanese tourists.

However, the speedboat operators did not want to put the body aboard their boat, so instead broadcast the co-ordinates over the local marine band.

Sportfishing boat *Reely-*

Nauti later picked up Mr Corrigan's body and took it to Chalong Pier, arriving about 3pm.

Mr Dobbs, a seven-year resident of Phuket, said Mr Corrigan was single and on a three-month trip around the world, Phuket being his first stop.

Mr Corrigan arrived in Phuket last month and had planned to leave on December 27 and travel to Ho Chi Minh City, where he had a Japanese girlfriend.

From there he planned to visit Australia and Fiji before returning to England.

Mr Corrigan's body is now at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan

Patong's new look motorcycle taxi drivers



Patong Motorbike Taxis Cooperative assembled for the activities at Suwan Kiriwong Temple in Patong, finishing off with a group ride along the streets of Patong.

The helmets were provided by Muang Thai Life Assurance.

Patong Motorbike Taxi Co-op committee member Somchai Niewnan said that the helmets were given to 100 specially

screened riders who were committed to offering safe services at fair prices.

Mr Somchai encouraged people who observe white-helmeted drivers engaging in careless driving to call his mobile phone on 080-520 3210.

Of the 928 members of the cooperative, 537 are licensed, Mr Somchai said.

-Atchaa Khamlo

HOPING to improve safety standards and their public image, scores of blue-vested motorbike taxi drivers took part in a training project and received free safety helmets on December 19.

The initiative is part of a road safety and crime prevention campaign initiated by Kathu Police Superintendent Grissak Songmoonark.

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Phuket news review 2009: The highs

THE 21st century's first decade is almost over, and it's time to look back over a tough year for Phuket. A punishing combination of political unrest at home and economic turmoil abroad caused tourist arrival numbers to drop significantly. Resort revenues fell with them and jobs were lost: it was a bad year for business. But even when Phuket is quiet, there is more than enough happening to keep a newsroom busy. the *Gazette's* Dan Waites looks back at some of the biggest stories of 2009: the highs, the lows... And Simon Burrowes.

TWENTY-six-year-old Norwegian tourist Hans Dalen can surely lay claim to being the island's luckiest person of the year. During a night spent boozing in Patong in January, Dalen and a friend made the acquaintance of three Thai women, two of them 'women of the second ken', or ladyboys. The two young Norwegians invited their new friends back to their hotel for a nightcap. After a few hours, they asked their guests to leave. When they refused, a fight broke out and one of the ladyboys hit Dalen in the face. The three then ran away – but the night's shenanigans didn't end there.

The two young Scandinavians continued their drinking

session until dawn. Standing out in the morning light on the room's eighth-floor balcony, Dalen lost his footing and fell. By sheer luck, the area below was occupied by a ramshackle workers' camp. Dalen's fall was broken by a corrugated zinc roof, which he smashed through before landing with a thud on the ground below.

The Norwegian was rushed to Phuket International Hospital, where he was treated for serious bruises and a lacerated left hand that required stitches, but miraculously, no broken bones.

One man who couldn't be called lucky – at least not where Phuket is concerned – is 44-year-old Briton Simon Burrowes. His muay thai training vacation on Phuket was supposed to last

three weeks. But after a diplomatic muck-up and a few choice swear words, it ended up lasting far longer.

On January 31, shortly before his flight home to London was due to leave Phuket Airport, he handed over his passport at Immigration and waited to be waved through. But there was a problem. In his passport photograph, Burrowes, was not wearing a shirt. The female immigration official suspected the passport was a fake. It wasn't, but when immigration called the British embassy to get it verified, an official there said the passport number didn't exist.

Burrowes knew his passport was real and when his flight left without him, he lost his temper. "Give me back my f***ing passport you f***ing bitch," he said, snatching the passport from the official's hands. He was promptly arrested and ended up spending three weeks in Phuket Provincial Prison in a cramped cell before being released on bail. The charge: rude and aggressive behavior towards an Immigration officer.

The British Embassy eventually confirmed the offending passport was real, but that did little



Briton Simon Burrowes spent three weeks in jail after being accused of possessing a false passport in January.



Aussie Annice Smoel pleaded guilty to theft charges in May. She was later denied entry to the US due to the conviction.

to help to Mr Burrowes' immediate predicament. Peniless, he was forced to remain in Phuket for weeks, relying on handouts from well-wishers to survive. When his trial came up on April 27, he pleaded guilty and was fined 500 baht. By this time he had lost the fare for his flight, his job and his rented apartment in Britain.

After an anonymous Thai benefactor bought Burrowes his ticket home, it seemed the saga was over. Bags packed, on May 15 he returned to Phuket Airport, all set to leave Thailand for good. But it wasn't to be. Mr Burrowes permit to stay had run out, and officials at the airport couldn't figure out how to process him. In a situation all too familiar to the hapless Brit, his 3pm flight jetted off without him. This time he took it in his stride. "It's nothing," a resigned Burrowes told the *Gazette*. He was taken to Immigration headquarters in Phuket City, where he spent another night in a cell. The luckless tourist finally jetted back to the UK on May 16. He said he had no plans to return to Thailand.

Given the stresses that often accompany air travel, it was hard not to feel sorry for Simon

Burrowes. It was more difficult to feel sorry for Melbourne mother Annice Smoel: the Barmat Bandit. Smoel, 36, shot to fame in Australia after her arrest by Kathu Police on theft charges in May. Her husband called a talk radio station with a horror story: his wife was in a Thai jail facing a five-year sentence for stealing a bar mat from the Aussie Bar in Patong. Smoel was innocent, he said, claiming friends had put the object in her bag as a joke. The story spread like wildfire through a sympathetic Australian media. There was an outcry: a harmless prank was about to land a loving Aussie wife and mother of three to five years in a Thai prison. Something had to be done.

When the facts of the case emerged, sympathy for Smoel evaporated. She had been celebrating her mother's birthday with friends in the Aussie Bar. Witnesses came forward to say they'd watched Smoel fold the 'Aussie Bar' branded mat into her bag. Not, as many imagined, a beer coaster, the object turned out to be a heavy rubber bar towel 1.5 meters long. If someone put it in your handbag, you'd notice. When Smoel was stopped by a plainclothed policeman as she

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and the lows

tried to leave the bar, she ran away. She was chased down the beach, and when she was finally caught she verbally abused several officers in Kathu Police Station, from the arresting officers to the superintendent.

Regardless of her culpability, local authorities were eager to make the story go away – and fast. Her case was expedited and within days of her release on bail, she had a court appearance. She pleaded guilty, receiving a 1,000 baht fine. Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop not only paid the fine himself, but apologized to Smoel for the treatment she had received. Returning home, she sold the story of her Phuket ordeal to a magazine, pocketing 20,000 Australian dollars.

Still, the story had a sting in the tail for the Barmat Bandit. Mrs Smoel reportedly planned to use the magazine money to take her three daughters to Disneyland. But the US authorities refused her a visa – owing to her

keep roads open greatly compromised by the fact that they were the target of the protest.

One protest that didn't directly involve police happened in February, when staff of Phuket's largest private employer, Laguna Phuket, used the resort's own tour buses to blockade entrances to the complex, preventing tourists and residents from getting in and out.

The protesters were angry at having their bonuses slashed from four weeks' pay to two. 'The award of a two-week bonus by the company reflected the downturn in the tourism industry in Phuket and the rest of Thailand in the second half of 2008,' the company explained. That didn't go down well with Laguna Phuket union leaders, who claimed the company had performed well enough to pay bonuses in full.

Branding the protest an 'illegal assembly', Laguna refused to budge. In a message circulated to staff, Laguna Resorts and Hotels chief KP Ho said the protesters had failed to follow grievance procedures prescribed under Thai law before walking out of their jobs.

"We cannot compromise with the few unreasonable union members who are holding our entire resort to ransom. It is not a matter of money but of principle," he wrote. The protest disbanded after three days, its demands unmet.

Another protest that took place on April 22 in Bang Tao was notable more for the crime that caused it than the demonstration itself.

At around noon that day, 12-year-old Amornthep 'Gaga' Panya-sirikul was playing video games in the Dr Com Electronic Center in Bang Tao. The owner, Ekawood Pipatratana, was showing off his new pistol to the boys in the shop. Thinking the chamber was empty, he put the gun to Gaga's head. "I'm going to shoot you," he said. He pulled the trigger: 'Click'. He pulled it again: 'Click'. But when he pulled it a third time, the gun went off, sending a bullet through Gaga's head.

In shock, Ekawood shut up shop, put Gaga in his car and fled. After the boy died, he dumped the body in marshland near the airport. By the afternoon, around 500 angry villagers had blockaded the road in front of Dr Com, demanding police arrest Ekawood and find Gaga's body. They claimed that when one of the boys who witnessed the shooting called the police, the operator hung up on him. They said this was just the latest example of police incompetence, and that they had failed to properly investigate at least five murders in Bang Tao over the preceding months.

Police eventually found the body and the protest disbanded after 24 hours. Mr Ekawood



Hilary Clinton arrived on Phuket for the 42nd Asean Ministerial Meeting in July.



The world's oldest living man, Luang Pu Supha, celebrated his 113th birthday in September. The *Gazette* broke the world exclusive story.

handed himself in the next day.

There were, of course, happier gatherings on the island. Perhaps the most remarkable took place on September 17, when Luang Pu Supha, the abbot of the Chalong temple that bears his name, celebrated his birthday. The revered monk was reputed to have reached the grand old age of 113, which as the *Gazette* exclusively revealed, would make him the oldest man in the world. Luang Pu Supha's followers said they wished representatives of *Guinness World Records* to verify the age and update their list accordingly, but as the year reaches its end there has been no

reported action on that front.

To great relief, Phuket's hosting of the 42nd Asean Ministerial Meeting in July went off without a hitch. Some rather more accessible events were also big hits.

In September, new music festival Roy Fest brought the rough-and-ready atmosphere of a European music festival to Karon Beach.

In November the same stretch of sand played host to the Phuket Thailand Open women's beach volleyball competition, contested by teams from 70 countries. Meanwhile, July's Six Senses Phuket Raceweek and

December's King's Cup Regatta reminded us why Phuket is still a haven for yachters.

And October saw the return of the Vegetarian Festival. The island's annual bout of clean living, spirit possession and self-mutilation remains one of the strangest and most colorful festivals in the world and continues to grow each year, with a record number of Chinese shrines in Phuket taking part.

Most of these events will be back in 2010; so there's already much to look forward to.

And out there somewhere is next year's Simon Burrowes. Let's hope the island's gentle on him.



Seven died when the scuba diving vessel *MV Dive Asia I* sank in March.

theft conviction.

These stories were more or less open and shut cases. But there were others which are yet to receive proper closure. One is the sinking of the *MV Dive Asia I* boat in March, with the loss of seven lives. Was the boat really hit by a water spout, as at least one witness suggested? Could the tragedy have been avoided? With no independent inquiry having been undertaken, such questions still linger.

The year 2009 also saw the continued destruction of Phuket's natural environment. Shocking statistics from the Office of Natural Resources and the Environment in October showed that the rate of illegal encroachment on the island's forests and mangroves had quadrupled over the past six years. In 2004, 66 rai of forest were destroyed in 15 recorded cases of land encroachment. In 2009 there had already been 62 cases by October, with the destruction of 239 rai of forest.

While there were thankfully no political protests on the island in 2009, street blockades are still the weapon of choice for local communities to vent their anger over injustices, real or perceived. On several occasions the people in charge of ensuring public order, the police, found their ability to

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H1N1 new vaccine tested



AN official demonstrates how to administer nasal spray filled with H1N1 flu vaccine during a press conference last week. Thailand is to begin its first clinical trial of the locally-made vaccine, which will be tested on 24 volunteers. Photo: Prasert Thepsri

Queer News

Bra bandit busted in sting

CHACHOENGSAO: A man caught stealing washing from clothes lines was found by police to have amassed a collection of more than 80 pairs of women's undergarments.

Police arrested the thief after a woman staying in a dormitory in Plaeng Yao District complained that her undergarments had been disappearing from her balcony at night. It was not the first such complaint that Plaeng Yao Police had received.

Officers worked with the woman to lay a trap for the knicker nicker. On the evening of December 18, the woman hung out some especially alluring underwear to tempt the thief. Sure enough, after some time a man appeared and climbed up to

the woman's balcony. Police pounced and caught the man red handed.

Police searched the culprit's house. In a clothes basket and wardrobe police found more than 80 pairs of women's undergarments.

The suspect was identified as Surat Leuamkao, 23. Under questioning, Mr Surat confessed to stealing the underwear from clotheslines.

He said he liked to sniff them while pleasuring himself.

Mr Surat's desire for dirty underwear has netted him a charge of night-time theft, which carries a stiffer penalty than theft carried out in daytime.

-Source: Kom Chad Luek

Daughter confesses to patricide plot

NAKHON RATCHASIMA: A teenage girl has been arrested for the murder of her father, a prominent hornbill researcher who was shot dead at the beginning of December.

Phiranya Leksak, 19, confessed to plotting with her boyfriend to kill her father, 63-year-old Samlee Leksak, after he made her marry a man more than twice her age, police said.

Mr Samlee was shot dead on a road near Khao Yai National Park in the early hours of December 1. Police found Miss Phiranya, who was with him at the time of the killing, crying near his body.

Police said they became suspicious of Miss Phiranya as the statement she gave to police was muddled and contradictory.

Miss Phiranya said she believed her father had been killed due to his conservation work in Khao Yai. However, police found

no evidence of any disputes involving Mr Samlee.

After their investigations revealed a history of disputes within Mr Samlee's family, police on December 16 took Miss Phiranya back in for questioning.

She then confessed to plotting with her boyfriend, 23-year-old Somsak Theungsak, to kill her father, police said.

Police said Miss Phiranya admitted she had tricked her father into driving her to visit her elder sister in Saraburi Province.

When they reached a dark spot in the road where Mr Somsak was waiting, she asked her father to stop the car. Mr Somsak shot Mr Samlee multiple times with an old sub-machine gun before escaping on a motorcycle.

Miss Phiranya said her father was a domestic tyrant. In April, he forced her to marry a wealthy 47-year-old, despite her

being in love with Mr Somsak.

Police said Mr Somsak also confessed the crime, admitting that he had done it because of his love for Miss Phiranya. He said he knew it was wrong, but he wanted Miss Phiranya to be happy.

Mr Somsak said he bought the M3 'grease gun' sub-machine gun used in the killing for 1,500 baht. The refurbished gun was a left over from World War II.

Police said Miss Phiranya will be charged with pre-meditated murder, while Mr Somsak will be charged with pre-meditated murder and possession of a war weapon.

Mr Samlee worked as a researcher in Khao Yai for more than 30 years.

Contrary to his daughter's depiction, colleagues described him as dedicated to his work and loved by all those who knew him.

-Source: Kom Chad Luek

Security officers killed in Narathiwat



OFFICIALS examine a pickup truck destroyed by a powerful home-made bomb that killed three security officers and seriously wounded two other passengers in Narathiwat last week. *The Nation*.

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Five years on from the wave



December 26, 2004: **DISASTER ZONE:** Sawadirak Road in Patong was littered with cars, jet skis, beach chairs and rubble which were swept inland by the tsunami.



December 22, 2009: **LIFE GOES ON:** Five years on from the carnage, pedestrians and motorists go about their day as normal on Sawadirak Road in Patong.

Continued from page 1

Although the fifth anniversary of the tsunami is a time for remembrance, it is also a poignant reminder that five years on, close to 400 bodies remain unidentified at the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification and Repatriation Center (TTVI) in Phang Nga province.

Speaking last year on the eve of the tsunami's fourth anniversary, center director Nitinai Sornsongkram said 388 bodies of tsunami victims remained unidentified.

The center, located at Bang Maruan cemetery in Takuapa district, received 3,696 bodies in February 2005. Of these, 3,308 bodies were identified and claimed by relatives, he said. At the time, Mr Nitinai affirmed that agency workers were still trying to

identify the bodies and return them to their families.

There have been no further identifications reported by the TTVI this year. When the *Gazette* contacted the TTVI, sources were unwilling to comment on their progress.

Sources said Mr Nitinai is expected to attend a mass remembrance service held at Bang Maruan cemetery today, December 26.

For now, it seems there is no end in sight for families seeking closure to their five year search for loved ones.

Thousands were also left injured by the tsunami.

A total of 8,457 people were reported injured in Thailand's six Andaman provinces in the days following the disaster.

One of those injured was Cherng Talay Police Sen Sgt Maj Wisaruch 'Nuad' U-Domjit.

He still feels anxious being close to the Andaman Sea, he said.

After receiving a radio call, reporting a severe drop in the sea-level at Surin Beach, Maj Wisaruch headed to the scene. Arriving on-site, he was shocked to see waves slamming over the beach, crashing through beach huts and flowing out onto the streets. Rushing to help fleeing locals and tourists, Maj Wisaruch's left knee was severely injured when he was hit by floating debris.

"It was a day of chaos, and I hope I never see anything like it again," he said.

Maj Wisaruch was taken to Thalang Hospital to treat his injured leg. He was discharged a few days

later. Although he made a full recovery and is still an active on-duty member of the Cherng Talay Police, he said that on a recent camping trip close to Layan Beach, the sound of the sea brought back memories of the fateful day.

For many others, psychological effects of the tsunami linger on. According to research by the Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences, which studied the mental health of victims in the tsunami-affected areas one month after the tragedy, 1,054 of the 3,133 survivors surveyed suffered from

post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), while 447 people suffered from depression and 353 from PTSD-related depression.

In a bid to find a treatment for PTSD, the center performed whole genome scans on 3,000 blood specimens from tsunami survivors to study whether there was any link between genes and PTSD. The data was sent to the Riken Centre for Genomic Medicine in Japan for analysis. Prof Nantika Tawich-achart, who leads the team of researchers, said result are expected in the near future.

Tsunami Remembrance Services - December 26

Loma Park, Patong, morning

9:30am Participants gather.
9:45am Phuket Governor presides over opening ceremony.
9:50am Speech by Patong Mayor.
10am Phuket Governor reads letter from PM of Thailand.
10:10am Minutes' silence.
10:15am Buddhist, Muslim and Christian prayer services begin.
11am Making merit for monks at Laempet temple, Patong.

Loma Park, Patong, evening

4:30pm Participants gather.
5pm Memorial bands play.
6:10pm Officials arrive.
6:15pm Address from the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization Chief.
6:25pm Massed voices of 100 choir members.
6:35pm Poem recital.
6:55pm Wreath laying.
7pm Candle-lighting ceremony on the beach.

Tsunami Memorial Park, Kamala

7am - 8:30am Making merit for five monks.
9am - 10am Christian prayer services.
10:10 - 10:50am Minutes' Silence, followed by wreath laying.
Wall of Remembrance, Mai Khao
8:30am Speech by the Mayor of Mai Khao and Buddhist, Muslim and Christian prayers.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

It has been labeled the 'cheapest car in Thailand', and it may well be, but that tends to imply that it lacks something in terms of comfort or performance.

