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# Phuket Gazette

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## Reaching out to Haiti

**P**HUKET and Thailand are joining the world in a race against time to get help to earthquake-devastated Haiti. According to the country's officials the disaster has killed between 100,000 and 200,000 people and left a million homeless.

After being strongly criticized for giving Haiti too little – just US\$20,000 – the Thai government on January 19 said it would send US\$100,000 (Bt3.2 million) as well as 20,000 tonnes of rice.

"I invite the population to contribute to the relief effort," Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva said.

Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya told the Cabinet earlier that his ministry had no channels to deliver the aid, but would co-ordinate with the UN or the United States in coming days.

The first shipment of 2,000-3,000 tonnes of Thai rice is scheduled within this month.

The government also said medical personnel and equipment will be dispatched to join the international relief effort.

The 7.0 quake struck at 9:53pm GMT on January 12 about 15 kilometers southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince at a depth of 10 kilometers.

Two aftershocks registering 5.9 and 5.5 on the Richter scale followed within the hour, with more tremors later.

With a population of nine million (1.9 million of which live in the capital), Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and has been marred by political turmoil for decades.

In Phuket, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach has been accepting donations to provide relief to Haitian survivors through its Shelter Box project.

Brad Kenny, chairman of the club's services committee, said "the world opened their hearts to Phuket and Thailand



Displaced Haitians line up for food during a UN distribution. Port-au-Prince, Haiti was rocked by a massive earthquake on January 12 that devastated the city and left thousands dead. AFP PHOTO/UN/Logan ABASSI.

when the 2004 tsunami hit".

"We have chosen to send aid through a worldwide Rotary project called Shelter Box – a kit providing basic survival equipment including a 10-person tent, water purification tablets, cooking equipment and provisions allowing a family of up to 10 to have shelter and basic survival equipment for up to six months," he said.

"We chose Shelter Box Canada because of the favorable exchange rate.

"The cost of a shelter box is 1,000 Canadian dollars, the equivalent of around 32,500 baht."

The Rotary Club of Patong Beach will accept donations however small, he said.

At the time of writing the club had raised enough money for eight Shelter Boxes, which were dispatched on January 19.

The boxes will be listed as 'donated from the the people of Phuket through the Rotary Club of Patong Beach,' he said.

A list of donors along with other updates and project information will be posted on the club's website: [rotarypatong.org](http://rotarypatong.org) – **Fraser Morton, Stephen Fein and The Nation**

## How to donate

### Thai government

'Thais help Haiti fund' through Krung Thai Bank's Government House branch, savings account No:067-0-05765-7

### Rotary Club of Patong Beach

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## Valium kid thought tablets were legal

By Dan Waites and Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

**A** 17-YEAR-OLD New Zealander arrested in Patong for possession of diazepam pills last month says he did not know it was illegal to buy the drugs without a prescription.

In a report in the *New Zealand Herald*, the teenager was quoted as saying, "I was told by people you could get Valium if you wanted to go to sleep and it was legal to buy it."

Meanwhile, local police have admitted they are not seeking to arrest the seller of the drugs.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a police source told the *Gazette* his team asked the teenager where he bought the pills, but the youth declined to answer.

"He had the right to say nothing when asked a question he didn't want to answer," the source said. "But he confessed to the charges against him."

"Normally, if we know where a suspect bought Valium we check the shop," he said. "If they don't have a license to sell the drug or they've sold it without a prescription, we arrest them too."

In the early hours of December 7, the young tourist got on the back of a motorcycle taxi with nine diazepam pills,

more commonly known as Valium, stashed in his pocket.

When Kathu Police officers saw the pair riding over a section of sidewalk on the Patong beach road, they stopped and searched them and arrested the young Kiwi.

"Then I was taken to the cop lock-up, which was like living hell," he said.

At the time of writing, more than five weeks after he was originally due to fly home, the teen remains in Phuket. He was due in court on January 20.

While Category IV drugs are difficult to obtain without a prescription in most of Thailand, they remain readily available in many tourist destinations like Patong.

High-ranking sources in the Phuket Provincial Health Office said shops registered with their office to sell category four drugs are allowed to do so on a discretionary basis and in small amounts – typically 10 pills or fewer.

Such shops must have a license and most have a Thai-language sign indicating that such prescription medications are available there over the counter.

Other big sellers in such shops include erectile dysfunction drugs like sildenafil citrate (Viagra) and tadalafil (Cialis).

## Newlywed Aussie dies in jeep crash

By Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

**A** HONEYMOONING couple's life together was tragically cut short when the jeep they were riding down Big Buddha Hill crashed, killing 26-year-old Australian Michael Malonzo.

His wife Aimee survived the crash, which happened on January 15, just one week after the couple married.

Eight other tourists were injured.

On January 20 Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop chaired a meeting at Provincial Hall to look at ways of preventing a repeat of the accident, in which a Siam Safari jeep overturned on its way down the steep hill in Chalong.

Director of Phuket Land Transport Office, Kanok Siripanchkorn, told those assembled that his department had inspected the jeep on January 12 and found no faults.

However, on the day of the accident the vehicle's usual driver had called in sick, he said.

The substitute driver, Damrong Tiamsameu, 36, was unused to driving a four-wheel drive truck, Mr Kanok said.

Mr Damrong was more used to driving minibuses, he added.

Mr Damrong told police the jeep's brakes failed, causing him



The Landrover jeep that overturned on Big Buddha Hill on January 15.

to lose control of the vehicle, which flipped over.

A police check later established the brakes were intact.

Tori Giles, a member of an Australian family of six who were part of the group, sustained a head injury in the accident.

"I can remember that when the truck was heading down the hill on the way back, I felt the driver change gear, then there was a bang. After that I can't remember anything," he said.

Police are believed to be considering charging Mr Damrong with careless driving resulting in death.

Aimee Malonzo, a dance teacher from Sydney who broke

her pelvis in the crash, received treatment at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Gov Wichai rushed to the hospital on the afternoon of the accident to comfort Mrs Malonzo and the other survivors.

At the time of writing, Mrs Malonzo was preparing to fly home with her husband's body and her parents, who flew to Phuket from Australia.

A Safari Tour employee told the *Gazette* the company had been in operation 17 years.

"We have never had a problem like this before," he said. "The company will take responsibility and take care of all the tourists who were involved in the accident."

## Drivers protest limo concession

**S**OME 100 members of the Phuket Airport Limousine and Business Cooperative Ltd (PBC) assembled at Phuket Provincial Hall on January 20 to protest a new concession that gives a rival group of taxis the right to operate 30 new vehicles at Phuket International Airport.

Airports of Thailand (AOT) the previous day approved a request by Phuket Mai Khao Sakoo to operate 30 more limousines at the airport. This infuriated staff of the PBC, which for years enjoyed

a virtual monopoly concession and was the only taxi service allowed to operate a kiosk inside the arrivals terminal.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop explained to the PBC protesters that he did not attend the meeting on the new quota.

A meeting would be held on January 27 to discuss the concession and to find a solution acceptable to the PBC, he said.

- *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

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# Young mom dies in hit-and-run smash

By Sitthipong Nongkaew



Pongsakorn Taoloon shows the bumper of the car that killed his partner.

**A** YOUNG mother riding a motorbike was killed instantly in a head-on collision with a car in Srisoonthorn on January 13. Maj Seksan Komsakorn of the Cherng Talay Police identified the dead woman as 26-year-old Dok-aor Ponsri, a native of Ubon Ratchathani.

After receiving a report of the accident just before 2am, Kusoldharm Foundation workers rushed to the scene to find Miss Dok-aor dead and her motorbike completely destroyed. Her body was taken to Thalang Hospital.

Such was the impact of the collision that parts of the vehicle that hit her, including the front bumper, were scattered around the scene, a curved section of Srisoonthorn Road about 1.5 kilometers from the Heroines' Monument.

Initial investigation revealed that Ms Dok-aor was returning to her home in Srisoonthorn Village 5 after completing her shift at a bar near the Laguna Phuket resort complex in Cherng Talay.

She was dragged about 40 meters by the vehicle that hit her coming from the opposite direction.

As is common in traffic accidents in Phuket, the driver fled the scene. He remains at large, but police and the woman's partner hope that debris left behind will lead to his arrest.

Ms Dok-aor was the mother of a nine-month-old child fathered by her boyfriend Pongsakorn Taoloon, a 22-year-old resident of Udon Thani.

"I was really shocked after being told about the accident by the police. I have no idea how I am going to raise the baby without her mom, but we are not going to leave Phuket. My wife was determined to raise and educate the baby here in Phuket," Mr Pongsakorn said.

## Hospital calls: dead on arrival

**A** TELEPHONE exchange fault has put Patong Hospital's main telephone line out of service for months.

The numbers 076-342-633-4, printed in telephone directories and appearing on the first page of the hospital's website, have been out of service for five months.

Calling the numbers does

produce a ring tone, but nobody can answer.