It is the Malaysian-built Proton Savvy, and delving into its specifications indicates that it is most definitely the 'real deal'.

With input from Lotus Engineering, which is majority controlled by Proton, the Savvy is a surprisingly agile performer in both speed and handling. The modest power output of 74 bhp (55 kW) actually boasts surprising acceleration, while the top speed is a perfectly acceptable 170 km/h. Torque output is again modest at 105Nm, but because of the Savvy's light weight, it does not harm low-speed performance.

Added to that, the little Proton has what they term an 'automated manual transmission'. Tap the gearlever once

for an easygoing, automated ride. Tap it again and feel the exhilaration of a manual.

Safety is a high priority, too. The Savvy boasts the body strength of a car twice its size, with a galvanized steel body, dual airbags and anti-lock braking (ABS). The brakes are better than you would expect in a sedan at this level: discs on the front and drums at the rear, and the suspension is also reasonably sophisticated.

Proton was established in 1983 under the ambitious plans of then Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad. At the time, it had a monopoly of the Malaysian automotive market, but it found competition from Peroda, which began operating a decade later in 1993.

Initially, Proton used almost exclusively Mitsubishi technology and its first model, the 1985 Saga, was based on the Mitsubishi Lancer and featured either a 1.3 or 1.5 liter motor. Local parts were then gradually introduced as technologies were transferred and skills were gained. The 100,000th Proton Saga was produced in January 1989. At that



The Savvy is priced at 399,000 baht for the manual transmission model and 439,000 baht for the automated manual transmission model.

time, Britain was Proton's largest export market, taking 77 percent of all exports. Ireland was second and New Zealand third.

In 1996, Proton acquired a 63 percent shareholding of the British sports car maker and engineering company Lotus, which transformed the technology utilized in subsequent Protons. While the Savvy was built in Malaysia, most of its development occurred in the UK.

On a side note, Lotus is entering Formula One in 2010 with the blessing of the Malaysian government and involvement with Air Asia boss Tony Fernandes. Although currently based in Norfolk, England, close to Lotus' own plant, there are plans to build a state-of-the-art motor racing

hub at the Malaysian Sepang circuit in Kuala Lumpur. Designer of the new F1 is respected technical director Mike Gascoyne, who can count Toyota, Renault and Jordan on his CV. Cosworth V8 engines will be used. Fernandes intends to be team principal, while Malaysian ex-Formula One driver and Star Sport commentator Alex Yoong is expected to have some involvement with the fledgling team. Gascoyne is confident the team will prove to be competitive next season and says that the new car is "well advanced".

There is currently a new Proton Saga based on the Savvy platform, and Proton is continuing to develop – obviously with Lotus' help – a new fuel-efficient

hybrid model. The present Prime Minister, Abdullah Badawi, has apparently tested the car, and is keen for Proton to continue researching environmentally friendly automotive technology.

It was recently announced that once again, Mitsubishi will partner Proton on some possible future vehicles, and will also enter joint marketing arrangements in other markets.

The Savvy sells for 399,000 baht for the manual transmission model and 439,000 baht for the automated manual. For more information, go to protonthailand.com.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com


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 - Christmas Day: 25 December 2009, 8:00 p.m.
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Trials with Tinglish

LOST IN Translation

WITH
Wilko

There's many a slip between intent and actual content in Thai hotel industry literature. But mangled English is not only the domain of brochure writers, often struggling in non-native English.

Native English speaking guest comments can often be hilariously confusing, or revealing.

Have a look at these gems, gleaned from months of reading Thai hotel brochures and websites, as well as the unwieldy pens of guests wishing to vent their praise or bile on Internet pages devoted to the Thai hotel experience.

The Best of Hotel and Business Adverts

Bad Company

Situated in the landscape garden surrounded by lushes and bushes, the outdoor swimming pool is the perfect place for unwind and to relax.

At the Shooting Range

Our highly qualified instructors will teach you the basics without being defeated by the report of gunfire.

Bathtub Purple Prose

The rooms also have an attached bathroom and to the glory of those who are in love with bathtubs, there is also an arrangement for the same in the bathrooms.

Yeuch!

Scald squit
Roast squit
Squid salad Thai style
Fried squit with curry

Call the Cops

Nightclub posting:
No-one inside under 20 years
drug-free

Fluctuating Accommodation

There are an average of 112 rooms in this three-star hotel.

Hot Work

Relax after a busy day in our sauna or steamroom.



Blueprint for Romance

This room is designed for couples because the size of a bathtub is enough for two persons and located in the middle of the room.

The Best of Guest Comments

Lunch Low Points

I ordered a "mixed salad" and a "vegetarian pizza". The "mixed salad" has a lot of cut cherry tomatoes and grated carrots and not much else. The "vegetarian pizza" has a lot of cut cherry tomatoes and grated carrots and not much else.

Sexual Discrimination?

The hotel had the balls to charge me 1,000 baht for every different girl I brought back and 1,500 baht for a ladyboy.

Breakfast Blues

Our first breakfast was on a Saturday morning and it was buffet. We arrived a 9am to find nothing left. You informed us we could order, but that was rather hard when you don't have a menu. The same thing happened the next morning.

Welcome to the Tropics

At the breakfast, everything warm was cold and everything cold was warm (except for the coffee).

Flip-Floppers

This was an OK hotel. The disappointment was the truth behind the advertisement stating 'minor construction' nearby. In fact, it was major construction just across the road, with noise from 7.30am till 10.30pm. However with the door from balcony closed and TV on the noise was bearable. We stayed two extra nights as we enjoyed watching the coming and goings on the building sites.

Too Much Information

I had a problem in my bathroom with a leaky cock.

So you enjoyed it, then?

If your idea of a good experience is to be able to choose your meal by viewing each dish under Clingfilm first, whilst all the while being serenaded by a Thai lady of dubious vocal talents belting out '80s power ballads then this is for you.

Stoicism in Action

After arriving in Bangkok at around 3am, I found that my room was unavailable due to it being flooded... After a power cut and a couple of hours waiting I finally got my room.

Cause and Effect?

On the first night my husband found a metal screw and nut in his dinner - we did not have to pay for the food and they were very sorry but it did put us off eating there again. Also the large dining room was empty.

Creative Connections

My first bite of hash brown was met with me gagging it into a serviette. On my second mouthful I ventured into the dwarf sized condom injected with processed meat, apparently known as a sausage at [deleted]. But this tasted exactly the same as the hash brown, I think they just puree up the hash brown and injected it into the sausage condom. The egg I did not even bother with, it was more rubbery than rubber and the yoke was more fried than Ozzy Osbourne's brain.

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Superyachts meet in seasonal style

By Bruce Stanley

The sparkling waters off Surin Beach were dotted last week with some of the largest motor and sailing yachts around Southeast Asia in a recent rendez-vous where Captains and crew met to race, play marine games and dine at the gourmet tables set at the upscale resort, The Chedi.

Asia Superyacht Rendez-vous is becoming a major international sailing event sponsored by Feadship, one of the world's leading builders of luxury yachts.

Organizers Charlie Dwyer, Captain of the *Yanneke Too*, and Gordon Fernandes, MD of Asia Pacific Superyachts, invited owners of the world's most elegant yachts to sail to Phuket for the competition.

"We want to promote Phuket as a hub for superyachts in Southeast Asia. Currently, many of the world's largest private vessels spend the winter months tied up to a dock in the cold and rainy Mediterranean when they could be enjoying sailing in the beautiful surroundings of Phang Nga Bay," commented Gordon.

Yachts that joined in the festivities had to be at least 30 meters in length.

Thirteen yachts responded to the invitation, a mixture of motor and sailing yachts, including the *S/Y Silolona*, a wooden yacht built in Indonesia by an American woman with a local crew, who performed traditional music in native costumes for a gathering of participants.

The Asia Superyacht Rendez-vous 2009 began with an el-



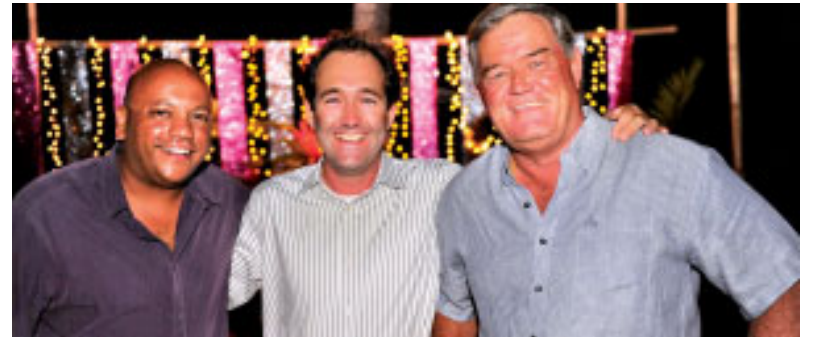
The five sailing superyachts raced off Surin Beach as part of the 'informal' gathering of yachties. Photos: Sakhorn Saengthangsamarnsin

egant cocktail party at The Chedi and was following by the Feadship Challenge where selected crews from each yacht were given a small bag of materials, including string and canvas, to fashion a small sailing boat.

Then the completed model boats were placed in a narrow gutter of water and "blown" down the course. Eleven teams competed but the *M/Y Vie Sans Soucis* proved to have the winning boat.

Andy Dowden drew the course for the next day's race and Simon James, who co-ordinates almost every regatta in Thailand, was in charge of the competition.

Five sailing yachts competed against the winds, the currents and each other to sail the triangular course in front of Surin Beach. After three hours of competitive sailing, *S/Y Thalia* passed



(from left) Gordon Fernandes, GM Asia Pacific Superyachts; Francois VanWell, President Feadship America; Charlie Dwyer, Captain *Yanneke Too*.

first over the finish line.

That same evening, participants enjoyed Chedi hospitality at a beach dinner and party.

"The rendezvous is an informal event where international

superyachts and their crews can gather for some elegant yet informal fun. We are already in the planning stages for next year's Rendezvous on December 17 and 18, 2010," said Captain Charlie.

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A Magical Night of Illusions

The most memorable New Year Eve's at Millennium Resort Patong
Featuring Joe Conrad the illusionist.

In magic, timing is everything. The sleight of hand, the art of deception and the wonder of surprise keeps an audiences attention. And so, Joe Conrad, Asia's premier international Illusionist Magician, will appear with his Magic & Illusion Show, just in time to catch 2009 for the New Year's Eve Party at Millennium Resort Patong Phuket.



Joe Conrad is performing at the Millennium Resort on 31st Dec.

Dubbed 'A Magical Night of Illusions' it will include Joe Conrad Magic and his entire team of dancers and assistants with an extravaganza of international cuisine with live cooking stations and the 6-piece Filipino house band 'Millenium Beat'.

Now you see him now you don't. This is Joe's only show in Phuket for 2009. He was a fixture on the entertainment scene in North America touring in his own right and also with world famous performers including Tom Jones. He has had appearances throughout the USA, including Disneyworld and three venues for the illustrious promoter Robert Earl, the former executive director of Hard Rock Cafe & founder of Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

He has now imported his stagecraft to Thailand with his own unique large-scale mega illusions and has a Bangkok based production company, rehearsal space and a personal zoo for animals used with his shows. The pure magic and illusion, his own western dance troupe and lovely assistants will ensure the Millennium Resort Show will be something special and extremely memorable.

After seeing in the New Year, guests will be welcomed to **Sound Club**, Phuket's most sophisticated nightclub, with a glass of Moet & Chandon and dance into the early hours of the 2010 New Year. Joe Conrad's specialty illusions will leave the audience mystified, wondering and wanting more.

Joe Conrad Magic is performing at the Millenium Resort Patong Beach, Phuket, 31st December 2009. Bookings from the hotel 076-601-999 or www.millenniumpatong.com

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The bountiful boatsman

How a global businessman found a new home and passion in the wake of the 2004 tsunami

By Thanasorn Chookate

Now five years on from the 2004 Tsunami, the anniversary has become a day for many mixed emotions.

For people like Phil Auger, the anniversary is also a reminder of new beginnings; a reminder that tragedy has an unrelenting habit of bringing out the best in people. It marks the day that first brought him to Phuket, a place he now calls home, and introduced him to his love for boating.

Originally from the UK, Phil has made his way around the world as an entrepreneurial businessman, finding that a world shrinking under the hand of globalization meant opportunity was never far out of reach. Phil is the type of person who is always willing to explore these opportunities, regardless of how unfamiliar he is with the field.

In the late 1990's, France was proving to be a profitable place for Phil's business ventures. He managed to become the head of a successful ski tourism company while simultaneously establishing a successful T-shirt company, called *Les T-Shirts* (pronounced like the girl's name Laeticia).

In 1999, he came to Bangkok, where he established a

factory to meet a growing demand for *Les T-Shirts*, and started making frequent trips between France and his new Thai factory.

Five years into this venture, on December 26th, 2004, disaster struck the South of Thailand.

Like so many people throughout the world, Phil's first reaction was to try to help. With an established business running in Thailand, and connections to a successful Western business, he again found the potential in his circumstances. Using the same entrepreneurial creativity that made him a successful businessman, he set out to find a way to help those in need.

Within a matter of days, Phil had organized a charity event at his home in France. Calling on family, friends, co-workers, and anyone willing to help, the event raised enough money to make an impact.

In January 2005, just a few weeks after the tsunami, Phil came to Thailand with the money from his fundraiser, looking for a unique way to help the local community. Having seen firsthand the devastation in Khao Lak, Phil found his niche. The area had suffered immense losses to its fishing boats, crippling the fishing

market that the community depended on to survive.

Phil decided to use the money from his charity to help Khao Lak rebuild their boats.

In seeking out a place to build the new vessels, Phil met Scott Carter, who was running a local boatyard. The details of building the new boats were worked out, and everything fell into place. Khao Lak would get back some of its livelihood.

Phil, however, did not simply sign over a philanthropic check, and call it a day. He became hands-on with the boat building project.

"When we started building the first boat, I went to the boatyard and talked with the local residents. I got to meet the fishermen and the boat builders," he said.

Phil ended up staying at the boatyard for three months. While working with Carter, it turned out that he had a hidden love for boating, and he started to help with the building.

Never short on seeking new challenges, a fresh idea then came to him - he decided to make his own boat.

After successfully completing the fishing boats for the Khao Lak fishermen, Phil hired the boatyard staff to help him with his own.

"At first, I had no idea I would be able to build a boat. It seemed almost impossible, but when you're there you see the builders cutting the wood and piecing it all together and finishing within 10 days."

But Phil has always thought big, and so were his boat plans.

Now a four-year project in the making, Phil and his team of



Phil Auger aboard one of the fishing boats he helped the people of Khao Lak rebuild after the 2004 Tsunami.

four local carpenters and builders are piecing together a 46-foot Ketch sailing boat, complete with two cabins, two masts, and keel.

Since the tsunami, Phil spends six months in France, where he continues his successful ski-touring and T-shirt companies, and then spends six months in Phuket, working on his boat.

"I chose Phuket because it's beautiful, and has everything. I can get any material I need for the boat, and quality staff to help make the boat. Phuket's got good weather, shopping, and culture."

Phil and his team are building his boat at Baan Kuku, near Rajapath University, where he has fully immersed himself in the local Thai culture. He is perfecting his Thai so that he can communicate with his carpenter, who doesn't speak English.

Though he has taken a few breaks, construction on the

Ketch, named *Laeticia*, after the T-shirt company, is coming along. The hull and pilot house are built, the cockpit is done, and the team expects to be finished with the woodwork within the next few weeks.

Phil and his team hope *Laeticia* will be ready for launch in about a year from now, fully equipped with all the top-notch accessories.

As for plans once the boat is finished, Phil tends to take things one step at a time.

"I don't really have plans for sailing yet. Phuket will be my base and I will sail the Indian Ocean to start with. When I get some confidence with the boat, I will try some heavier winds."

There is one exceptional goal, however, that remains in the back of his mind: "When the weather is good, I will sail around the world."

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EXPAT GALLERY

Lies ('Lisa') Sol

Well known as the charming PR Manager at Mom Tri's Boathouse, Lies (aka 'Lisa') Sol has organized many of that resort's premier art gallery openings and literary evenings.

She is also an important member of the island's diving and regatta community, whose credits, among others, include having worked very actively on the organizing committees of both the renowned King's Cup and Phang Nga Bay regattas.

Lies first came to Phuket 20 years ago when she heard that the coral reefs around the Andaman region were among the most beautiful in the world. After getting her PADI certification, she went on to work on some of the premier dive boat and yachts in Southeast Asia.

"I love the feeling of being in the water. It is such a peaceful and beautiful world to explore."

Her underwater adventures have taken her to Papua New Guinea where she joined a "muck" diving team, a specialized expedition that searches in shallow coastal waters for such incredibly rare sea creatures as pygmy sea horses and the flamboyant cuttlefish.

She also worked as a dive guide on the Pelagian, a 100 foot power yacht, taking some of the biggest names in the dive indus-

try on underwater adventures around Bali, Melanesia and Micronesia.

Lies was born in Amsterdam and graduated with a degree in textile engineering, having learned the computer technology to direct laser cutters and to make patterns using a variety of textiles. A third year apprenticeship course sent her to the Philippines and Taiwan to study and she became enamored of Asia.

She enrolled in an economics course and began importing Thai silk for Dutch fashion designers through her company *Simply Silk*.

In 1986, she went to live in Tokyo. She found a traditional wooden house with shoji screens and doors and met many local women at the neighborhood *ofuro*, a public bath for those who did not have a bath at home. She hitch hiked around Japan and was invited into many homes.

"I really enjoyed living in a refined culture. I taught English to support myself but spent most of my time learning Japanese arts such as *ikebana* (flower arranging), and how to write the local script.

I was fortunate to meet a woman who had been a lady-in-waiting in the Imperial court, and under her direction I studied *shamisen* (a Japanese stringed

instrument) and learned to sing traditional songs (*kota*)."

Lies became so proficient in the performing arts that she was invited to join a group in Nagoya where she was the sole foreign performer.

"We gave authentic traditional performances that celebrated the four seasons. When I had free time, I went to sumo wrestling matches or explored the sashimi markets as I love Japanese foods."

By 1989, Lies was ready for a change and packed a small bag with a few shorts, t-shirts and bathing suits and flew to Thailand to begin a new life.

She worked on luxury yachts and as a dive instructor for the next fifteen years, in addition to organizing yachting events.

Her assignments have included working on the *Amanputri*, a 100 foot Benetti power boat, one of the first luxury charter yachts on Phuket; joining one of the first dive teams to the Andaman Islands; diving around the Solomon Islands on a 60 foot ferro cement ketch; and spending three years on an Indonesian private island aboard a 70 foot powerboat.

In between, she spent three years teaching diving off Phi Phi Island and operated her own underwater shop, the Dive Café at Kata Beach.

Now happily employed at Mom Tri's Boathouse, Lies spends her leisure swimming at Nai Harn Beach and working with her yoga practice.

— 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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AN Au STUDENT: Satree Phuket School student Peerasak Sae-eung back in Phuket with the gold medal he won in the Junior Science Olympiad, held in the Republic of Azerbaijan, December 2 - 11. Peerasak scored 88.41 out of a possible 100 – competing against 260 students from 50 countries.



BIRTHDAY SPLASH: Kids under the care of the Phuket Has Been God To Us Foundation were treated to a fun day out at Absolute Patong Ville Resort and Spa on December 16. The 'Time for Sharing - Birthday Celebration' was organized by Absolute's Vice President of Sales Svetlana Kostromitina and the Phuket Absolute team.



LITTLE ANGELS: Darasamuth Phuket School students sing Christmas carols during an end-of-year concert put on for parents last week. The young choir members also performed at a number of Phuket resorts on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



CHRISTMAS CHARITY: The second SKAL International Phuket & South Thailand Christmas Gala Dinner was held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa on November 28. Profits from the fundraiser will be donated to the SKAL Children's Fund, which funds the educational costs for tsunami-affected and underprivileged children in Phuket and Phang Nga. Pictured are (from left): Skal International Phuket & South Thailand President Blandine Cressard; Hilton Phuket's Marketing Communications Manager Nampetch Tipaxsorn; and Revenue Manager Airika Sirak.



A GOLF CAUSE: Winners of the coveted Green and Blue Sarongs at the recent Layan Masters Golf Tournament held at Laguna Phuket Golf Course. Annie Peters won the ladies division and Nigel Peters (right) won the men's division, keeping it a family affair. They are together with team members Richard Neil (center) and Mark Plunket (left). Funds raised at the annual event go to the Phuket International Women's Club Scholarship fund.



FIVE + TWO STARS: Trisara resort treated guests to exquisite dinners over three days last month, prepared by French two-Michelin-star Chef Edouard Loubet (2nd from right). Chef Edouard is the owner of La Bastide de Capelongue in France. He is pictured with (from left) Trisara's Executive Chef Cyril Lapeyre; Assistant to Mr Loubet Sebastien Charrier; Resort Manager Marie Fleury; and General Manager Anthony Lark.



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Pruerk-Ampai	75	5,950,000	100,000	2,875,000	2,975,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	9,100,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,550,000

- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
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Bringing Windows 7 home

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

This is the seventh – and final – article in my series on installing Windows 7 the smart way. Windows 7 has been available officially for a little over two months, and it's drawn lots of favorable reviews. In my opinion, Microsoft has a big-time home run on its hands: Windows 7 runs quite well on any PC made in the past few years; and even relatively ancient desktop machines can be upgraded to Win7 worthiness for a few thousand baht. Those of you running pirated versions of Windows should jump at the chance to 'get legal.'

If you followed along and bought Win7 when these columns first appeared, you got the upgrade (in a 3-pack) for 1,400 baht per machine. If you hesitated, it'll now cost more, but it's still a very good deal. That's what this final article is about: how to get Win7 the cheapest way possible, whether you're buying one copy, or outfitting a company that's currently running a hundred illegal copies of Windows. Yes, you can get legal without bringing down the

wrath of the software police, or spending hard time eating *kao daeng* with unsavory characters in the, uh, Bangkok Hilton.

Here is a brief review of the earlier columns in the series. They're all available on the *Phuket Gazette* web site under the 'Computer Stuff' link.

Part 1 explains why you really *do* want Windows 7, and how to get your PC – even your old PC – up to snuff.

Part 2 shows how activation keys determine which version of Win7 you get. Hard to believe, but the DVDs included in every box of Windows 7 – Home Premium, Pro, Ultimate, upgrade, full install – are basically all identical. The only difference is the activation key.

Part 3 covers the various versions of Win7.

Part 4 gives you a few reasons – very few – why you might want Win7 Pro. Almost everybody will want Win7 Home Premium, but companies with Windows Server, running a domain, need Win7 Pro or Enterprise.

Part 5 shows you how to install the 'full' version of Windows 7 from the considerably cheaper upgrade DVDs. There's

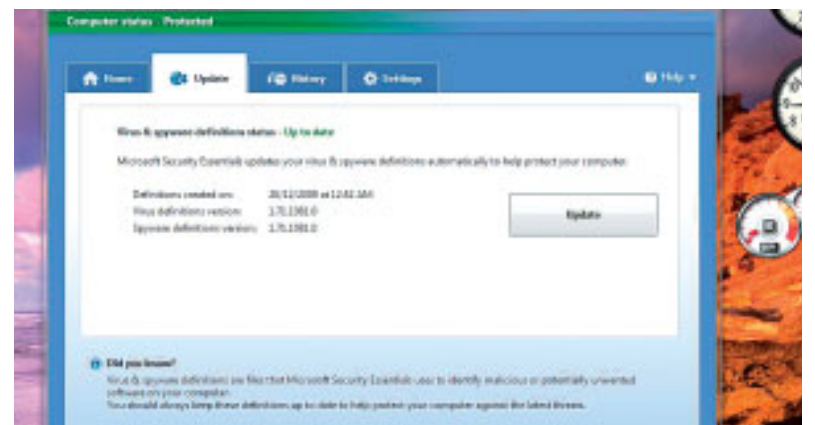
an important, little-known trick that can save you a lot of money.

Part 6 (which should be available online shortly) specifically looks at installing the 'genuine' Windows 7 on top of a pirated copy of Windows XP or Vista, using Windows Easy Transfer to bring over all of your data and most of your settings.

If you haven't yet bought the Windows 7 Home Premium Upgrade package – the one I recommend for almost everyone – I have some very good news. Right now, Banana IT in Jungceylon and the HomePro/Villa Market complex in Chalong offer completely legal Win7 Home Premium Upgrade boxes for 3,950 baht. That's an amazing price, almost as good as the best price you can get in the US or Europe. If Banana IT hasn't run out of stock already, you should consider buying a copy.

Those of you who have businesses running pirated copies of Win7 should anticipate hearing from the Business Software Alliance – the Software Police – sooner or later. We had a big, showy crackdown in November. You can bet your sweet Bing Bippy there will be more.

Microsoft has a special



Getting legal has its advantages. For example, Microsoft Security Essentials, a tremendous free antivirus program, only requires a 'genuine' copy of Windows.

licensing program for groups with five or more PCs. It's just difficult – darn near impossible – to get details in English, here in Thailand. I have good contacts at Microsoft SE Asia headquarters in Singapore, and it took them several weeks to answer even the simplest questions. Microsoft doesn't have an English language web page with details about the volume licensing versions of Windows 7 here in Thailand. Hard to believe, but true.

Microsoft's byzantine corporate licensing program draws universal damnation in the US and Europe, but trying to sort out the details of the Thai program in English will leave your head swimming, guaranteed.

After much wailing and gnashing of teeth, here's what I found for those of you who want to get your organization (with five or more PCs) legal.

Phuket *does* have a Microsoft-authorized "partner" in Phuket, and he knows his stuff: Mr Sathaporn (sathaporna@csloxinfo.com), who runs X-Net Computing, can get you and your company volume licenses for Windows (and Office, if you want it), and you can ask him for help without running afoul of the Software Police.

X-Net, through Ingram Micro Thailand – a huge international distributor – sells OLP ('Open License Program')

versions of Windows 7 Pro for 6,400 baht per seat. OLP is Microsoft's bulk licensing program. You have to buy one license for every PC in your organization, even the ones already running legal copies of Windows. The minimum is five licenses. You get one DVD and one key for the whole group; the key unlocks as many copies of Windows as you have purchased. After you get all of your PCs licensed with OLP, any new PCs you buy must be running "genuine" copies of Windows (any version) in order to be added to your volume license. Adding a new PC costs 6,400 baht.

When you get OLP for all of your group's computers, you can also buy Microsoft's 'Software Assurance.' SA is Microsoft's way of ensuring that you get the latest version of new software as soon as it becomes available. Currently, my best guess for Windows 8 is October, 2011, so plan accordingly. (The next version of Office should be out around June, 2010.)

You don't need a volume license to get legal! Even if your company wants 100 copies of Windows 7, you don't need the OLP version: running 100 PCs with Windows 7 Home Premium is perfectly legal. It's just a pain in the neck, with 100 different activation keys and 100 different sales receipts to look after.

Windows volume licensing is an enormously complex topic. Armies of lawyers have made planeloads of money coming up with nuances beyond the ken of mere mortals. I can't even begin to imagine how hard it would be to pursue an MS license agreement through Thai courts. But if you have a group with more than a dozen or so PCs, OLP is something you should explore. Now. Before you get the knock on the door.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Phuket Maritime Forum – January 7-10



The Human Development Forum Foundation (Hdff), based in Bangkok, Thailand, will hold its inaugural conference on maritime security, the "Phuket Maritime Forum".

The Phuket Maritime Forum is an exciting and pioneering event that looks to combine international experts on maritime security issues with technical experts to introduce new perspectives and advancements in both policy and technology.

The Phuket Maritime Forum is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and takes place from 9:30am - 4pm at Royal Phuket Marina.

For further information contact Mr Christian Scholz. T: 02-617 7020. E: info@hddf.or.th. W: hddf.or.th.

Forum Issues:

- Harbor security
- Archipelago states security
- Security of sea lanes

December 27. Free Computer Clinic – Chalong

Have a computer problem? Frustrated with your Internet connection? Want to know where to buy a computer in Phuket, or get one fixed? Join "For Dummies" author and Windows victim Woody Leonhard at one of his FREE weekly Computer Clinics, held every Sunday morning at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. Even if you don't know a USB from a DVD, drop by and ask away. From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: KhunWoody.com.

December 27. Fourth Annual Local Life Festival

All are invited to wander through Soi Romanee and Talang Road to take in the sights, sounds and smells of Phuket Old Town's Sino-Portuguese-style architecture, street performances and food stalls. From 6 pm - 11:30pm at Talang Road. For more info contact the Old Phuket Foundation. T: 081-719 5493. E: prasitkoy@yahoo.com.

December 28. Turtle Release Event at Aleenta

Aleenta's two turtles, equipped GPS tracking devices funded by Aleenta's turtle charity event, are ready to be released. Join a celebration dinner with drinks for 1,500++ baht per person, of which 200 baht will be donated to the

Aleenta Turtle Fund. From 5:30pm to 1am at Natai Beach at Aleenta Resort & Spa Phang Nga.

For further information contact Andreas. T: 085-489 1301. E: rmphuket@aleenta.com. W: aleenta.com.

December 30. January 1. New Year's Island Hopping Cruise on Jabudays

See the best of Phang Nga, Krabi and Phi Phi in a 2 night/3 day cruise aboard the luxurious motor-sailing yacht 'Jabuticaba'. Discover the magical Phang Nga Bay, James Bond Island, Hong Island, Krabi, Chicken and Poda Island, Phi Phi Island, and more. Prices: Adults: 19,700 baht. Children: 10,000 baht. Group discounts are available. From 10am to 6:30pm at Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi & Phi Phi. For further information contact Vishal Sood. T: 085-666 5504. E: info@jabudays.com. W: jabudays.com.

December 31. New Year's Eve (Day) – Public Holiday

This is a public holiday in Thailand.

December 31. New Year's Eve at the Royal Phawadee Village

Celebrate at the Thai-style resort at Patong Beach with a gala buffet, cabaret show, Thai-style dance performance, games and a spectacular fireworks display. Adults 3,000 baht. Children 1,500 baht. From 7pm to 11:30pm. Contact Claude de Crissey. T: 076-345576, 081-893 6677. E: claudede@crisseyco.com. W: royal-phawadee-village.com.

December 31. Countdown on the Cliff with UK DJ Queens of Noize

Enjoy an array of culinary delights from numerous barbecue and international stations, including free sparkling wine and spirits. Entertainment with lucky draw prizes, fireworks and more. Groups of six or more: THB 5,000++ per person. One person: THB 6,000++. After 10:00pm: THB 1,999++, including a free flow selection of drinks and a dessert buffet. From 8pm - 2:30am at Paresa Resort West Kamala. For further information contact Marcos Pires. T: 076-302000. E: marcos@paresaresorts.com.

December 31. Egyptian Extravaganza at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket

Celebrate New Year's Eve in an ancient Egyptian-styled marquee, complete with mummified ice sculptures and beach front chill-out pyramids. Cocktails, appetizers, hand carved meats, fresh seafood, and mouth-watering desserts served buffet style. Adults 7,999++ baht. Children (5 to 14 years) 4,999++ baht.

For reservations, complete the Egyptian Extravaganza online reservation form at sheratonphuket.com.

From 8pm to 1am at Gekko on the beach.

For more info contact Adam Beasley. T: 076-324101. E: adam.beasley@luxurycollection.com.

W: sheratonphuket.com.

January 1. New Year's Day - Public Holiday

This is a public holiday in Thailand.

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THEME: SO NEAR YET SO FAR

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367/2 Yaowarat Road, Taladyai, Muang Phuket 83000

*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry.

For more information, please contact Khun Jib at 076-236 555 or Email: jib@phuketgazette.net

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2 The overall national winner will win a trip with one parent to Dublin where they will attend the senior international IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards ceremony and take part in a reading with the worldwide winner.

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PUZZLES

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CYCLING

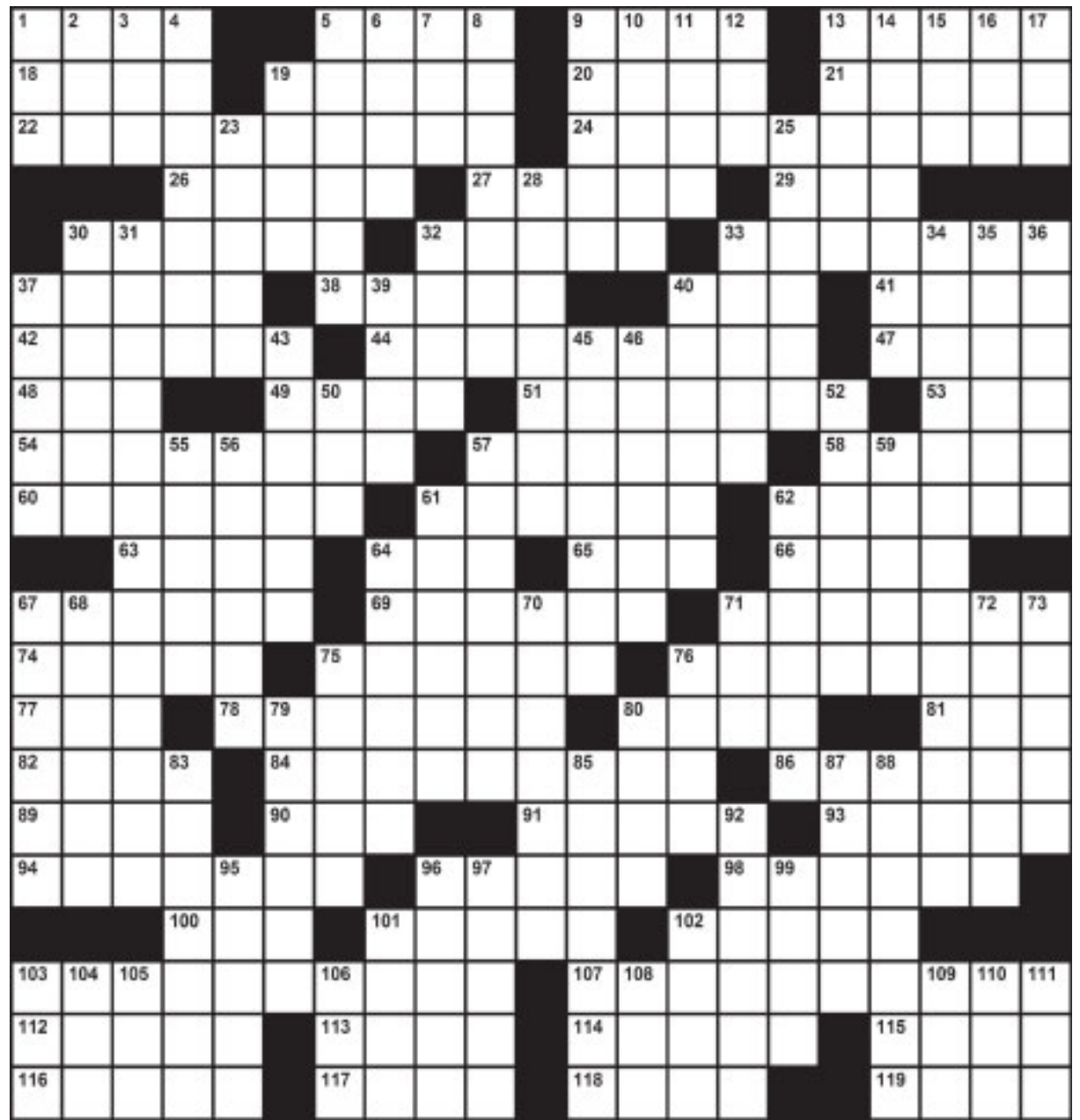
Solution: 6 letters

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

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9/12

Accelerating, Adventure, Curve, Drive, Equipment, Exercise, Flip, Frame, Front, Gear, Guide, Handle, Helmet, Hips, Hobby, Lane, Legs, Maneuver, Metal, Raise, Recreation, Repair, Ride, Rims, Roads, Rugged, Saddle, Safety, Seat, Signal, Spring, Sprockets, Steer, Stop, Street, Tandem, Terrain, Test, Thrill, Tire, Traffic, Transportation, Turn, Upward, Weather



ACROSS

- 1 Luncheonette list
5 In a happy mood
9 Indian nurse
13 Florist's creation
18 "___ Flux" (2005 Charlize Theron movie)
19 Backspace over
20 Color-deficient
21 Something to take on a trip
22 Like a gemologist's drink?
24 Stated clearly
26 Item under consideration
27 "God is our refuge and strength" is part of one
29 Leave the straight and narrow
30 Electronics brand
32 Filled with oneself
33 Parts of an all-white-meat order
37 Parry alternative
38 Andrea ___ (liner that sank in 1956)
40 CAT scan alternative
41 Milky-white gem
42 Mean
44 Guest beds, possibly
47 Morgan's role in "Driving Miss Daisy"
48 It starts tomorrow?
49 Do some sickle-swinging
51 William and Harry, e.g.
53 Genealogy word
54 Restaurant freebie, sometimes
57 Pot's adversary
58 Bar, legally
60 Be closer to the top than
61 Evil intent
62 Tennessee eleven
63 White House figure
64 Space-saving bed
65 Not making eye contact, say
66 "Back ___ hour"
67 Russian pan-cakes

DOWN

- 69 "Whoopie!"
71 Woman of the future?
74 Chain components
75 Certain Pacific Islander
76 Aerosmith's genre
77 You can bank on it
78 Joining without being invited (with "in")
80 There's no place like it
81 Canton in central Switzerland
82 It may have a bullet next to it
84 Four-wheeled carriages
86 Plum variety
89 "And Then There Were ___"
90 Volcano detritus
91 Adjective for some statesmen
93 Busy places during the Christmas season
94 Contest participant
96 A little thing that irritates a lot
98 Vinegar radical
100 Korean War fighting plane
101 Escape the understanding of
102 "A rose by any ___ name ..."
103 Decorative
107 Registered to vote
112 Orange-skinned Muppet
113 It's a homophone of its antonym
114 Advance toward evening
115 Tide type
116 "Judge ___" (1995 Stallone movie)
117 Banned apple reddener
118 Lab worker with a hunch
119 "Beowulf" or "The Iliad," e.g.