Patong Hospital Deputy Director Apantree Iamsakul said the fault will be fixed by next month.

"If anybody wants to contact us they should call the Emergency Room on 076-340-444 or the Administrative Office on 076-344-108," she said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

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# Nanny chief suspect in infanticide case

**C**HALONG Police are searching for a Burmese nanny they think was responsible for the murder by suffocation of a four-month-old Thai child left in her care.

Police were notified of the death at 8:30am on Saturday by the boy's mother, 32-year-old Palida Phromraksa, a native of Ao Luk District in Krabi.

When police led by Chalongs Police Deputy Superintendent Narong Laksanawimon arrived at the scene, they found Mrs Palida weeping bitterly.

Entering the two-bedroom home on Soi Banklang in Chalongs Village 7 they found the lifeless body of four-month old Pornprasert Phromraksa lying face-up on a bed, wearing only a soiled diaper. There were scratch marks on his left cheek.

From the state of the body, police estimated the time of death at about one day earlier.

Mrs Palida told police that she is the owner of the Rawai Club tour company, which is very busy during high season.

In order to run the company, she employed a 32-year-old Burmese woman identified only as 'Ple' as a live-in nanny to care for the boy when she was away.

Mrs Palida said she had a great deal of trust in the Burmese woman, who was paid 7,000 baht a month and provided with a motorbike in exchange for her services.

Mrs Palida typically slept at the tour company offices, returning home every other night to see her son.

She arrived home as usual at around 1am on Saturday to find all the lights out.

Going to the bedroom where the child usually slept with the nanny, she found the door locked.

Not finding this unusual, she



A friend tries to console Mrs Palida over the loss of her baby son.

took a shower and went to sleep in the other bedroom, she told police.

Getting up the following morning, she again tried to open the door because she wanted to give the boy a hug before returning to work.

When there was no answer to her knocking, she opened the door with a key to find her child dead and the nanny missing. In a state of shock, she called police.

Phuket Forensics Police collected fingerprint samples as well as clothes belonging to Ple as evidence in the case. Chalongs

Police are now searching for the nanny.

From the wounds to the child's face they have conjectured that the nanny might have lost her temper with the child and suffocated him in a fit of rage, either by placing a cloth over his nose and mouth or choking him to death.

Phuket Ruamjai Kupai Rescue Foundation volunteers took the child's remains to Vachira Phuket Hospital for examination.

— Gazette reporter

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# Patong work permit raid nets five Danes

THE Thai Hotels Association has sought help for a Patong-based tour company whose Danish employees were arrested for working illegally late last month.

Tan Chee Kiong, vice president of the Thai Hotels Association (Southern Chapter), on January 12 went to Phuket Vice Governor Tri Augkaradacha to plead the company's case.

The company, the local affiliate of a large Copenhagen-based tour company, will bring in 8,000 Scandinavians on direct charter flights to the island this high season. Each tourist is expected to spend an average of 40,000 baht during stays, pumping roughly 320-million-baht into the local economy, Mr Tan explained.

The Phuket-based staff, now unable to work, are awaiting court dates for violating Thai labor law. Immigration Police on December 28 raided the company's offices at the Royal Crown Hotel in Patong, finding five Danes working there without work permits.

The company had already applied for five permits for their

workers, though none had been issued at the time of the raid.

The company was quickly set up in order to operate during the lucrative high season and its first charter flight landed in Phuket on December 21.

Vice Governor Tri was sympathetic to the company's plight, but insisted no special favors could be done. The company would need to increase its registered capital to be able to apply for all of the employees, he said.

Thai law stipulates two million baht of registered capital for each alien worker.

"We will co-ordinate with Immigration and the court to help those who were arrested, but they will have to pay fines, the amounts of which will be up to the court," said V/Gov Tri, who is tasked with overseeing tourism related matters on the island.

"This is the first time something like this has happened. We don't want to create problems for tourism, so we'll make things as convenient for them as we can," he said.

**-Kitima Pornmongkhonwat & Stephen Fein**

# Fighting swine flu



A medical worker at Vachira Phuket Hospital was one of the first to receive the new vaccinations.

DOCTORS and nurses at Vachira Phuket Hospital on January 11 were the first to receive swine flu vaccinations on the island.

The hospital has joined others nationwide in kicking off a vaccination campaign, aimed at reducing cases of an expected second wave of A(H1N1) influenza.

Dr Krit Sakulpat, Head of Community Medicine at Vachira Phuket, said medical staff were the obvious first choice to get the

vaccine. Women over three months pregnant will be next to receive the vaccine.

Thailand has ordered a total of 1,969,750 doses of the vaccine from French pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Pasteur.

The Public Health Ministry, which is controlling the program, has allocated doses to three of Phuket's three government hospitals: Vachira Phuket Hospital, Thalang Hospital and Patong Hospital. Vachira requested enough doses to vaccinate 9,000 people, but will receive just 4,000.

Dr Krit said the vaccine would not cause serious allergic reactions, though some patients

might feel faint or experience pain, a lowered heart rate, itchiness and swelling within 30 minutes of injection.

The vaccination program at Vachira will continue until the end of May. Meanwhile, Thalang Hospital Director Anon Kaewbamroong said his hospital requested 2,500 doses, but thus far has received just 600.

Patong Hospital Deputy Director Apantree Iamsakul said his hospital had received 260 doses of the vaccine and would start its program immediately with vaccinations of staff and pregnant women.

**-Pimwara Choksakulpan**

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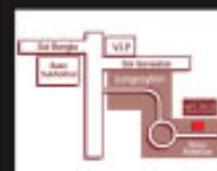


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# Cyanide fishermen netted

**T**EN Rawai sea gypsies were arrested by Marine Police on January 17 and charged with collecting protected species for the illicit trade in tropical fish.

The arrests were carried out by Phuket Marine Police and officials from the Phuket Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Center (PMCRCC).

Under the direction of PMCRCC Director Paitoon Panchaipum, the officers intercepted two longtail boats filled with protected marine species as they were coming ashore at Rawai's Phromthep Cape.

Among the fishing 'equipment' collected as evidence in the case were bottles of cyanide.

One of the most toxic substances known to man, cyanide is used to temporarily stun fish so they can be easily removed from coral reefs. Cyanide fishing has been described by environmentalists as 'an act of genocide' against coral reef habitats due to the damage it inflicts.

A search of the vessels recovered more than 250 fish of various species in 200 plastic bags, all ready for transport. These included protected angel-fish and butterfly fish species as



Officials pose with the seized bags of fish. Photo by PGTV.

well as a variety of shellfish, corals, sea fans and sea anemones.

Officials estimated the local value of the entire haul at about 200,000 baht locally, but with a value of up to one million baht on the global black market for aquarium fish.

Unnamed 'green volunteers' alerted officials who presume the fishing was carried out near or inside the Similan Marine National Park.

Collected as evidence in the case were order lists and receipts, indicating that the suspects were working to fill orders placed by smugglers

thought to be based in Bangkok, officials said.

After their arrests, the suspects were sent to Chalong Police Station for processing.

Under provisions of the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 1992, the suspects face charges of possession of endangered marine life captured without permission from a restricted area.

They confessed to the charges and have been released on bail. If convicted, they face prison terms of up to four years and/or a fine of up to 40,000 baht.

-Nation Breaking News

# Teens arrested in gang murder case

**P**HUKET City Police have arrested two minors for the stabbing murder of two teens during an alcohol-fueled knife fight outside a Phuket Town nightclub on January 16.

Phuket Provincial Police Superintendent Pekad Tanti-ping presented the young suspects at a press conference at Phuket City Police Station on January 18.

They are accused of stabbing to death two members of a rival gang in front of the Khiow Tong Bar on Thalang Road at about 11:15pm.

The dead were identified as Rakpong Tonnam of Rassada and Narongrit Song-samue of Phuket Town, both 17.

A third person identified as Jiradet Kut-in was injured in the attack and taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment.

The murder suspects' names were not released as they are both minors. One is from Wichit, the other from Rassada.



The knives allegedly used by the youths to slay their rivals.