DOWN

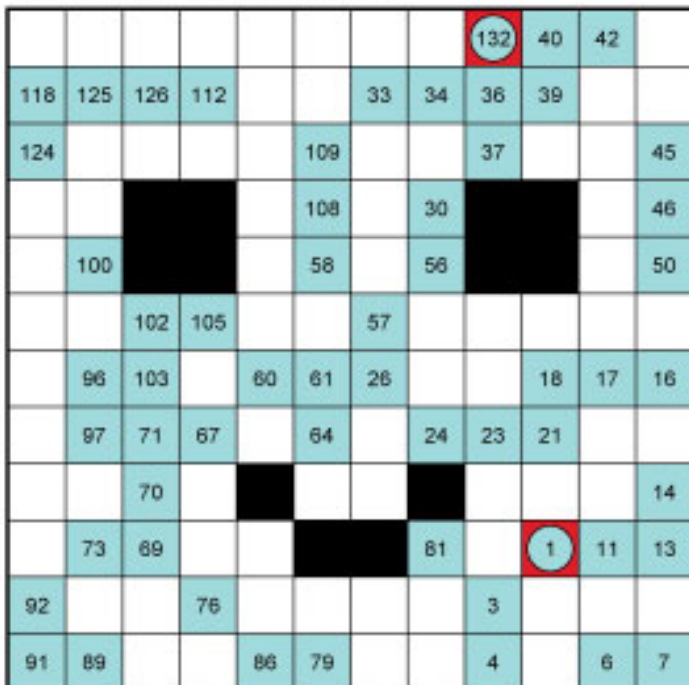
- 1 Red chairman
2 When dark comes o'er the land
3 Word with "waste" and "want"
4 Drive over the edge
5 Punish, in a way
6 Wedding finery
7 "Thought you'd never ___"
8 Loot
9 Vertical, at sea
10 Full of machismo
11 College reunion attendee
12 Barnyard biddy
13 Cathedral topper
14 Ruler in Exodus
15 Become inedible
16 Was a consumer?
17 Tenth Hebrew letter
19 Celtic tongue
23 Ruhr industrial hub
25 Deep red
28 "M*A*S*H" prop
30 Gold rush town of the late 1800s
31 Center in the home?
32 Appear unexpectedly (with "up")
33 Utah canyon
34 Impulsively
35 Assume
36 Lies dormant
37 Print made using stone, briefly
39 Type of hygiene
40 Ex-NFL star Dexter
43 Boring lecturers
45 Cooper or glazier, e.g.
46 Type of woman in an Eagles tune
50 Animal on Michigan's state flag
52 Fished with a net
55 Shirley Temple, for one
56 Bit in a salad bar
57 "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" maiden

- 59 Best's replacement
61 Russian peasant (Var.)
62 Having multiple layers
64 Bedbug
67 Bogart's "Casa-blanca" role
68 Former electronics company
70 Allergy sufferer's bane
71 Friend of 67-Down
72 Dead Sea document
73 Pelts
75 Do a bakery job
76 Women hate it when they run
79 Full moon color, sometimes
80 "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. ___"
83 Daryl Hannah played one in "Splash"
85 Air cells in the lung
87 Arab leader (Var.)
88 Married women
92 On the contrary
95 Prepared for a firing
96 Noted Fifth Avenue hotel
97 Eighteenth-century Swiss mathematician
99 Sixth-century Chinese dynasty
101 Abbr. used by name-droppers?
102 One of the Ringling Brothers
103 U.K. lexicon
104 School basics, initially?
105 Charlotte-to-Winston-Salem dir.
106 Second Amendment org.
108 Unlikely race winner
109 Where cows walk on their supper
110 Production problem
111 Relaxation center

HIDATO®

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 132 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



www.hidato.com

Difficulty ★★★★★

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www.whatzit.com August 17, 2009

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers.
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.**EMOTION****board** **tear**
tier**ri**
poorch**Get your brain in gear with the**
MONSTER QUIZ

- Which country grows the most potatoes?
- What does a drosometer measure?
- Which English King's armour has the biggest codpiece?
- Which country was the first to abolish capital punishment 1826?
- In law, what is a coparcener?
- Which pop group had a hit with *Silence is Golden*?
- Which Greek mathematician has a cylinder enclosed sphere carved on his gravestone?
- What does a psephologist study?
- Where would you find line of Mars – Girdle of Venus?
- British call this bird species 'tits'. What do Americans call them?
- Which country owns the Hen and Chicken islands?
- Who created the TV series 'The man from UNCLE'?
- Which film director described actors as 'cattle'?
- Shirley Bassey sang three Bond themes.
- Which three films?
- Barring rain, in which athletics event would you get wet?
- What colour is the flesh of the Charentais melon?
- Who appeared on the first US postage stamps (both names)?
- Who was the first person elected to US swimming Hall of Fame?
- The guillotine was invented for chopping off what?
- Which country invented bedsprings?

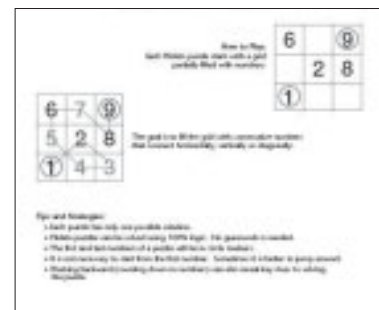
Answers below

Southern Wholesale
ORDER ONLINE!
web: www.swmeat.com • email: info@swmeat.com • Tel: (John) 089 650 3940Beef • Pork • Lamb • Chicken • Sausages • Burgers • Pies & Pasties
Bacon & Gammon • Cooked Meats • Imported Groceries
English Beer/Cider • Tea • Home Prepared Micro-Meals • Xmas Delicacies**Puzzle**
Solutions**Wonderword Solution: Assistance**
Solution to this week's crossword:

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

Monster
Quiz
Answers

- Russia; 2. Dew; 3. Henry VIII; 4. Russia, Tzar Nicholas, Siberia instead; 5. Joint Heir; 6. Tremeloes; 7. Archimedes; 8. Voting, Elections; 9. On a hand (Palm lines in Palmistry); 10. Chickadees; 11. North Island New Zealand; 12. Ian Fleming; 13. Alfred Hitchcock; 14. *Goldfinger*, *Diamonds are Forever*, *Moonraker*; 15. Steeplechase; 16. Orange; 17. Washington, Franklin; 18. Johnny Weismuller; 19. Hands; 20. Greeks.

Hidato: How to play and this week's puzzle solution.**Hidato Puzzle Solution**

1/25

117	116	115	114	113	129	130	131	132	40	42	43
118	125	126	112	128	32	33	34	36	39	41	44
124	119	120	127	111	109	31	35	37	38	47	45
123	121			110	108	29	30			48	46
122	100			107	58	28	56			49	50
99	101	102	105	106	59	57	27	55	53	52	51
98	96	103	104	60	61	26	25	54	18	17	16
95	97	71	67	66	64	62	24	23	21	19	15
94	72	70	68		65	63		22	20	12	14
93	73	69	75	77			81	2	1	11	13
92	90	74	76	78	85	80	82	3	10	9	8
91	89	88	87	86	79	84	83	4	5	6	7

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By S. TSOW

At what point does human life begin? This question is vital to the issue of abortion, because once a fetus is deemed to be alive, killing it constitutes murder.

Right-to-life advocates usually believe that life begins at conception. Pro-choice advocates tend to think that it begins some time afterward.

Thus far, science has been unable to give us a definitive answer.

Until now. In an electrifying development, Dr Zoltan Zherkov, an eminent biologist at Shekyabooti University in the small Central Asian nation of East Wakkistan, has formulated a startling new theory.

Recently, he was in Phuket for a conference on bioethics. I interviewed him at his posh digs in the Luxuriana Sybaritica

Life begins when the porpoise is waxed

Resort, Spa, Yoga Ashram, Holistic Wellness Center, Laundromat, Car Wash, and Somtam Stall:

Tsow: Dr Zherkov, welcome to Phuket.

Zherkov: T'ank you. Nize plaze. Nize chicks.

Tsow: What's this new theory you have on the origin of life?

Zherkov: Vell, biologists haff traditionally believed zat life begins eizzer at conception or some time zereafter. Ze truth is far more horrifying. My researches haff led me to believe zat life begins much earlier.

Tsow: But how can it begin any earlier than conception?

Zherkov: Life begins in ze schperm.

Tsow: Excuse me? In the-?

Zherkov: In ze schperm. Ze semen. Ze white schtuff zat comes out of your liddle villy. You vant I should draw you a picture?

Tsow: Please don't. I think I get the idea. You mean the sperm. But do you mean the sperm is alive even before it unites with the ovum?

Zherkov: Yas. You know

zat old Monty Python song from ze film *Ze Meaning of Life?* (singing) "Effery schperm is sacred, / Effery schperm is good. / Effery schperm is needed / In your neighborhood".

Vell, it's true. Effery schperm is alive, hence sacred. Und ziss presents terrible problems for bioethics.

Tsow: I'm not sure I understand.

Zherkov: Ze right-to-life people object to abortion because zey say it is murder. Vell, what if zey knew zat ze schperm is alive? Zen killing a schperm is murder, too, und efferyone who kills a schperm is a murderer. You know ziss vord, 'meschturbation'?

Tsow: Er, masturbation? Yes, I know that word quite well. It was a favorite activity in my youth.

Zherkov: Vell, t'ink of it, man! It has been said zat 90% of men meschturbate, and ze 10% zat say zey don't are liars.

Effery man has meschturbated t'ousands of times in his life. And viz effery orgasm, t'ousands of schperms are killed, every vun of zem a

living organism!

Ze conclusion: Effery man on zis planet is a mass murderer. You vant to talk about weapons of mass destruction?

Look at ze hands of men. Zey are schtained viz blood. Und schperm, of cuss. Vell, at least until zey vash zem.

Tsow: Wow, that's mind-blowing.

Zherkov: Yas, it is terrible. Men murder t'ousands of lives viz effery orgasm. Und it is intentional! Some men meschturbate effery day!

Tsow: Maybe two or three times a day, if they're up to it. This is only hearsay, of course. I have no personal experience of such shameful excess.

Zherkov: Ze toll of life taken in ziss vay is schtaggering. If justice vere to be served for all zose murdered schperm, effery man on earth would have faced ze gallows millions of times, long ago.

Our guilt as a schpecies is enormous. All ze holocausts und killing fields und atrocities of hischtory cannot begin to compare to ze body count of all zose dead schperms. Millions und bil-

lions – enough to populate an entire universe. If you vere to schtack up all zose dead schperms, zey would form a mountain zat would reach to ze moon.

Tsow: That is truly staggering. What are we to do about it?

Zherkov: Ve muscht make ziss situation clear to all, und establish schperm banks to store all zose unvanted schperms.

Ve can easily manufacture schpecial test tubes designed schpecifically for meschturbation. Ve can mount a "Save Your Schperm" campaign to exhort young men to save zey schperms in test tubes und zen deposit zem in schperm banks before zey perish.

Tsow: This is a wonderful idea. The "right to life" people will surely be pleased.

Zherkov: Und vait till you hear my idea for ovum banks.

S. Tsow can be upbraided for writing such filth at s.tsow@ymail.com, except when he's wondering what would happen if a sperm bank were to merge with an ovum bank.

Horoscopes



Isla Star



Capricorn

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Life's simple pleasures are appreciated by Capricorns this week. As Christmas festivities calm down, your need for peace and quiet can be easily met. There will be little point trying to take care of business until the New Year has got underway, but this is the ideal time to sort out personal administration. Those with a birthday during the week ahead will find that love grows in unusual places in the coming year.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): As the countdown commences, many Aquarians will be spoiled for choice concerning where they will celebrate New Year. The stars suggest that partying with old friends will bring more satisfaction than spending that night alone with a new romantic partner. Those already spoken for should start planning resolutions that include showing more understanding for their partner. Your ongoing financial crisis will be positively affected by the astral conditions this week.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): This week your energy will be directed towards tidying up loose ends. The world of work is predicted to demand your attention, even if you were hoping for a complete break during the holiday period. Single Pisceans will be pleased to find they are on the same wavelength as an earth sign they've been watching with interest. Those already committed learn that their partner has radical resolutions for the coming New Year.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): As the end of the year draws near many Arians will be wondering why they haven't achieved everything they set out to do in 2009. Your mood brightens when an air sign friend gives a late Christmas gift that shows how much they really care. Where money matters are concerned, the stars suggest that your tendency to cut corners could land you in hot water this weekend. Wear the color scarlet to encourage more optimism.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Something that you saw as being a problem should turn into an advantage this week. This will leave Taureans free to absorb new ideas, and there are signs that a business proposition becomes more attractive. Romance is well starred this weekend, but friends may not be so understanding when you cancel an arrangement to go on a hot date. The number seven brings good luck on Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Lost ground can be made up for

this week. Geminis will spot an opportunity to compensate for not paying enough attention to a work project earlier in December. Your patience could be put to the test this weekend when a family member behaves unreasonably. The best solution is spending some time alone with this person to find out what is going on behind the scenes. Wear silver to help keep your cool.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The only downside for Cancerians this week could be that forgotten financial responsibilities return to haunt you. The stars indicate that you may have to make a payment before the end of the year that wasn't budgeted for. However, January should bring fresh possibilities to boost your income. Keep romance sizzling by planning a date that is out of the ordinary this weekend. The number nine can bring good luck on Tuesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos will be feeling like the cat that got the cream after Christmas. Even if you weren't showered with gifts, the astral atmosphere remains benevolent and enjoyment with family and friends over the holiday period will set you up for a positive start to the New Year. Romance with an earth sign blossoms, but courting Capricorn won't lead to a relationship. Wear the color jade green to encourage better luck with money.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans who have had to work during the holiday period

may be suffering from self-pity this week. However, the stars suggest that an influential air sign person is impressed by your work ethics, and an exciting job offer could be in the pipeline. This weekend, you should have chance to enjoy some social life when a sympathetic Scorpio friend invites you out. Wearing a piece of tiger's eye can help increase your luck.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those born under the sign of Libra will be on a roll this week. All areas of your life are well-starred with positive emphasis on financial dealings. Christmas festivities should cost less than you predicted as family and friends seem keen to treat you. A fire sign who you forgot to include on your Christmas gift list will appreciate your gesture early next week. The number four can bring good fortune on Wednesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your luck in most areas increases as the end of the year draws near. A health issue that was causing concern is predicted to be a storm in a teacup, but Scorpios are advised to consider their lifestyle more carefully. Where romance is concerned, Leo is keeping a secret and should be encouraged to tell the truth. Wear the color plum to encourage a more sensible attitude towards money.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): If your mood is flat as a pancake, try doing something completely different this weekend. Sagittarians who haven't felt the Christmas spirit could find that an earth sign friend is in the same boat and would appreciate the chance to get away from it all. Those who are wondering whether Cancer is as romantically interested as they are perk up when they receive an invitation from this person.



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The Phuket Gazette

- Since 1994 -

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Looking ahead to 2010

As 2009 draws to a close, it would be easy to highlight issues which remain thorns in the sides of Phuket's expat population. However, it is encouraging to see that progress has been made in the past year towards the Phuket's continued development as an international destination. Of course, there is still a long way to go, but progress has never been an overnight adventure.

The island's infrastructure is getting some of the attention it requires and there is a growing trend for going green in order to preserve the area's natural beauty.

Perhaps one of the most significant steps towards improving the tourist experience on the island was the implementation of a solution to the jet-ski scams, an issue that received world-wide coverage thanks to TV programs and video websites.

It has been most encouraging to see action taken on a provincial level to iron out the long-standing issue, which in the past left untold numbers of tourists feeling cheated and vowing never to return to the island.

Full-time lifeguards, life-saving equipment and signs in English warning of seasonal rip currents also appeared on Phuket's most popular tourist beaches for the first time.

However, there is a limit to what the authorities can do towards ensuring tourists' safety, when they decide to ignore the red flags and advice of the lifeguards.

In October, this writer watched a European man walk past a red flag on the beach and wade right into a rip current while his concerned girlfriend looked on from the beach. Within seconds, the man was dragged more than 100 meters from the beach by the rip current. He barely made it back to the shore.

The launch of the *Gazette's* online forum, allowing readers to add their comments to news stories, has revealed a great deal about what really matters to the average *Phuket Gazette* reader.

News stories such as the Nanai Road flooding attracted many more readers and comments than updates about the tsunami warning system and new detection buoy.

Many readers demand that the *Gazette* 'do something' about the situations that aggrieve them, either by publishing their comments or taking their grievances to the authorities on their behalf (see letters on this page).

As the region marks the fifth anniversary of the 2004 tsunami, the event is receiving wide coverage in the international media. The *Gazette* has been contacted by several international news agencies such as the BBC, which is reporting on how far the region has come since the disaster. Although anniversary ceremonies and a minute's silence were observed this year, Phuket's resilient citizens are looking forward. Please do have a happy New Year!

- Nick Davies

The Phuket Gazette

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Letters

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

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

Less tuk-tuks please

Everything you wrote about the tuk-tuks [OPINION, *Gazette online*, December 20] is absolutely right. I used to drive to Karon Center almost every day (some 10 years ago) to have a few beers, but the tuk-tuk situation has become so bad that I can't park anywhere.

The tuk-tuks are parked everywhere - yellow or white street markings, it makes no difference. Normally they park in the white parking spaces, and hold the yellow ones open for the returning drivers. If you dare to park on a yellow space, you might be in for trouble, as they have their own private police. There are no ordinary police anywhere in sight, unless you happen to park on the wrong side of the road. We could do with 100 tuk-tuks or less.

**Horst Lakits
Patong**

Re-usable bags

Regarding the project to charge for plastic bags [*Gazette online*, November 18], the authorities have it all backwards.

Surely the goal is to use less plastic bags. This can be achieved by retailers selling durable (non-plastic) bags that the customers can then re-use.

Merely charging a bit more will NOT reduce the amount of plastic. This was a problem in my country (South Africa) 10 years ago, and it was solved by getting the public to re-use their bags.

The current system used by MAKRO is the way to go.

Buy an 11-baht large Makro plastic bag and take it back each time you come and shop.

**Jannie Breitenbach
Phuket**

Shocking letter

I would just like to say that I was shocked when I picked up last week's *Phuket Gazette*.