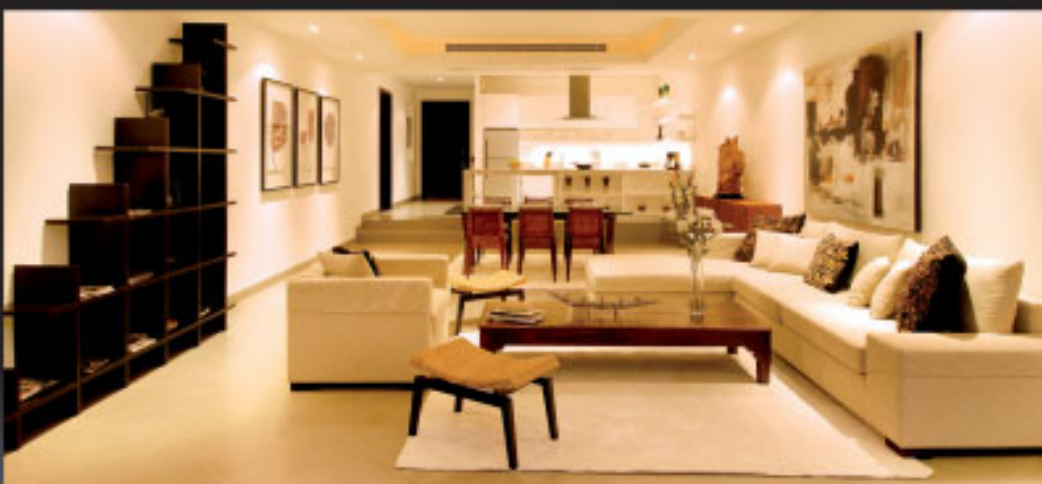
The suspects were arrested and brought to Phuket City Police Station at about 9:30am on January 17.

Gen Pekad said the arrests, within one day of the incident, reflected well on Phuket City Police.

-Sithipong Nongkeaw



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### Hi-Fi Beauty (1)

You might wonder how hi-fi could relate to beauty. Today I will talk about a radio, not a normal radio in your house, but a 'Radiofrequency'. We will see how it helps restore your look and turn back the clock of your skin.

#### What is radiofrequency technology?

Radiofrequency, or RF devices provide RF energy, which does not scatter or absorb during transmission to tissue. It is conducted to skin through electrodes, causes ionic agitation and increases tissue temperature as a result. Physician have used RF systems to remove, shrink, contract and sculpt soft tissue and to coagulate blood vessels. It works well on connective tissue, which will shrink and contract when heated. RF in skin treatments are divided into 3 types: monopolar, bipolar and tripolar. The main difference of each type is the depth that RF can travel through the skin. Monopolar can travel all the way to the subcutaneous fat layer. Bipolar and tripolar can only travel superficially. Tripolar is equipped in the newly launched system for treatment of cellulite. One of the frequently used monopolar RF devices is Thermage or ThermoCool.

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That's the basic information you should know, next week I will give you more details about it. If you have any questions, please contact dr.thanaruch@gmail.com

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## Cheering for Chula



Cheerleaders from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok perform during their traditional football match with Thammasat University on January 16. The match ended 0-0. Photo by Narin Kruaklai

## Queer News

### Pad thai kills pensioner

PHETCHABURI: A pensioner died on stage after choking on a clump of noodles during a *pad thai* eating contest.

Until his collapse, sixty-six-year-old Hing Laichan was leading the competition on his second plate of the famous fried noodle dish, nationalistically named by prime minister Field Marshal Plaek Pibulsonggram during the World War II era.

Onlookers took Mr Hing down from the stage and rushed him to hospital, but doctors were unable to save him. An autopsy found noodles stuck in his throat.

The competition was part of a Phetchaburi Provincial Administration Organization fair held in Tha Yang District on January 15.

Mr Hing's wife, Uraiwan Iamla-ong, said her husband was

in very good health. She said that when Mr Hing said he was going to the fair in search of prizes, she never thought he would end up dying in a *pad thai* eating contest.

Phayao Laichan, the victim's daughter, said witnesses told her her father was just about to win the contest when he keeled over.

He must have not chewed properly before swallowing, causing the food to stick in his throat, Mrs Phayao speculated.

She hopes her father's death will serve as a warning to other agencies planning to hold similar competitions, she said.

The family said they are treating the death as an accident and do not intend to take legal action against the organizers of the event.

Source: Khao Sod

## Lucky skink

YASOTHON: Excited villagers have been getting lottery numbers from a two-headed skink found in the bedroom of a woman in Khamkhueankaow District.

Mali Monplang, 51, said she had noticed strange trails under her raised Thai-style house for three days in a row. She thought the trails were left by a naga, a serpent deity from Hindu mythology.

On January 14, she found a strange little creature in her bedroom. Thinking it may be a baby naga, she caught it and put it in a wash basin. The little animal is only about three inches long, but where its tail should be, it has an extra head, according to villagers.

Soon villagers were coming to pay respects to the beast with incense. They also used it to divine lucky numbers. The most popular were 14, 24, 214, 51, and 217 – coming from the date the animal was caught, Mrs Mali's age and the address of the house.

Yasothon Governor Phongsak Nakprapa, however, warned villagers not to let the find lead them into vices such as gambling.

The naga is a legend and the animal the villagers have caught is not a baby naga, but just a skink that can be found in woods all over the province, he added.

Source: Khao Sod

# German shot dead in road rage slaying

CHIANG MAI: A German man was shot dead for 'giving the finger' to another motorist while stopped at traffic lights in Chiang Mai on January 11.

Witnesses reported that as Thomas Scholler was stopped on his motorcycle, the driver of the car behind beeped his horn to get him to move.

After Mr Scholler made the offending gesture, the driver got out of the car and shot the German twice before fleeing the scene.

Police arrested 39-year-old Preecha Ratanahongthong for the crime on January 13.

At his home they seized a 9mm Glock pistol and four rounds of ammunition as well as nine .45 caliber rounds and four shotgun cartridges. They also seized the Honda Accord suspected of being used in the incident.

Deputy Commissioner of Region 5 Police Sithipon Srichanthap said there were many witnesses to the shooting, which happened on a busy street in the evening in San Sai District.

Witnesses were able to identify the vehicle used in the shooting. Mr Preecha denies the charges, Maj Gen Sithipon added.

Deputy Commander of Chiang Mai Provincial Police Phanudech Bunreuang said that police have confidence in the evidence, despite the suspect's denials.

Col Phanudech said Mr Preecha has previously been prosecuted eight times for car theft.

Source: Khao Sod

## Chiang Mai chili mugger arrested

CHIANG MAI: A woman was arrested on January 17 for attempting to rob a shopkeeper by blinding her with chili paste.

The victim, Sai, a Shan woman who has only one name, said that as she was working in Bew Leather shop, a woman came in to look at the goods on sale.

Suddenly, the woman pulled out a bag of chili paste and threw some in Miss Sai's face before attempting to rip the the gold necklace off her neck. When Miss Sai fought back, the woman fled the shop empty handed.

Miss Sai reported the incident to police. Officers soon spotted a woman matching the

description of the woman running behind their police box in Worrarot Market.

On searching the woman, police found a bag of chili paste and a pair of scissors.

Police said that under questioning, 33-year-old Chuanchit Mophan admitted that she had tried to rob Miss Sai.

She said she had previously used the same technique to steal a necklace from a shop assistant in a clothes store in Chiang Mai.

Mrs Chuanchit said she needed money to send back to her seven-year-old son in Lampang as she was unemployed and separated from her husband.

Source: Khao Sod

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# Partial amazement

Thanks to clear skies on January 14, Phuket was the first province in Thailand to view a spectacular partial solar eclipse; the first of two solar eclipse events expected this year.

Lasting three hours and 34 minutes, at its peak 57 percent of the sun's surface was obscured by the moon. During an eclipse, the moon passes between the sun and the Earth, blocking the sun from view.

It was the first full annular eclipse of 2010, casting a 300km-wide track across parts of Africa and Asia. The event was the longest annular solar eclipse of the millennium and for those who missed out, they will have to wait until December 23, 3043 for a repeat performance.

A host of students, junior astronomers and curious residents convened for the event on Rajabhat University's grassy field, experimenting with a variety of eclipse viewing instruments.

Throughout the afternoon, students flooded outside to watch the eclipse's progression across the sky. Children from nearby schools were also in attendance to witness this special astronomical moment, excitedly moving from one viewing station to the next.

Stressing that gazing at the eclipse would cause permanent

eye damage, science department representatives distributed handfuls of cardboard glasses with special sun-filter lenses.

Although there was plenty of eclipse-safe eye-wear on hand, many people turned up with their own handcrafted filtered glasses. Solar eclipse safe-eye filters can be fashioned from aluminized mylar which blocks ultraviolet and infrared rays and protects eyes from damage.

Through handmade pinhole cameras, telescopes and mirrors students were treated to clear views of the eclipse. Given strict pre-gazing instructions, students safely enjoyed the eclipse via indirect viewing systems using telescopes and paper (see bottom right photo).

By turning their backs to the sun and placing a white sheet of paper under the telescope, the sun projected through the pinhole to reveal the eclipse's outline.

Science and astronomy enthusiasts are already gearing up for the next solar eclipse scheduled for July 11, 2010 which will be a full solar eclipse event.

For a schedule of upcoming eclipse events worldwide go to the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration website at [W:eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://W:eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov).

**-Elizabeth Branca**



Photo by Elizabeth Branca



Photo by Sakorn Saengtongsamarnsin



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# Jazz in the Park to raise funds and spirits

French Jazz Cool Band are set to take to the stage on February 14 for the 'Jazz in the Park' concert at Queen Sirikit Park.