I was surprised only to see one letter to the editor regarding the terrible tuk-tuk situation!

And that letter was a positive comment from someone who actually likes tuk-tuks, even though the overall opinion was clearly negative.

Why do we bother to write to you guys?

We hope to change the status quo for the better, but it seems that the PG is also worried about the 'powers that be'.

How sad.

**Tom Wilkes
Patong**

Welcome to Phuket ?

As a resident of Phuket it is always a pleasure to return to the island after being away for a brief while.

One of the small redeeming features of Phuket's diabolical taxi service is that one can actually take a metered taxi from the airport to one's home.

However, when I returned from Bangkok this Sunday with a friend, we were abruptly told that we could not share a metered taxi, as we wanted to be dropped off at different addresses in Bang Tao!

"Only one stop for metered taxis," the driver said.

It's such a shame that the first impression of Phuket is this horrendous attitude.

You come to expect it from the touts, but to now have this from the one place where you can actually get a taxi that doesn't rip you off is very disheartening!

**Bryan Shale
Thalang**

British methods best

I agree with Liz Johnson's letter sent to the *Gazette* 'Out of control'. I would suggest the British Traffic Police is employed in Phuket for one month, at which point there would be not one driver on the road.

All of the driving on the inside of the lanes and weaving in and out is crazy.

Driving in flip-flop sandals should be banned.

You see some vehicles being driven in the dark with no lights on.

Vehicles with rotten bodywork should be taken off the road and crushed.

The British driving test should be made mandatory.

**J.T. Cook
Thalang**

Destroyed by greed

Five years on from the tsunami and reading the *Gazette* recently, I get an uneasy feeling that all is not as it should be in Phuket.

Aggressive tuk-tuks, jet-ski gangs, illegal taxis, no lifeguards on beaches, oil exploration off Phuket and a buoy with no battery.

The common thread to all of these woes is greed and while everyone is scrambling for a piece of the pie, the pie itself has become less appetizing.

Perhaps it is time to really think about what Phuket is becoming. We had a chance after the tsunami to rebuild a better place, but now we have lost sight of what we were rebuilding.

In the words of John Lennon: 'So this is Christmas and what have you done?'

**Harry Dupont
Chalong**

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.

Thailand and the world: Do we gain from a high profile?



By Kavi Chongkittavorn

It is customary for the Thai media and public to entertain the notion that we should stay out of troubles at all costs, especially when the circumstances involve neighboring or foreign countries.

The question often asked these days: What is in it for us? They often praised the Thai wisdom of yesteryears coming from a survivalist instinct unmatched by all neighbors in Southeast Asia.

They have argued that Thailand's independence has been maintained since ancient times because our ancestors were smart and were not as pro-active as the present leaders.

Indeed, they were passive – often looking for ways out of trouble through diplomacy and 'Siam speak' (or Thaispeak). It is disturbing that this attitude, strongly prevalent today, often turns into cynicism and arrogance. Apparently, persuasive leaders of all strata, commentators and opinion makers continue to indulge in self-aggrandizement of their country's uniqueness and selfish-thinking, that if we take good care of ourselves, everything will be fine – never mind the outside world.

It was interesting to read several editorials and vernacular columnists in the past two weeks criticizing the government's handling of the arms seizure at Don

Mueang Airport on December 11.

They thought the impounding of illegal cargo was another scheme by the Abhisit government to gain praise from foreign countries, especially the US.

Groundless allegations by the Pheu Thai Party were picked up and used by several columnists. In addition, they emphasized that the US provided the intelligence to the Thai authorities for this successful operation because Washington wanted to make use of Thailand.

A leading columnist even belittled the whole Thai intelligence community for its repeated failures to detect continuing bomb attacks in the troubled southern provinces since 2004.

A recent *Mathichon* editorial was very succinct in urging the Thai government to distance itself from the arms seizure for fear it could be problematic and harm the country's security interests in the near future.

Other columnists fervently believed that North Korea and Kazakhstan, which were involved in the shipment, could come up with retaliatory measures against Thailand for meddling with their arms cargo.

This kind of phobia, or rather ignorance, is still prevalent among media and opinion leaders.

Only one or two commentators mentioned the importance of Thailand's compliance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1874, passed last June, which imposed expanded sanctions against Pyongyang.

Indeed, it has been the current government's intention, as reiterated by Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, to be a good UN member by adhering to relevant UN resolutions. Granted such strong sentiment, some of the commentators went as far as saying it was none of Thailand's business to get involved because the 35-tonne arms load – illegal or not – just passed through Thai terri-

tory. This mindset is not new.

In late 1999, when Thailand decided to dispatch peace-keeping forces to East Timor along with the international forces, the government under Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai immediately came under fire from the opposition and vernacular press. They interpreted the government's goodwill mission as trouble-seeking acts.

Before East Timor, Thailand was also approached by the UN to send peacekeeping forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina. That request was eventually turned down. Recently, Mr Kasit has proposed that Asean should put its peacekeeping resources together and act as a group dealing with the UN, instead of the individual member as is the case today.

In the past, Thailand often turned a blind eye to illegal arms shipments along porous borders from the Burmese or Cambodian sides to conflict zones around the world, because these weapons were not used inside Thailand or meant to harm Thai citizens.

The recent Thai court decision over an alleged Russian arms trader not to be extradited to the US was indicative of such a myopic mentality.

The attitude of the Abhisit government towards emerging multipolarity, or rather the growing global connectivity, is pretty clear: Thailand will remain open and engaging at every turn.

His one-year Asean chair has taught him valuable lessons of summit level networking that inevitably increased his profile as well as those of Thailand and Asean.

Strange as it may seem, his proactive diplomacy has been framed as a one-dimensional attempt to deflate criticism at home by most vernacular opinion leaders.

Furthermore, opposition also faulted him for escaping the



PM Abhisit's government has been at the center of a growing trend that is steering Thailand towards a growing international profile.

domestic conundrum. No one has shown appreciation of his efforts to maintain the country's regional and international profile and capabilities, which have for too long suffered from a dysfunctional political system and endless turmoil in past years.

Since 2006, global public space has been filled with information and views critical of Thailand, which can threaten to obliterate everything Thai as we know it. It is unfortunate the public and opinion leaders have not noticed, let alone comprehended, these converging trends and what they could do to the country as a whole.

PM Abhisit has taken up these challenges at home and abroad, trying to place Thailand into a proper context and redefine its position internationally.

For instance, the government's decision to apply for a seat at the UN Human Rights Council next year and for a non-permanent UN Security Council seat eight years from now are good testimony of such endeavor.

He obviously does not want to see the demise of Thailand under the debris of much-reported divisiveness – colorful as it may seem.

PM Abhisit's firm but polite

handling of Thai-Cambodian conflict is another case in point.

He has been exemplary, well aware that high-pitched and tit-for-tat rhetoric and strategies could easily intensify and further worsen bilateral ties.

But so far he has not yet lost his cool.

Although both sides have yet to calm down, time is actually on PM Abhisit's side. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's growing intransigence will continue at its own peril. His wishful thinking of seeing a regime change in Thailand will not happen.

In retrospect, after the Asian economic crisis in 1997, Thailand also effectively used its liberal foreign policy to win back support and confidence from the international community.

PM Abhisit has taken similar steps, using Thai diplomacy coupled with his personal charm and knowledge, to regain the country's confidence.

During his one-year premiership, he rendered Thai and Asean views with efficiency on the global financial crisis, climate change and a myriad of transnational issues.

The outcome of his efforts will ultimately be felt sooner rather than later.

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

Should I be charged to park my car on Patong roads?

Many times, I have attempted to park along the beach road (Thaweewong Rd) in Patong and been asked to pay 10 baht. I've also been told that I can not park in certain spots that are reserved for motorbike taxis.

This past week, I parked in front of a restaurant on Soi Sansabai. I was told by a very rude man that I would have to pay him 20 baht to park there, even if I was dining at the restaurant. He was not in a uniform, nor was he wearing a name tag to identify himself as a parking attendant; he simply drove up on a motorbike.

This brings me to a couple of questions: 1. Are taxi drivers licensed to charge for parking and/or send you away to park elsewhere? 2. While paying for goods/services along Soi Sansabai, am I required to pay for parking in front of that business?

Thomas Gray
Phuket

Patong Municipality, Tessakit Section, replies:

Thaweewong Road is a government road, so you can park anywhere you want. The fee for motorcycles is 4 baht for the first hour, then 8 baht for the next hour. For cars, the fee is 10 baht for the first hour, and 20 baht for the next hour. Government staff can be identified by their khaki-colored uniforms.

If someone else is asking for money for parking, please notify

our staff in the area, or at Patong Municipality office.

Soi Sansabai is a private road, so the owner can charge you for parking as he/she sees fit.

For more information contact Patong Municipality, 12/3 Ratchapathanusorn Road, Patong, 83120. T: 076-344275, 076-344255. W: patongcity.go.th/index.php.

Why is our trash bill so high?

We have a business in Rawai, and our annual fee for garbage collection is 2,400 baht.

This is quite high compared to Hua Hin, where the fee is 400 baht, and Bangkok's fee of 300 baht. Why do we pay so much more in Rawai? We have no complaints about the service, as they do a great job collecting every night, but it does seem to be a bit high compared to other areas in Thailand.

AJ's Bar and Bistro
Rawai

The Income Provision Department at Rawai Municipality replies:

The annual garbage collection fee depends on what you're using your building for. If you have a house in the Rawai area, you have to pay 40 baht per month or 480 baht per year. If you own a restaurant, however, you have to pay 200 baht per month or 2,400 baht per year. For more information, contact: Rawai Municipality Office, Viset Rd, Moo 6, Rawai, 83130. T: 076-61-3801. Fax: 0-7628-9055. W: rawai.go.th.

Tai Chi Timeout

Part XIII – Taming the tiger within



Step 1



Step 2



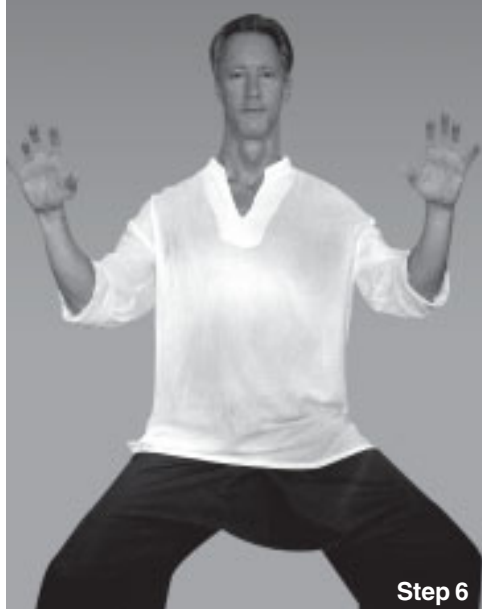
Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7

Sequence

Step 1: Place your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, with your hips tucked gently underneath the spine (back straight).

Relax your shoulders and hold your head up, keeping your neck relaxed.

Place your hands over your *Tan Tien* (solar plexus) and breathe calmly through your nose.

Step 2: Step out to the side with your left foot into a deep 'horse riding' stance.

Bring your hands up to chest level and make your fingers into tiger claws. Calmly inhale and exhale through the nose.

Step 3: Lower yourself 10 percent and hold the posture for a count of eight, while calmly breathing through the nose.

Step 4: Lower yourself by another 10 percent and hold the posture for a count of eight, while continuing to breathe through the nose.

Step 5: Lower yourself a further 10 percent until your thighs are parallel with the floor.

Hold the posture for an eight count, while calmly breathing through the nose.

Step 6: Raise yourself 10 percent. Hold the posture for an eight count, while calmly breathing through the nose.

Step 7: To complete the exercise, slowly bring the hands to the center of the body then back to the *Tan Tien*.

Gather the Chi within.

Welcome to the thirteenth in the series of Tai Chi Timeouts. Each timeout takes you through a single, easy-to-follow *Tai Chi-Chi Gung* exercise.

One of the aims of *Tai Chi* is to develop the intrinsic energy (*Chi*) within the body through slow,

rhythmical breathing exercises known as *Chi Gung*.

The ancient martial art exercises naturally relieve tension from stress as well as aches and pains from stiff limbs.

Perform the exercises regularly or whenever you wish to unwind and loosen up.

Tai Chi-Chi Gung exercises are

particularly beneficial when performed in the early morning, as this is the time when *Chi* is especially light

and clean, relaxing and energizing both the mind and body for a new day.

This particular exercise is known as 'The Tiger'. Step out to the side with your left foot into a deep stance called the horse-riding stance.

Bring your hands up to chest level and make your fingers into tiger claws.

Commence the exercise by slowly lowering your hips until your thighs are level with the floor.

Hold progressively lower levels of the stance for a count of eight, while you calmly inhale and exhale through the nose, thereby engaging the thigh muscles, moving the blood and Chi through

the lower extremities. For the complete exercise, slowly lower and raise yourself for fifteen minutes.

A child's drawings: Messages to grown-ups from the childhood world.

A seminar for teachers, kindergartners, fine art teachers and parents

Dates: Phuket - January 4
Bangkok - January 16
Time: 11am - 4pm
Languages: Russian and English (successive oral translation)

The seminar focuses on what a child's drawings tell you about themselves and how they view their world. You will learn how to interpret these otherwise hidden important messages.

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The Russian Educational and Cultural Centre, "Living Word House", Thailand
It will be chaired and lead by -
Dr. Ph. (Ps) Eugenia Shilova, psychologist, psychotherapist (Certified professional)

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• Learn to understand what your child draws at each stage of their development.
• Get rid of prejudice and stereotypes when observing children drawing.
• Learn to anticipate and prevent possible problems and errors.
• Get tips and guidance on how you CAN and will LOVE to draw with your child.

Prior registration is necessary. Contact at: 0857953200
or via email: seminarLWH@gmail.com

The cost of the seminar is THB 3,600. Those who register before 28 December 2009 will be granted a 15% discount. A group 3 or more persons will be given a 20% discount provided registration takes place before 28 December 2009.



Rick Attix has been practicing Tai Chi for over 25 years with masters from China, Malaysia and the U.S. Rick holds classes three times a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8 am at his Kamala Garden residence. A six-day retreat is held the first week of every month. Contact Rick for more info. T: 081-728-9980. E: serenethai@yahoo.com. W: taichiphuket.com.

Reading the real numbers



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service and has over 25 years experience in this field.
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www.global-portfolios.com

The US economy is technically out of recession, after having recorded growth rates of 2.8%, annualized in the third quarter of 2009.

Almost everywhere there are comments about this being a "jobless" recovery.

However, one can recall the exact same words being said earlier this decade when the US came out of a recession then.

It was not a jobless recovery then and it doesn't appear that this one will be any different.

Already the unemployment rate has fallen from 10.2% to 10.0%.

In reality, it was having better data on jobs than initially expected that pushed the US Dollar higher against all major currencies.

The low interest rates in the US had encouraged investors to borrow funds (in US Dollars) and invest them in higher yielding currencies, such as the Australian Dollar.

That was the short-lived US Dollar "carry trade", which had previously been the Yen carry trade.

The better data on US jobs encouraged investors to abandon the US version, as they feared losses from a rising US unit.

Much of the carry trade activity has returned to Japan, where hopes of an improvement

in the Japanese economy are starting to fade.

Japanese economic data, which initially looked optimistic for third-quarter growth in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), was savagely slashed on an official revision.

Japan, the world's second largest economy, is showing increasing signs of being unable to sustain an economic recovery. Deflation is re-emerging and this has Japan's economic planners seriously worried.

Returning to the US, the *real* unemployment rate – as opposed to official figures – is often quoted at around 17%.

One of the reasons for the difference in the rates is jobless people not registering as being unemployed; they simply believe that there are currently no jobs available.

These people are often married and the other spouse is still earning money, or they have funds and are living on their 'hump', until matters improve.

Jim Paulsen, chief strategist at Wells Capital Management, gave his opinions as guest host on CNBC's televised 'US Squawk Box'. Paulsen became well known as the recession and credit problems developed in the US in 2007. He saw what was coming and took aggressive positions, "shorting" US mortgage securities, which was a very profitable stance for him and his investors.

Now Paulsen has moved firmly into the positive camp, and rightly points out that although US economic growth is still weak, the magnitude of the change from the depths of recession is substantial.

Historically, the public view of the US economy when emerging from recession is always more negative than it really looks.

That's understandable, as conditions on the surface of an economy always take some time to improve.

There is naturally a strong argument that the recovery in the US economy is down to the amount of government money that has been injected. This is a valid point, but the US Treasury and the Central Bank – the US Federal Reserve – are both very aware of the danger of removing

excess liquidity too early. It will also be some time before there are any increases in official interest rates.

Investors in US stock markets have enjoyed excellent returns in 2009, a stark contrast to the huge losses of 2008.

The market is currently in a wait-and-see mode; corporate profits are going to be all important. The days of the market rising regardless appear to be over.

Europe also appears to be recovering.

Germany, the largest economy in the European Union (EU), is providing encouraging data, but some countries are still struggling.

Spain's official figures put unemployment at about 18%. The country's residential property market is in serious disarray.

Greece, with a new government in power, is trying to extricate itself from a very deep hole.

Government debt is approaching 120% of the country's GDP, making her the second most indebted advanced nation, next to Japan. There are serious concerns over the country's future, as it has an economy with little diversification.

The term "default" has been used a lot recently when referring to Greece. Its problems have certainly encouraged the flow of money from the Euro Zone to the US.

Being a member of the Euro Zone, Greece's quandary poses many questions, such as how far will the EU and the European Central Bank (ECB) go to rescue Greece if she needs bailing out?



UNITED STATES, Washington: US President Barack Obama speaks at the closing session of the Jobs and Economic Growth Forum in the South Court Auditorium of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington DC on December 3. Obama warned the US government must act quickly in the fight against crushing unemployment, but cautioned that he had only limited funds to create jobs.
Photo: AFP/Jewel Samad

This is somewhat new territory for the EU, especially as the Euro is only ten years old. The general belief is that if Greece needs help, the EU and the ECB will be forced to come to her aid.

Earlier this month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued a statement to the effect that other countries could develop serious economic problems in 2010. They expect

substantial sovereign volatility.

It is human nature to assume that, as economies start to recover, stock markets will follow suit. Hopefully, this will prove correct, but much of the good news is probably reflected in prices. The safest approach to stock markets is probably to use the Dollar cost-averaging approach, as diversification of asset classes will continue to be the route of least risk.



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Sports score big in '09



This year was full of action in Phuket youth sports. **LEFT:** Rugby action from British International School in March. The Phuket Vagabonds are working tirelessly to introduce rugby to Thai children in Phuket. **ABOVE:** Children from the Youth Football Home and the BIS came together to form the Fair Play League. The league is aiming to expand in 2010 to accept children from schools all over Phuket.