Boasting a mix of big name bands and standard jazz styles, the event promises to be an entertaining night of music that will also support a local cause.

Money raised will be donated to the Ban Bangneaw Municipal School library.

In the main venue, Jazz Cool Band will perform a contemporary blend of soulful international ballads, big band hits and classic jazz tunes.

Kicking off at 7pm, the concert will be performed in various languages, including English, French, Chinese and Thai.

A second venue is devoted to a 'Classic Car' and 'Super Car' show, with classical music played by the Phuket Youth Chamber Orchestra. Food and beverages will be provided throughout the evening.

The Rotary Club of Tongkah is the main organizer of the event, with the support and sponsorship of Phuket Municipality, Ban Bangneaw Municipal School Alumni, Classic Cars and Super Cars of Phuket, and



The popular Jazz Cool Band on stage back in 2007. The nine-man band will take to the stage again on February 14 as part of the 'Jazz in the Park' concert.

additional private companies.

Members of Jazz Cool Band said their goal is to promote jazz to music lovers on Phuket. The band draws upon a variety of musical influences: African-American, French and Brazilian to create their own unique style.

Their repertoire is a collection of timeless favorite jazz tracks, ranging from Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington to renowned crooners Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. The band covers French melodies from Edith Piaf, such as *Autumn Leaves* and *La Vie En Rose*, artfully

rendered into their own style.

For a decade, the nine-man band has been playing regular gigs in Marseille, Lyon and

Paris, and often travel the world to play concerts for various charities.

The Thai Red Cross, UNICEF's Children's Cardiac

Surgery Foundation, and the World Wild Fund Association are just a few the band has supported. Three of their albums, *Live at Igor's*, *Swinging with the Kids* and *Jazz, Je T'aime*, have been produced with charity foundations.

Tickets for the Jazz in the Park event are priced at 1,500 baht per single entry which includes two complimentary drinks. Many local retailers, including all branches of Lotus Express, the Oakley Shop at Central Festival and the customer service counter of Jungceylon Shopping Complex, are selling advance tickets. Visit [W:TONGKAH.org](http://W:TONGKAH.org) for more information or to find out more about Jazz Cool Band visit [W:myspace.com/jazzcoolband](http://W:myspace.com/jazzcoolband).

-Gazette staff

## Blues Rock Festival returns

The Phuket International Blues Rock Festival is back, and promises to be the best yet, since its inception in 2005.

Presented by Thai Airways International, and once again, hosted by the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa, the show will run from February 26 to 27 in Karon.

Gates open and beer begins to flow at 5pm with music starting at 6pm on Friday and 5:30pm on Saturday.

The 2010 event will see 12 acts in total, with eight international acts including headliner Charlie Musselwhite.

A blues legend, Musselwhite has featured at all the world's biggest festivals and will play in Thailand for the first time on the Saturday night.

A 40-year veteran, Charlie has 20 albums, 24 WC Handy (Blues Foundation) Awards and seven Grammy nominations to his credit.

From Australia comes Richard Clapton; a household name there since 1975 when his hit *Girls on the Avenue* soared on the charts. He will



Charlie Musselwhite performing on the New York City Blues Cruise. Open source photo by Mikesfox.

take to the stage on Friday.

From Malaysia, comes AkashA; a top-rated World Music band. Famed Latino Blues master Andy Gonzales from the US also joins the festival for the first time, along with Robert 'One Man' Johnson and Bangkok's Retrovision.

Back by popular demand will be Rich Harper, along with KNiKi from Australia. Phuketians Tony Wilson and Rob Davies will

also be back. There will also be a festival warm-up show on Friday, February 25 at the Tai Pan in Patong.

The festival is a charity event, with funds donated to organizations dedicated to local child education projects. For 2010, the festival will support the Rotary Club of Patong Beach and its local education program. For more information visit [W:phuketbluesfestival.com](http://W:phuketbluesfestival.com).

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# Windmill generates student pride

By Sitthipong Nongkaew



Team Phuket pose proudly alongside their science project.

After winning second place in the Ministry of Energy's 'Wind Challenge' science competition for schools, a team from Darasamuth School in Phuket represented the South in a national science contest in Bangkok.

In the hope of taking first place, the competitors modified the tri-sweep blades on their windmill's roof ventilator for faster rotation and greater energy output.

In Bangkok, the three Darasamuth School science students, 14-year-old Panit Tangjak, 14-year-old Phantira Yangsuebrakul and 13-year-old Sorawich Siripan presented their *Kanghan Lom Chuay Chat* or 'Windmills Help the Nation' project which illustrated how recycled waste could be used to create a windmill and generate electricity.