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The year in sport started and ended in true royal fashion in 2009, with the King's Cup Football Tournament taking place in Phuket for the very first time in January, and the 23rd King's Cup Regatta closing out the year in December.

The 39th King's Cup Football Tournament moved to Phuket's Surakul Stadium following the airport closures in Bangkok. The Thai national team, under the leadership of manager Peter Reid, were on the island, as well as Lebanon, North Korea and Denmark.

Thailand's opening fixture against Lebanon was marred by a mass brawl that resulted in the game's suspension after the Lebanese team walked off the field following a series of controversial refereeing decisions.

Thailand went on to win

2-1, but the incident served to highlight the issue of whether Thai referees should be allowed to officiate international matches involving Thailand.

Despite a Thailand loss in the final against Denmark, the tournament demonstrated the level of interest in watching live football in Phuket.

Shortly after, the level of interest inspired a group of local businessmen to enter a Phuket team into the national league.

Phuket FC was formed and entered into Division Two of the Thai National League.

Under the management of Rassada Mayor *Suratin* Liangudom, Phuket FC did not enjoy the most successful of starts, and even after a mid-season overhaul of management and squad, Phuket FC still only avoided finishing bottom of the division on goal difference.

Rugby also found its way into Phuket's spotlight this year.

The rugby 10s, which is becoming one of the biggest annual Phuket sporting events, was this year moved to the Surakul Stadium due to concerns over the state of the pitch at Karon Stadium.

The UK's Kukri Badgers became the first team to retain the title, but with an excess of 500 rugby players making the trip to Phuket for the tournament, the tourism industry was the real winner.

The tournament also featured a 15-a-side match between the British International

School (BIS) and Sai Nam Yen school.

BIS won by a try to nil, but the Sai Nam Yen team is rapidly improving, and Pat Cotter and the Phuket Vagabonds rugby team are working tirelessly to introduce more youngsters to the game with coaching sessions, tours and matches.

This year also saw success for youth football on the island.

The Fair Play League returned for a second season. Originally featuring a mixture of children from BIS and the Youth Football Home, it will be expanded in 2010 to include children from all over the province.

The Youth Football Home has some of the best young players in Thailand at its disposal. Two of the boys trained with the VFB Stuttgart youth team in Germany in September.

In spectacular fashion, the FIVB women's volleyball world tour returned to Karon Beach with Jen Kessy (formerly Jen Boss) and April Ross winning for the second consecutive year.

Wrapping up the year was the 2009 King's Cup Regatta. The 2008 King's Cup was marred by airport closures, but the regatta bounced back in style with a record fleet of over 110 boats competing.



TOP: The FIVB women's volleyball world tour returned to Karon with the American pairing of Kessy and Ross successfully defending their crown in November. **CENTER:** The recently formed Phuket FC celebrate a rare goal at the Surakul. It was a disappointing debut season for the Sea Dragons but expectations are high for 2010. **BOTTOM:** In January, a sold out Surakul Stadium watches Thailand lose to Denmark on penalties in the final of the King's Cup Football Tournament.

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Fifth 'Tour de Karon' attracts over 200 mountain bikers

The 5th Karon Mountain Bike Competition was held on December 20, bringing in some of the toughest of Phuket's local biking enthusiasts, young and old.

Over 220 participants came to take part in the annual event, held by Karon Municipality in coordination with the Association of Karon-Kata Hotel and Resort entrepreneurs, and the Beach Boy Bike Club.

The race was divided into three distance classifications, spanning 10, 15, and 25 kilometers. Each classification was then subdivided into different age groups.

Kirati Sumprasart from Team OPBEA-Navy took the championship in the general age 25km race, taking home a 20,000 baht grand prize.

It was a tough race as the cyclists trekked over the rough terrain of hilly Karon.

In the men's 15km race, Jirawat Saeton from Team Seulak took the first prize with 3,000 baht, while Sawanya



Team Seulak walked away with many of the top spots in the three divisions of Sunday's 5th annual mountain bike competition in Karon.

Kongrak won in the women's category for Team Jak Gai Yaan Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The 10km race was exclusively for the youngsters, divided into two categories for under 10s and under 12s. Narepon Chumchuen from team

Seulak took the first prize and 1,000 baht for the under 10s, while Tanawad Uraikid, also from team Seulak, came in on top for the under 12s.

Warin Petchprapan brought home a win for team Amorn Bike Tasala in the girl's 10km race.

Island Cricket League bats off

The cricket season batted off in the customary grand final replay on December 13, with the Liquid Lounge Lizard's taking on the Kingfisher Island Cricket Club (ICC) at Cherng Thalay School.

The Island Cricket Club won the toss and elected to bat, scoring an impressive 209 all out off 28.4 overs, with Vikram Singh belting a quick 66 runs off 39 balls, and Jaya Pradeep bringing in 25 runs off 17 balls. Peter Ferrier was expensive in the bowling, but managed to take 4 for 45 runs, while Danny Hyams pitched in with 2 for 36.

In response, the Lounge Lizard's couldn't manage to put up much resistance to a superb bowling stint from last year's top bowler and speedster Ismail Bahti, who took 5 wickets for just 13 runs. He was well supported by Paresch Burkner and Jaya Pradeep, who both took 2 wickets for very few runs.

Only captain Danny Hayms (16) and Peter

Ferrier (12) were able to put up any resistance.

The Lizards seemed to wither away from the hot Phuket sun and were all out for the small total of 76 runs to give ICC a comfortable 133 run victory.

With such a dominant performance in the season opener, it seems that the ICC are again strong favourites to win the competition again. With six teams taking part in this season's Island Furniture Cricket League, however, there should be more competition.

The Patong Cricket Club and the Village Cricket Team are already showing good form in pre-season games and look stronger than last year.

The league also welcomes two new teams this year with the arrival of the Laguna Cricket Club and the Phuket Development Cricket Club, coming straight off the heels of their recent success in the under 19s national youth competition.

For more cricket information visit www.phuketcricket.com

Ian Lenton

Phuket Private Lagoon

Phuket Private Lagoon offers luxurious residences in a lagoon setting against a backdrop of a forested mountain. The combination of stunning properties amid natural surroundings provides luxury and privacy, and has already attracted a good mix of Thai and European clients. Phuket, Thailand's largest island, is aptly described as the Pearl of the Andaman Sea. The island is blessed with dramatic scenery with forested mountains, gorgeous beaches and crystal clear seas. Phuket has a rich and lengthy cultural past and tourism continues to develop and flourish with property ownership being a guaranteed investment for the future. The "Phuket Private Lagoon" project is situated near to the Jao Pha Tawantok Road which is the main A4021 road to Phuket Airport, 2km away is the small seaside town of Chalong and the famous Wat Chalong Temple is within walking distance. Good shopping centres and international schools are close by with the best beaches a short drive away.

Location :

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Property writer desperately seeking Mayans



PROPERTY WATCH

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and property consulting firm. His BLOG (thephuketinsider.com) is The Source for all Hotel and Real Estate News in Greater Phuket.

As we near the end of the decade, we find ourselves immersed in the public hysteria of yet another end-of-the-world scenario. This time around, as we close out 2009, we edge closer to the ominous doomsday of 2012.

Of course, as many now know (thanks to Hollywood), 2012 is the end of the Mayan calendar and, according to the infamous killjoy-psycho naysayer Nostradamus, the end of world.

All lineage set aside, the end of days controversy rages on, with all sorts of paranormal and psychic conspiracy theories flowing through pop-culture media, widely maintained by lunatics writing doomsday blogs all over the internet.

My quest to find a Mayan on Phuket who could clarify some of the aforementioned apocalyptic predictions has proven fruitless.

If any readers know of a Mayan here in Phuket, please ask them to contact me, as I do have questions.

While the end-of-the-world hype continues to rage on, let me get to my main thought: the tourism industry.

Despite the world about to turn into a giant fireball and turn us into charred mounds of remains, at least we can go out now starting to understand what it is about the public's fascination with endlessly creative doomsday scenarios: It's all about the options.

Big internet companies, like Amazon and Ebay, found their success in shaping their business models around customer options, so it was only a matter of time before the travel industry followed suit.

Despite the fairly sad state of the global economy, airlines actually make a lot of smart moves in terms of adopting new technology and management practices. Asia has seen a boom of low cost carriers (LCCs) in the past few years, with models such as AirAsia creating virtual highways in the sky, connecting destinations in a spider web of routes across the region. Whereas the US and Europe have immense highway and railway systems, the division by ocean expanses here creates a need to move mass markets by air.

Now a similar model is being presented by the common shareholders of the company TuneHotels.com.

With seven properties under operation in Malaysia and Indonesia, and with rates starting from just a few hundred baht, the chain is looking to add 100 hotels across the region in the next 4 years.

A recent development has

TuneHotels.com partnering in a master franchise deal with Thailand-based Evolution Capital PCL for 44 limited service hotels, spanning a territory of Thailand, China, Philippines, Indonesia, and Bangladesh by 2012.

Many know the name Evolution as one of the principal companies of The Similan, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve luxury hotel under construction in Phang Nga.

It has been reported that the group is now eyeing Patong for its first property, which could include multiple units, and then,

of course, Bangkok.

TuneHotel.com's tag lines include, '5 Star beds at a 1 star price, power showers, great locations, clean and secure'. All that is offered in their 12sqm rooms, though at this time the existing properties don't have TVs.

They are following the same idea of customer options, relying heavily on online booking that lets customers choose from extras such as air-conditioning, breakfast packs, WiFi, towels/toiletries and hair dryers.

Rates move in a way similar to the way the low cost carriers do, depending on how far in advance you book, promotional offers, and prepayment.

In Asia, the 'limited service' sector is mainly served by two global brands: InterContinental Group's Holiday Inn Express (HIE) and French Chain ACCO's IBIS. In layman's terms, 'limited service' refers to properties that don't have a restaurant (though both brands offer a lounge with breakfast). A

key difference is that these two international brands typically have rooms in the range of 20-22sqm and do have TVs. IBIS already has properties located here in Patong and more recently in Kata.

Worldwide, both HIE and IBIS are two of the fastest growing hotel units on the planet, and this looks to continue unabated.

TuneHotel.com, however, is arriving on the scene and hoping to take 'limited service' down a notch.

As we have seen with AirAsia, models work on scale, customer loyalty and the golden mantra of cheap. If you look into the business of buying 'key words' on the internet today, some of the highest prices are garnered by the words; *discount, free, cheap, low price and budget*.

I recently attended a hotel conference in Singapore titled, 'Budget and Economy Hotels in Asia'. Perhaps the most apparent flaw was the institutional way that hotel chains try to compartmentalize in a consumer unfriendly way. I cannot imagine many people doing web searches for 'limited service'.

Despite the phrase 'low cost carrier', when most people fly, it comes down to budget. Cheap sells, but I am not sure many hotel brands want to say that they are the 'cheap' leaders in their target markets.


While the first thing people used to do was check into a hotel and turn on the tube, today it's all about finding plugs and getting connected. 12 square meters and no TV may have once sounded too cheap to market, but the age of the internet is also the age of luxury guilt. It is all about having what you need, and not paying for what you do not.

As for the end of the world, Y2K is still a fading memory, but I might still try Google to find my Mayan.




The Mayan calendar ends in 2012. Then what?





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Seeking the rights of usufruct

The property term 'usufruct' is far more than a slang word for a friend in trouble

A usufruct, pronounced 'yoo so frukt', is a property right similar to a lease.

They are provided by the Thai Civil and Commercial Code (CCC), whereby the owner of an immovable property provides the person leasing (usufructuary) with rights of possession, use, enjoyment and management of that property.

In layman's terms, this means a person is given the right to use property that belongs to someone else for mangement, profit or other benefits.

However, the right of usufruct is rarely used, and often overlooked when it comes to securing one's interest in immovable property.

Usually, lease rights are registered by the property, providing use and possession rights for the beneficiary until the lease is terminated or expired.

A usufruct may last for a period of 30 years, or for the lifetime of the usufructuary.

If a usufruct agreement has no time specification, it shall be deemed as valid for lifetime of the usufructuary.

In case the usufructuary is more than one person or a



Those who enter into a usufruct agreement are still 'leasing' from an owner, but retain virtually all property rights, including management. Photo: AFP/Saeed Khan

corporate body, the 30-year term applies.

Upon its expiration, the property must be returned to the owner, unless the property owner and usufructuary agree to renew.

However, the right of usufruct does not cease to exist in the event of the property owner's death.

The right of usufruct must be registered for a specific property at the competent land

department, and is subject to a registration fee.

As it is a recorded property right, the right of usufruct can be legally defended and enforced, including cases involving a third party.

It is important to understand that usufruct is a personal right of its beneficiary, and therefore is not transferable or inheritable to a third party.

However, the exercise of

the right itself can be transferred.

It may further be interesting to note that a usufructuary is basically entitled by law to lease out the property, as he/she is a holder of management rights to the property.

However, it is vital to seek professional advice in order to understand the implications that may apply to each specific case, particularly in regard to enforceability of lease rights in the

event of the usufructuary's death.

It needs to be mentioned that the CCC does not require any payment or consideration reciprocated for registration of a usufruct. However, authorities might be reluctant to register a usufruct without an inspection of the property, first.

These inspections are usually done to verify the usufruct is not used to circumvent applicable laws.

In summary, usufruct can be an interesting alternative, particularly to a recorded lease right, in case a property owner wishes to provide a right of use, possession and management to another party.

A professional adviser should always be consulted before entering into such an arrangement in order to determine whether or not a property is suitable for its stated purpose.

This article is written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd. For enquiries, contact Michael Greth, Consultant, by email (michael@ilo-phuket.com) or phone (+66- (0) 76-222 191-5).

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PROPERTY

Christmas, home and away



Christmas in the tropics always strikes me as a bit odd since I spent my childhood enjoying a frosty festive season: moonlit nights spent knocking on front doors and singing carols, the ritual of decking the tree and putting up the decorations on Christmas Eve – to do so before would bring bad luck – and tucking into roast turkey, plum pudding and mince pies after the excitement of Santa Claus' visit, and stockings loaded with goodies at the foot of the bed.

But what makes Yuletide here even stranger to farangs such as myself, is the absence of those familiar plants associated with a northern Christmas: holly, mistletoe, ivy, and of course of Christmas trees.

We even have carols about these harbingers of a happy season: in *The Holly and the Ivy*, the holly 'bears the crown'; we are exhorted to 'deck the halls with boughs of holly' in another carol; while a hoary old pop ballad has mommy kissing Santa Claus 'underneath the mistletoe last night'.

But where do these icons, rooted in our collective memories, come from? An interesting question indeed. Take mistletoe (*Viscum album*). It has a long history dating back to pre-

Christian times. Central to the ritual of pagan yuletide, it was an important symbol of fertility for the Druids, high priests of the Celts, who believed that mistletoe held the soul of the tree that hosted it.

During the winter solstice, it was cut from the sacred 'gospel oak' with a golden sickle. In the middle ages, in an echo of these earlier mystical associations, branches were hung in doorways to ward off evil spirits. Those practices help to explain our modern custom of kissing under the mistletoe at Christmas time. In our household, a sprig or two was always hung above the front door.

Mistletoe is botanically unusual. Partly parasitic, it can also, as most conventional plants invariably do, manufacture its own nutrients during photosynthesis. Technically a hemi-parasite, nowadays grows mainly on apple and pear trees.

A source of winter sustenance for birds, it is seeded by them, particularly by the aptly named mistle thrush, which has a predilection for its white glutinous berries. Indeed, it is the adhesive nature of these berries that ensures the mistletoe's continuing existence. The bird tries to rid itself of these objects by whetting its bill against the nearest branch, thus leaving the berries to

germinate in a fold of bark.

If mistletoe has many pagan or pre-Christian associations, so too does holly. Its leaves were worn in the hair as a protection against evil spirits by Celts, who also hung it indoors to provide shelter for good fairies. As with mistletoe, some of these associations, suitably modified, have become a part of Christian iconography.

Thus holly, often made into wreaths, is associated with Christ's crown of thorns; its red berries symbolize drops of blood from his wounds. Even the wood has been linked to the crucifixion, since many believe that Christ's cross was fashioned from holly.

A spiny evergreen tree, holly now has many cultivars, and because of its glossy foliage,



bright red berries and a proven ability to withstand heavy pruning, it has become a valuable ornamental in many gardens, either in its English (*Ilex aquifolium*) or New World guise (*Ilex spaca*).

In temperate climes, once softened by winter frosts, the berries provide food for birds

and, in a landscape drained of color, a vivid presence for humankind. That the holly tree is rarely seen in the tropics is primarily because few grow here.

If you are lucky enough to find a specimen in Phuket, remember that you will need more than one plant, for the holly is dioecious – that is to say, both male and female trees will need to be in close proximity if the female is to produce those marvelous berries...

Christmas trees? Sure, we see plenty in Thailand at this time of year, but like the spectacular one outside Central Festival, they



Holly (above) is the quintessential Christmas plant, and the bright red of poinsettia (right) helped it earn the nickname 'Christmas plant' in Thailand. The Norfolk Island Pine (center) is the tropical variety of the traditional Christmas tree.



are mainly of the plastic variety. A shame, because there is a tropical conifer which would make a handsome Christmas tree.

Moreover, it enjoys life in a container: mine is already six feet tall. I refer to the Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*). Seeing it growing in a pot reminds me of my father who potted a spruce from the garden every Christmas. The tree didn't like it, but came back for more each year.

Around the world, many varieties are now cultivated for the festive season. In Europe, the most common are the silver fir – the original species – and the Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), usually the least expensive. The blue spruce (*pungens*) is also popular.

Firs retain their needles better than other species. There is now a substantial industry in Christmas trees, which are grown on farms for about 10 years and then cut down. A pity there aren't more living trees in our drawing rooms today...

Christmas trees don't have as long of a cultural history as holly and mistletoe. Though some historians link its use to the Roman fertility festival of Saturnalia, its Christian connections are relatively recent. Legend suggests that its triangular shape led to links with the holy trinity, but the tree

probably only appeared in European homes in the sixteenth century. Queen Victoria helped make it popular in England where, by turns, it acquired gifts, tinsel, glass ornaments and finally electric lights.

If all these Christmas plants have migrated from temperate to tropical climes, there is one that has journeyed in the opposite direction. Go to your nearest garden center today, and you will see a flame colored potted plant displayed to attract festive customers. It's even called 'Christmas' in Thailand. Get it?

Yes, it's the poinsettia (*euphorbia pulcherrima*). Hailing from the jungles of Mexico, it was at first used there to deck Catholic churches at Christmas. Legend has it that a young girl, too poor to buy flowers, had given wild poinsettias to her local church, where the leaves miraculously turned the color of blood.

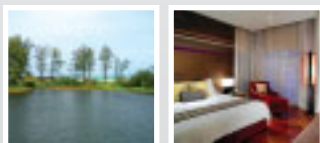
Latterly grown on a commercial scale in the USA, the plant became popular as a table decoration in American households and now exists worldwide in more than a hundred varieties from flaming red to creamy white. And it will thrive here. As with dad's Christmas tree, after the twelve days of Christmas, you can put in a shady spot and watch it grow.

LAGUNA

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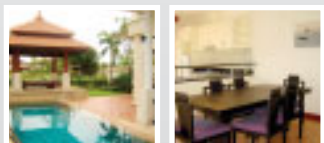
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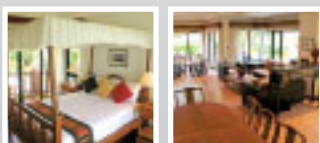
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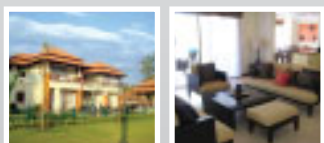
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Give the old bench a new look



In my article last week, I discussed some repairs I made to this bench: fixing a broken side-piece, and lengthening one of the legs.

When I received this bench, I also noticed that the finish had worn in some areas, due to heavy use and long exposure to sun and rain. Our 'Before' photo shows lighter areas where both the outer layer of finish and the underlying 'color layer' of the unprotected wood had been worn.

The proper way to refinish this thing would have been to completely sand and then re-stain the whole area, creating a uniform color over the entire section, and then to seal it with a coat of varnish. However, I didn't care to put that much effort, time and money into an item which I'd gotten for free.

Once finished, it would simply sit outside and be used for occasional family gatherings, where functionality is far more important than a glossy appearance. The rest of the time, it would simply be a catch-all for

boxes, mats, barbecue-grills and other typical patio items.

I therefore decided to do just a quick prep and then apply a coat of polyurethane varnish (PUV), a tough and abrasion-resistant coating, frequently used for hardwood floors and outdoor furniture.

First, I cleaned the surface thoroughly with a rough scrub-brush, a rag and some hot water (with just a trace of floor-cleaner added). The brush helped me get down into the corners and the narrow crevices between the boards.

While it was still wet, I sanded the whole thing, using a sanding block and 400-grit sandpaper. This leveled the finish, helping the new coat to appear smooth and even, and also created a fine-grained 'cross-hatch' to help the new PUV 'grip' better.

I then rinsed the whole bench thoroughly, dried it with more rags

and set it in the sun to dry.

The next day, I took another rough rag and began the 'chemical' stage of the prep. Wiping old varnish with a thinner-soaked rag both cleans away any sanding residue that doesn't rinse off and 'softens' the old finish surface just enough so that the new varnish will adhere like glue. Make sure your rag is not made of synthetic material, or the thinner may melt it as you wipe, leaving sticky residue on the wood's surface and creating more work for you.

Pour a liberal amount of thinner onto the rag, but not enough that a puddle or trail of drops is left behind. The idea is to keep the rag wet enough to slide easily, while leaving only enough thinner on the surface so that it evaporates almost immediately. Better to add little 'dashes' of thinner every few strokes than to have the rag dripping wet. Wipe every-

where you can reach in quick, light strokes, refolding the rag to a clean section every couple strokes. Try not to breathe in too much of the fumes.

Now you're ready to varnish the piece. Spread out some newspaper and set beer bottle caps or small "buttons" of scrap wood beneath the legs so you can varnish them all the way to the tips. For large pieces like this, I'd use a 3" brush, and a 1" or 2" on the legs.

PUV comes in a screw-cap can, so putting two small holes in the under-cap seal, perpendicular to the long side of the can, lets you hold the can sideways and pour smoothly.

Pour a thin stream of PUV onto the center of a board, like syrup on your French toast, and then spread it out with your brush. Move the brush in the direction of the grain, using smooth, steady strokes. For vertical surfaces like

the sides and the legs, use a can or jar for the varnish. (Tip: Use scissors to cut the top inch from a couple of beer cans. Rinse and dry. Use one for thinner and one for varnish. They're only big enough for the smaller brushes, but they're disposable! Less clean-up!)

When dipping a brush into paint or varnish, only load the brush about halfway up the bristles, and scrape a little from both sides of the tip against the can's rim before lifting it away from the can. Loading too much onto the bristles causes drips, sticky hands, a bit of vocabulary practice, and extra clean-up time. Always do the top first, then the sides and then the legs.

It's a good idea to put a few thick layers on the very bottoms of the legs to help seal them against water-damage. It means an extra day of varnishing, but it's worth it if you want to keep the unit a long time.

Our 'After' photo shows the same area of the bench as the 'Before' photo, with the almost South America-shaped blotch. Notice how the PUV really brings out the grain of the wood.

That's it! Sit down on your shiny 'new' bench and have a beer! (Just make sure it's dry first!)

See you next time!

- Dave

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Property Gazette

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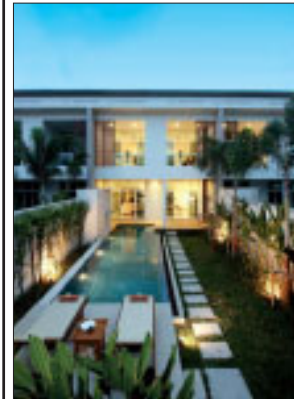
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081-719 5454.

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for sale. Thai-Balinese style, 2 bedroom, 2 bath (1 ensuite). High quality building, well-stocked tropical garden in quite relaxing location. A few minutes from bypass set in surroundings of palm oil and rubber plantations. Centrally located for airport, BIS, shopping and beaches at an excellent and affordable price. Communal pool, phone line and ADSL. MUST BE VIEWED to be appreciated. For price and more details please call Khun Por. Tel: 085-690 3114 (Thai), 080-648 9622. Email: debrasapstead@hotmail.co.uk

PATONG HOUSE

5.9 million baht, seaview, 3 storey, 7 rooms, 3 bathrooms. New pool villa, 7.2 million baht. 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 storey. Tel: 087-053 6016.

NEW BRAND CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476-9612.

LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

THE ROYAL PLACE

4th floor unit with 2 balconies. Approx area: 42sqm. Fully furnished, ready to move in. Please email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

PRICE REDUCTION

Houselots, East side. Chanote title, seaview. 600,000 to 900,000 baht. Tel: 086-942 1930.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Dowrning School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

RAWAI BUNGALOW



Spacious in prime location. 3 ensuite bedrooms + guesthouse, all AC, maid's room, private pool, in 1,000sqm walled garden. Part-furnished. Chanote. 14.9 million baht. Tel: 087-273 0141. Email: alangath@gmail.com

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Property Gazette

PURIANDA VILLAS



Rawai beach. Fully furnished and utilities, well designed, built to high standard. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, private pool. Land: 660sqm. Burglar alarm, auto gate, near beach. Price: 15.5 million baht. Open to best offer. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

AO MAKHAM FOR QUICK SALE

2.5 rai plot. 2.9 million baht a rai or 6 million baht for total. Sea view, 500m from Ao-Yon beach, road access, electricity. Tel: 087-381 8477.

BANGTAO VILLAS

6 houses, 2-4 bedrooms, big swimming pool. Tel: 085-674 6786. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

in Bangtao. 2-4 bedrooms, big swimming pool, from 5 million baht. Tel: 085-674 6786.

74 SQM CONDO

Condo for sale in Phuket Town near Villa Dowroong. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 3 aircon units. 1.8 million baht. Tel: 085-782 8881 (English & Thai), 081-895 6629. Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view, 2-storey house, 60sqw. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270-9093.

BEAUTIFUL HOME

Shady hillside near beach. Big pool and garden. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office. Freehold. Secure. Nice! Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Fax: 076-388236. Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.villa-sale-phuket.com>

TALANG LAND SALE

Chanote, private sale. 990,000 baht. Email: m3shmigelsky@yahoo.com Photo and info, please see our website at www.s-design-phuket.com/MIKELAND/gallery.htm

BEACH LAND CHANOTE

Koh Yao Yai private sale. Email: m3shmigelsky@yahoo.com Info at www.s-design-phuket.com/MIKELAND/gallery.htm

550,000 BAHT CONDO RAWAI BEACH



Sale, lease, rent 7,000 baht per month, furnished, WiFi, pool, 200 meters to the beach. Contact. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

NEW DETACHED HOUSE



for sale in Phanason 3, Thalang. 253.25sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, furnished and landscaped garden. 2.95 million baht. Contact Phing. Tel: 087-278-0067. Email: sweetpinkylive.co.uk

BEAUTIFUL VILLAS

Highest quality. Big land, private pool. Quiet area, 24-hour security. Most luxurious. Tel: 085-783 1890.

CONDO FOR SALE

Furnished, pool and spa. 750,000 baht. Tel: 089-966 0568. Email: gidmansimon@yahoo.co.uk

17 RAI WITH PALM TREES

At Kok Kien, Takuapa, Phang-Nga. 85,000 baht per rai. Contact Khun Piek. Tel: 081-892 4094, 084-304 9339.

HOUSE IN BANG TAO

1-story house near Laguna, Chanote, 2 bedrooms. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-086 0088.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

North Patong. 2 bedrooms, freehold, great seaview. 9.7 million baht. For pics, please contact Tel: 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.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 087-277 0978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Living in a convenient location. These luxury, low rise two- and three-bedroom condominium units are within Phuket's largest marina development on the island's east coast. Owners in each of the three-building cluster of condominiums will enjoy the shared 20 m long swimming pool. Lift access to the upper floors, private underground parking and 24-hour security is also provided. Foreign freehold ownership is available for these apartments. The marina includes bars, restaurants, shops, a professional spa, gymnasium, tennis courts. Tel: 076-360943, 085-781 1305 (English & Thai), 084-851 9795. Email: rakrause45@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.properties-phuket.com>

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrungs school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 7.2 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5 bedroom Thai style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang-Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are ensuite with seaview. Private swimming pool. Land plot 730.8 sqm. construction area approx. 573 sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 24.9 million baht. Tel: 089-474 2234.

LAND NEAR RAWAI

for sale. Chanote title. 1 rai 2 ngan 97sq wah. Tel: 089-885 4517.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

for sale. Each building has 3 floors. On big road at Kamala Beach, near Krungsri Bank. Price 20 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

2-BED CONDO FREEHOLD PATONG

93.65sqm furnished penthouse. 42" TV, aircon, new fitted kitchen, balcony and 24-hour security. 3-5 minutes walk to Jungceylon, Bangla Road, beach. Good rental machine. 8 million baht. Tel: 086-691 7573. For photo go to <http://www.704palmsprings.com>

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



In Moobaan Tinawut, Samkong, close to Yada Dental Clinic. 2 connected buildings, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. For rent: 12,000 baht per month, sale: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-597 6302, 081-597 9441.

KARON CORNER

townhouse in nice lane, international occupancy. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sea and mountain view, chanote title, fully furnished. 6.3 million baht. No agents. Tel: 089-594 0423. Email: crustaceaus@yahoo.com

PATONG 2-BED SEMI

Quiet soi off Nanai Rd, European kitchen, 3 aircons. 5.5 million baht or near offer. Tel: 081-691 8786.

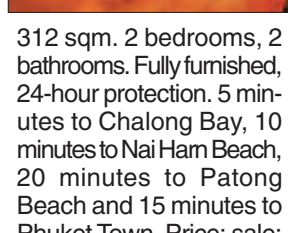
HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

PATONG TOWER

condo units for sale, freehold, hill and sea views, from 5 million baht. Tel: 081-878 2199. Email: orso.realestate@gmail.com

VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT



312 sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, 24-hour protection. 5 minutes to Chalong Bay, 10 minutes to Nai Ham Beach, 20 minutes to Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Price: sale: 7 million baht. Rent: 65,000 baht per month. Pls contact Khun Sam (English/Thai). Tel: 085-110 6449. Email: vipeurasian@yahoo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.ipdproperty.com

Luxury New Home For Sale

Premium Laguna Golf View Location With Full Laguna Residents Privileges



600 m² living space with 4 large en-suite bedrooms, highest quality specifications built to international standards. 2 minutes to Bang Tao beach



Completed and Ready To Move In

For further information or to make an appointment to view please call James on 0802857890 or visit www.yourphukethome.com

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

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

WHOLE BAY FOR SALE

Famous diving destination island, Koh Tao. 56,000sqm(35rai). 70 million baht. Please email me for photos. Tel: 081-271 9340. Email: brandyblackcherry@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.

1 RAI WITH HOUSE IN NAIHARN

3 minutes to Nai Harn Beach. Priced at 8 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1057, 085-995 9963.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

in Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@exemail.com.au

BAAN BAI MAI



for sale in Samkong near Bangkok hospital. 2 storey, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 car parking space. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

Property Gazette

2 HOUSES IN PATONG



for sale. Live in 1 and rent the other or sold separately. 5.1 million baht each, fully furnished, well kept, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen, phone line and ADSL. Center of Patong, 2 minutes to Jungceylon. Contact owner at Tel: 087-279 3312.

OCEANFRONT LAND



Beautiful piece of land, 3.5 rais (can be sub-divided) with over 90m of beach frontage. Opposite Yacht Haven Marina, water, electricity, road access, secure Nor Sor 3 Kor title. For sale direct from owner. Now only 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

AO YON PHUKET



Beautiful land near waterfall. 3 rai, 3 ngan, 10sqm. 600 meters to the beach. Good place for sailing, anchor your boat for free in this area. Beach restaurants near by. 5 million baht per rai. Contact Winai. Tel: 089-871 4374.

LUXURY HOUSE



for sale. Mission Heights community. 7 mins to Blue Canyon Golf Club, 10 mins to airport. House: 454 sqm, land: 1,444 sqm, 4 beds, 4 baths, Western kitchen, 16x6m pool, fully furnished with solar heating. Tel: 081-344 4473, 081-862 2962.

NEW HOUSE IN THE BANYAN VILLA



for sale. 3.4 million baht, near Land and Houses Park. 29.5sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hill view, common pool, club house. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

in Kata Beverly Hills, 3 luxury bedrooms, pool villa, garden, jacuzzi, includes furnishing. Special price now 17 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

FREEHOLD PATONG 28SQM

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

LUXURY PATONG HILL CONDO



As new 1 bedroom, 85sqm apartment with spectacular ocean and city views. Parking included. Price: 7 million baht, includes furniture. Email: mbohlse@gmail.com

PATONG BEACH CONDO

Studio, 57sqm, freehold, 8th floor corner unit. Pool, car park, mountain and sea views. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293-149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW

90 square meters, includes furniture. 1-year old. 5.5 million baht. More details at the website link below. Tel: +1-408-627 5793, 087-005 5951 (English). Email: maurick1@yahoo.com http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com

LUXURY VILLAS

3- or 4-bedroom villas. Both ready to move in. Gated community with 24-hour security. Quiet location, big garden with private pool. High quality construction. Tel: 085-783 1890.

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

Kata Centre, luxury 1 bedroom apartment, 65 sqm include furnishing with pool from 4.5 million baht. Now 3.9 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

PATONG HOUSE & LAND FOR SALE

1.5 rai with seaview at 50 Pee Rd. Nice house for sale at Benchamas Villa close to Jungceylon and Bangla Rd. Tel: 081-893 1360. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com

BEACHFRONT LAND

with road access to Kamala, Surin, Bang Tao, Kata, Karon. Contact Andy. Tel: 081-958 3923.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 floor, twinhouse, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, near Super Cheap. Contact Sami. Tel: 082-288 4018.

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2-3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 111sqm. Start 4.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 084-993 7308. For further details, please see our website at www.amphiseabreeze.com

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

in Kata Beverly Hills, new pool villa, 4 bedrooms, includes studio. From 26 million baht. Now 22 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

Kata centre, 2 bedroom apartment, beautiful decoration furnishing, 140sqm from 10.5 million baht. Now 9.2 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

3-BEDROOM PRIVATE POOL

villa for sale. Fully furnished, close to beaches, shopping and restaurants. Location: Chalong/Rawai. Set in lovely tropical garden. Tel: 085-788 8299. Email: nattacha14@hotmail.com

STUNNING LOCATION PATONG



for sale. 2- and 3-bedroom houses, 220 to 350sqm. Sea view, lounge, kitchen, balconies, swimming pool, gardens, parking, Chanote titles. From 7.9 million baht. Call Mike. Tel: 087-268 1170. For further details, please see our website at www.luxuryhousesphuket.com

RAWAI 1 RAI, 43WAH

Last nice plot under 6 million baht. Asking 5.8 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-623 3784, 085-795 5383. Email: chartsri@yahoo.com

KARON BEACH PHUKET

8 plots, 400sqm each, land title deed, hillside, seaview. Tel: +00-491-7140 67534. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

4 RAI FOR SALE

Layan Hill, Bang Jo. Near main road. 3.75 million baht per rai. Chanote. Tel: 081-956 0527.

2 MILLION BAHT OFF



Kamala Villa. 4 bed, 5 bath plus 2-car garage. Studio & apartment above. 370sqm on 700sqm land. fully furnished 15.5 million baht. Please contact Email: boomerkamala@hotmail.com

MANDALA CONDOMINIUMS
BANG TAO BEACH

Phuket's All Pool Condominiums

"Our expectations are high that this project will be a top seller in the 2009/2010 high season."

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RAWAI 5 BED POOL GUESTHOUSE



for sale: 6.5 million baht. Lease, cheap rent and financing available. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

Kata centre, nice apartment includes furnishing, aircon, pool. Price 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai. 80 meters of beach front, public road and water supply. Beautiful land. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English). Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com http://www.phuketlifestyle.com

LAKESHORE VILLAS

Luxury townhome. 2 bed, 3 bath large kitchen and store room. Very private, quiet, pool & garden. In exclusive estate next to Laguna. Price 14 million baht. Tel: 081-719 5454, 081-894 5848.

POOLVILLA FOR SALE OR RENT



3 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. 8 mins to Nayang Beach, 2 mins to Mission golf course. Luxuriously finished 10m x 4m swimming pool. 9.5 million baht, or long term rent at 50,000 baht per month with furniture, or 45,000 baht without furniture. Tel: 087-893 4636. Email: info@phuketbedandbreakfast.com

LARGE HOUSE RAWAI



2 story, 4 bedroom, hillside view, garden, UBC, AC, fans, new cabinets. Good location. Tel: 081-270 6310.

LEASE ON 12 RAI, KATA

Four houses on 12 rai of uninterrupted sea view. 18 years remaining on lease. Perfect for resort or hotel. Tel: 081-891 4069 (English). Email: dickytassenaar@hotmail.com

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RIVIERA 40, 1994

Great condition and fully equipped. Price US \$229,950. www.boatshedphuket.com

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Only 40 hours' use, 220HP Mercury 5-Litre Inboard/Outboard engines, top speed: 45knots. Detachable Sun Cover, Double Berth with head, seating for 6 people, full boat trailer and full private boat registration documents included in the sale price of only 1.25 million baht for a direct sale. No agents = no extra commission! Why pay more? Tel: 089-852 9142 (English & Thai). Email: simon_murray489@hotmail.co.uk

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19ft. 5.7meters. Outboard Mercury 115hp, 4-stroke. Used for 1 season. With trailer. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 082-959 5324.

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REGAL 3560 2004

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SPEEDBOAT & JETSKI FOR RENT

Luxury American speedboats and jet-ski's for rent. Per hour, 1/2 day or full day. Prices include full Insurance. Tel: 084-441 3858. (English & Thai). Email: pwatersport@yahoo.com www.phuketwatersport.page.tl

WINDSTEERING

Windpilot Pacific Plus 2 for sale. In excellent condition, but main rudder broken off. Therefore, only 85,000 baht. Tel: 081-416 1072 (English). Email: hansschoeb@gmx.ch

SWAN 42, 1982

Huge sail wardrobe for racing or cruising. \$150,000. For further details. Tel: 084-842 6146. Please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

SEALING 260, 1995

300hp, Mercruiser diesel. 1,750,000 baht. For further details. Tel: 084-842 6146. please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

TASMAN 9.7, 2004

Twin 130hp Volvo diesels, beautifully varnished wood finish. For further details. Tel: 084-842-6146. please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

FOR SALE INTREPID 390 SPORT

Kevlar GRP Sportfisher yacht, 3x250HP Mariner EFI outboards, 40+ knots. 5 KVA generator, aircon, sleeps 4 bath-room, elec toilet, full galley, microwave, fridge, sink. Asking 2.2 million baht. Tel: 081-842 3961. Email: gerrit.bijlsma@planet.nl

OUTBOARDER YAMAHA

5hp, 2.5 years old, newly serviced. 22,500 baht. Tel: 081-892 0750

65 FOOT POWER CATAMARAN

6 double cabins, 2 saloons, huge space, wood-composite, 14,000 euros. Tel: 087-461-8089.

55' CATAMARAN

Composite construction, lots of room. Only 179,000 euros. Please see our web site at www.boatshedphuket.com

CLASSIC YACHT NEEDS CAPTAIN

Experienced sailor to look after and maintain a 50' wooden sloop - 'work for sailing'. Contact for more information at Email: pontificator2000@yahoo.com

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I want to buy for fishing and diving. 300,000-700,000 baht. Tel: 083-642 8798.

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SALE: MV SEA OF FANTASY II

- MV Sea of Fantasy II (former MV Nam Sai) immediately available for sale or rent. 25 meters long, 5.3 meters wide, built in October 2006.

- Registered and insured to Oct 2010.

- Capacity: 70 guests + 5 crew.

- Shipyard overhaul in Oct 2009.

- Similan Park License till Nov 2010.

- 3 compressors (900 l/min), 80 aluminum tanks & weights.

- 2 x Hino V 25 10-cylinder diesels.

- 2 generators (20 Kw + 30 Kw).

- 12 knots cruising speed.

Tel: 081-787 4043 (English), 081-882 5069 (Thai). Email: wolly.woerner@gmail.com

29' FIBER 2X150HP VALUE

29' all-fiberglass Seat Boat. 2 Mercury Offshore 150hp. 675,000 baht. Tel: 087-132-3150. Or email: skiyemen@yahoo.com

BOAT HULL/MERCURY/ DINGHY

10-meter plywood hull (speedboat project not completed). 150,000 baht

- 40HP Mercury Sea Pro. Many new parts, ready to run. 75,000 baht

- 3.5m dinghy. 20,000 baht or best offer! Tel: 081-968 3118 (English & Thai), 081-271 3228 (English & Thai).

Please send email to: moodiving@yahoo.com

THUNDERCRAFT CRUISER 25F

Thundercraft cruiser, 1992 imported from Canada, Jeanneau hull, very good condition, 25.5 feet. OMC inboard 5.71 V8 w/ 260HP newly rebuilt, double cabin, trim tab, kitchen, bathroom, shower, aircon, USA trailer. Price 1,300,000 baht. Okay delivery. Tel: 086-565 1955 (English & Thai). Email: manager@thaifrance.com

YACHT CHARTER COMPANY

12-meter, ocean-going sailing boat with steel hull and Thai flag. Sale includes license, web sites, many parts and equipment. Call or mail for details. Tel: 076-283446, 081-892 7847 (English). Or fax: 076-283447. Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com or please see at <http://www.sailing-thailand-phuket.com>



- MAN engines, twin Gensets, 1997.
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- Free crew and berth at RPM for one year. Guarantee.

Contact: Andrew de Bruin. Mobile: 081 894 1530. Email: andrew@teemarine.net

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Catamaran 37 open Cabrio, 2005, 3 cabs, 2 baths, twin diesel 30hp. 4 sails, full electrics. Price 4,000,000 baht. Tel: 089-854 0277. Or email: catayacht@csloxinfo.com For further details, please see www.acatayachting.com

FIBERGLASS BOAT

36 foot, center console, 2 x 200 hp outboards. Great dive boat. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

RIVIERA 43, 1995

Extensively refitted to high standard. Thai charter licence for 17+3. Call Alan on 084-842 6146. www.boatshedphuket.com

MACGREGOR 26X + TRAILER

Comes with new Yamaha 85hp engine and many extras. Thai registered. Price: 12 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-958 2705 (English). Email: pfar@mail.com

FULLER 60, 1991

Ready-to-go blue water cruising yacht. US\$349,000. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

CHEAP BOAT FOR SALE

2009, Suzuki engine, 250hp, 9m, complete set of marine tools and equipment. Tel: 082-815 3132.

ATLANTIC 61, 1991

Refitted 2007. 4 doubles + crew accommodation. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

ONAN GENSETS

2 units in good working condition. 7.2kVA, 220V: 90,000 baht. 11kVA, 220V: 150,000 baht. Tel: 081-536 8188. Contact more details at. Email: tom.fekete@gmail.com

WANT NICE FAST BOAT

One engine, max 200hp, rubber (rib) or fiberglass. Max price: 300,000 baht. Tel: 082-802 9125 (English). Email: s.enghamre@telia.com

SPORT FISHING BOAT

56'. Built for the trip out to the Andaman Islands. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

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V.I.P Pizzeria Restaurant and White Sand Bar staff wanted. Salary from 7,000 to 25,000 baht. Waiters, bartendy, bartender, chefs and restaurant manager required. Tel: 076-292618, 089-651 5781, 084-746 1295 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292575. Email: booking@santiwhitehotel.com

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English speaking Thai national bookkeeper/office assistant required on the beautiful, quiet island of Koh Jum at Koh Jum Beach Villas, a resort community of luxury private homes, open all year. Experience in Excel and MS office, please. Opportunity for advancement. Tel: 084-7732792, 083-330 0747 (English). Email: info@kohjumbeachvillas.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.kohjumbeachvillas.com>

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Thai nationals wanted. Fluent English, computer skills and results oriented. Candidate must be knowledgeable in all government reports. Salary 15 to 18,000 baht per month plus service charge. Position available now. Forward CV via email. Tel: 076-333222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccbloomshotel.com

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part time. Needed to assist in building a cruiser from plywood coated with fiberglass. Hours are flexible. Located close to Chalong pier. Full-time boat builders also needed for those positions. English is not required. Please call Gunnar between 9 and 12 am. Tel: 089-287 4007.

NEED AN HONEST COUPLE

To work at the house as a maintenance guy and a maid. Live in. Tel: 081-926 3286.

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful guesthouse in Karon. Thai national. Tel: 086-271 8254. Or send email to: ninapartments@hotmail.com

SALES CENTER POSITION

Rapidly growing company seeks sales center agents for multiple products. Fluent English speakers only - any nationality. Earnings of 50,000 baht per month possible. Must be sales-oriented and web proficient. Foreign nationals must hold a Bachelor's degree. Tel: 087-8858 622. Email: cstrach@gmail.com

Restaurant Manager Easy Wok Co Ltd

is looking for a **manager** for its restaurant located in Jungceylon (Sino Square). The manager will be responsible for:

- The restaurant's business performance.
- Co-ordinating the entire operation of the restaurant during scheduled shifts.
- Responding to customer complaints.
- Meeting and greeting customers and organising table reservations.
- Recruiting, training and motivating staff.
- Organising and supervising the shifts of kitchen, waiting and cleaning staff.
- Maintaining high standards of quality control, hygiene, and health and safety.
- Preparing cash drawers and providing petty cash as required.
- Purchasing all items, including food, beverages, equipment and supplies.
- Managing all accounts payable and receivable, handling payroll.

High salary based on work experience.

Please send your resume to Khun Marc.

Easy Wok Co Ltd

Rat-U-Thit Rd, Jungceylon, Unit 3107, Patong, Phuket.

Tel: 086-0660 946.

Email: marcworld1@hotmail.com

ELECTRONIC ENGINEER WANTED

- 1 position.
- Male 20-30 years old
- Vocation certificate
- Bachelor degree in Electronics
- Completed military training
- Good health
- Trustworthy, motivated and self-reliant
- Experience preferred

All applicants must submit full resume by email to: info@octopusasia.com only. We will contact applicants by return.

CASHIER RECEPTIONIST

for new spa in Karon Thai female good job and salary. Tel: 086-271 8254.

MEDIA COMPANY

Looking for advertising sales person with good personality, able to work independently, good English, computer skills and own transportation. Media background an advantage. Contact Pond. Tel: 089-474 4704. Email: p_eanso@hotmail.com

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Non profit organization. Right To Play seeks Thai with fluent English, computer literate, training and experience to work on education program. Email: bdrongers@righttoplay.com

2 SWEDISH RESTAURANTS

in Bang Tao Beach, open all year. Two chefs wanted to cook farang food and 4 waitresses. Good spoken English required and good salary for experienced candidates. Contact Michael. Tel: 081-787 3167.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Must be passionate about biking, speak excellent English and provide great customer service. Tel: 076-283436, 087-263 2031. Fax: 076-381337. Email: info@amazingbiketours-thailand.asia

NAUTILUS DIVERS

Need English speaking, Thai female shop assistant. Dive experience preferred. Working on Kata beach. Tel: 081-968 5904.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Good English and computer skills essential. Attractive salary package and benefits. Tel: 076-527565. Send current cv to cv@phuketocceanvillas.com

BEAUTICIAN / MASSAGE LADY

Experienced lady for wax and massage needed in Rawai. Tel: 076-388581, 084-442 5290 (English & Thai). Email: dejaco@cscms.com

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

English speaking guides needed for popular boat charter company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-354074, 081-9569961 (English). Email: info@coralseekers.com

COOK / BOAT GIRL

wanted for unique small charter yacht. If you are English speaking, 25+ with experience and reference. Tel: 083-102 7801.

FOOD STAFF, PATONG

Need good staff to sell food in Patong at NIGHT. Starting time is 8pm. GOOD SALARY. Tel: 085-158 7638 (English & Thai). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.com

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Please contact me if you are looking for a proper job with a steady income in Phuket. Tel: 080-525 3913. Email: Mansharafat@hotmail.com

COOK NEEDED

Small restaurant in Karon needs a female cook urgently. Tel: 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

2 THAI LADIES WANTED

Morning help - cooking & cleaning, afternoon driver - must have own car. Tel: 083-175 1920 (English). Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

FEMALE KINDERGARTEN

EP TEACHING VACANCY ELT Phuket International is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced Kindergarten teacher to start at Ban Mai Reab School in Kathu, Phuket on 11 January, 2010. Applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate such as TESOL/TEFL. We offer: 38,000-40,000 baht, plus other benefits. Please email: a letter of application, CV, a recent photograph and email contact details of 3 referees to: eltorborjor@gmail.com Unfortunately we will not respond to non-native speaker applications.

JOB OPPORTUNITY @ BODEGA



Staff required for new concept bar, hotel and cafe. Experience is not as important as a positive attitude and excellent English. Areas include: Kitchen, bar and reception. Competitive salary for the right candidates. Contact Khun Amy. Tel: 089-471 6201. Email: amyfellingham@gmail.com

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English speaking, good looking ladies. Salary, good commission, full training given, location 5-star Hotel, Bang Tao. Tel: 086-950 9358.

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Thai national, full time. Tel: 081-537 6866, 089-652 5664.

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with good communication skills and fluency in English. Full or halftime. Tel: 085-472 0542.

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Female, good English. Showroom in Rawai. More details call Khun Kob. Tel: 081-658 5962.

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Full time, flexible, Thai national. Tel: 081-537 6866.

Looking for a job?
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Island Job Mart



The Kee Resort & Spa, a 4-star luxury resort in Patong which will open in late 2010, together with KEE Plaza with 60 fabulous shops and restaurants opening on 28th of December, 2009, is currently inviting qualified applicants for the following positions:

• Hotel Resident Manager • Director of Sales

Qualifications required:

1. Thai national, minimum of 5 years experience in the position at 4-5 star hotel or resort
2. Good command of written and spoken English for managerial positions
3. Experienced in pre-opening hotel or resort
4. Team player, yet independent and possess a keen passion for hospitality services
5. Possess a positive sense of leadership and management
6. Bachelor's degree or higher in sales and marketing in hospitality field (Dss only)
7. Strong managerial, operational and administrative skills (RM only)

• Plaza Manager

Qualifications required:

1. Pleasant personality, customer service skills and friendly positive attitude
2. Able to work under pressure
3. Good command of written and spoken English for managerial positions
4. Create good public image of the plaza
5. Create sales promotion to support shops in plaza
6. Experienced at organizing events

Please submit your CV, recent photo, current and expected salary with other related documents to info@thekeeresort.com

Address: 152/1 Thaveewong Rd., Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150 Thailand
Tel: 076-343555, 076-340132, Fax: 076-343567
E-mail: info@thekeeresort.com

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DirectRooms is one of Asia's leading travel websites, attracting over 1 million visitors per month. Based in Phuket City with a team of over 80 staff, our success and growth translates into excellent career opportunities for our employees.

We are seeking energetic Senior Web Developers to design, develop, and support web programming, and play an important role in the website development using cutting edge web technologies.

We offer a competitive salary based on experience, relocation package and excellent working conditions. The position is open to Thai nationals and foreigners on employment or contract terms (minimum 1 year).

Qualifications:

- Strong experience in the internet business, preferably with E-commerce websites.
- Demonstrated ability, working knowledge and strong programming experience in: XHTML, CSS, JavaScript, XML, SQL and at least one server-side scripting language.
- Solid understanding of relational databases.
- Ability to communicate fluently in English.
- Ability to operate under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Strong ability to multi-task many projects at one time from start to finish.
- Excellent attention to detail, flexible and adaptable to changes.

Contact Jane. Email: personnel@directrooms.com
Tel: 076 241 145 Fax: 076 241 021

9/90-91 Moo 3 Rasadanusorn Road, Rasada, Muang, Phuket

PART TIME INCOME

Work from home, using the internet. 1-2 hours per day.
Tel: 087-814 7018. Email: jamjooree@hotmail.com

ENGLISH SPEAKING THAI LADY

Needed for afternoon work. Must have own car. Please contact for more futher details. Tel: 083-175 1920. Or send email to: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

WESTERN RESERVATION OFFICER

for luxury villa and condo. Needed urgently, salary plus incentive, must be native English speaker, work in Phuket. Please send CV to email: a.craig@phuketvillasandhomes.com. For futher details please contact (Mr. Andrew).

NEED HOUSE MAID

Thai female, good salary and social security, experience in hotel or farang's house, Rawai. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-7977 898.

GOOD SALARY

V.I.P Pizzeria Restaurant and White Sand Bar staff wanted. Salary from 7,000 to 25,000 baht. Waiters, bartendy, bartender, chefs and restaurant manager required. Tel: 076-292618, 089-651 5781, 084-746 1295 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292575. Email: booking@santiwhitehotel.com

BOAT SALES EXECUTIVE / BROKER

The person we seek must:

- have experience in selling new/used luxury motor yachts
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- be able to handle/captain boats
- have a passion for boats
- have good computer skills (including internet).

A background in engineering or as a mechanic would be an advantage.

Tel: 081-979 9911.

Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th>



RPM HEALTH CLUB

an exclusive health and social club on the Island, is now seeking people for the following positions:

Membership Relations Officer

- Experienced receptionist
- Good English Skills
- Some computer knowledge
- Female preferred, 22-30 years old
- Capable of multi-tasking

Aerobics Instructor

- Experienced in Aerobics, plus other classes such as spinning, yoga, and swiss ball.
- Some English skills
- Age 22-35 years old

Interested applicants please submit current resume with photo to the Club
Tel: 076-360885-6 Fax: 076-360887 Email: marisa@rpmhealthclub.com



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St. Jude Medical develops medical technology and services that focus on putting more control into the hands of those who treat cardiac, neurological and chronic pain patients worldwide. Headquartered in St. Paul, MN, St. Jude Medical employs more than 15,000 people worldwide and Radi Medical Systems is a part of Cardiovascular Division.



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Today, we employ more than 100 employees.

Assistant Accounting Manager

Location : Phuket, Thailand

Preferred candidates are expected to be:

- Thai national,
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting.
- At least 3 years of experience in overall accounting, managerial reports and monthly closing. Preferably in manufacturing business.
- Good communication skills in spoken and written English.
- Computer proficiency in MS office will be a plus.
- Knowledge of accounting principle, VAT, withholding tax and cost accounting.

Interested applicants are invited to submit CV with photo and salary expectation to jpiyaporn@sjm.com by 25th December, 2009. For more information, please call Piyaporn at 076-317318 or visit www.sjm.com

Radi Medical Systems Co., Ltd.

154/7 Moo 9 Ao Kung - Ao Por Road, T. Paklok, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand

THAI COORDINATOR FOR FOREIGN ACADEMIC MANAGER IN KATHU

ELTPhuket International is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced Thai national to start at PPAO Ban Mai Reab School in Kathu, Phuket as soon as possible. Requirements: proficiency in English and computer skills: Excel, Word, Photoshop, Publisher, etc. Good interpersonal relations, liaise with Thai and foreign staff, etc. Email: eltorborjor@gmail.com

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Full time and part time sales staff now required in Patong and Kata. Nice working environment, great salary and commissions for the right person. The position is open to Thai and Philippine nationals, and English speaking skills are necessary. Tel: 089-646 8580. Email: cameronjhansen@yahoo.co.uk Please visit our website at <http://www.cameronhansen.net>

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We are currently outsourcing for management position and staff. We are looking for 20 to 30 energetic young individuals to join our working team in our new Condo Hotel in Phuket. Tel: 076-261772, 083-522 2089 (English & Thai). For further details, please see our website at: <http://www.bangtaotropicalresidence.com>

ACCOUNTANT & F/B MANAGER

Immediate opening for accountant: 16 to 19,000 baht per month and F/B Manager: 18 to 26,000 baht per month plus service charge. Tel: 086-604 1333. Email resume to sales@ccbloomshotel.com.

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for beautiful guesthouse in Karon. Thai national. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2718 254. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

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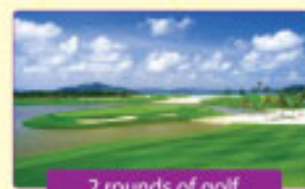
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