The ideas behind their

renewable energy project were fostered and developed in the classroom under the tutelage of their science teachers Ms Nammon Keawsung and Sister Prayongsri Yamsuntorn.

Children from 78 schools around Thailand participated in the national contest.

Darasamuth School was the pride of Phuket, having beaten 14 other schools from Thailand's southern provinces.

For the contest, students were split into two levels, *Mattayom* 1-3 and *Mattayom* 4-8, and had many opportunities to exchange ideas and make new friends.

Although the children traveled to Bangkok primarily to present their recycled energy innovations, the weekend's activities also included *Tonkla Palung-ngan* or 'Energy

Seedlings', an educational science camp.

"We had a chance to visit the hydroelectric power station, the Lum Ta Kong Dam, and the largest wind energy station in Thailand at Khao Yai Tieng. Both places were worth visiting to see how energy is produced," said one student.

On December 27, the judges declared the 'Absorb' team from the Satriwithaya School in Bangkok and the 'Wind' team from Sriboonyanon School in Nonthaburi the contest winners.

The Phuket team agreed that although they didn't win the competition's big prize, it had been a positive experience.

They say they already have new ideas for the next science competition.

Contestant Khun Panit wisely advised, "think creatively, learn diligently and uphold morality," when interviewed at Darasamuth School during its Children's Day celebration.

"While participating in this science project I have witnessed this ideal," he said. "The most important part of this project was the fellowship."

"Working as a team, we learned the *Namjai Nuk Keela* ('Spirit of Athletics') and the value of winning, losing and forgiveness."

# Health care on the move

by Hasan Che-aware



On January 8, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop and secretary-general of the Thai Red Cross Society, Mr Pan Wannamethee, presided over the welcoming ceremony of the much-renowned Mobile Eye & Minor Surgery Clinic truck on its visit to Phuket.

The mobile eye-care facility is part of the Thai Red Cross's Optic Surgery Project, which is under the patronage of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

When the Mobile Eye & Minor Surgery Clinic truck was donated by the Rotary Club of Tongkah in March 2007, the president of the Thai Red Cross, oculist Dr. Uraivan Tinnungwattana, bestowed it to HRH Princess Sirindhorn as the honorary patron.

Traveling to remote countryside hospitals that lack facilities the mobile medical facility hopes to serve Thailand's optical health care needs.

Many rural hospitals lack the modern medical instruments needed for regular eye exams and subsequent treatments.

Having served around 1,600 patients and performed over 1,000 eye surgeries throughout the nation, the 13-million-baht truck is making a positive impact on rural communities.

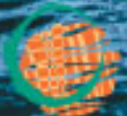
Each year, five provinces within Thailand are chosen to be visited by the Mobile Eye & Minor Surgery Clinic truck for free eye exams. On average, service is provided to 150 patients per area, of which approximately 50 are elderly and have been affected by various eye diseases.

Target districts for the project are regions far from provincial hospitals which are accessible only by mobile medical truck. After Phuket, the next stop for the Mobile Eye & Minor Surgery Clinic truck will be Uthai Thani province on February 8-12.

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# The makings of an island eco-fable

Turkish tourist Atilla Pecek can be found living in his tent on the northern end of Kamala Beach.

The slender silver-haired 51-year old yogi spends his vacation cleaning up garbage, clearing thick jungle brush, practicing yoga and preaching his environmental philosophies to tourists and locals with an acrimonious air.

"Not everybody likes me," Atilla confesses readily, "I have strong feelings and many stories to tell."

To listen to his intensely delivered philosophic diatribes without taking offense requires some patience.

His opinions are delivered artfully in a strong Turkish accent. His sentiments are a blend of sullen poetry, bohemian passion and old wisdom.

Atilla's candor can be an acquired taste, but for many locals and tourists, to know the 'yogi of Kamala Beach' is to love him.

Four months ago, while visiting Thailand on an education visa, Atilla walked the length of the beach in search of a little known reef to snorkel, just off the shoreline. The place struck a cord.

To his dismay, Atilla discovered a large portion of the beach and jungle littered with trash: swaths of broken timber piled high, garbage bags, soda cans and plastic bags.

Atilla said an abandoned beach bar had collapsed some time before he arrived.

The leftover rubble was subsequently turned into an illegal dumping ground that grew over time. The piles of trash were worryingly close to the beach and looked terrible, Atilla said.

With the beach front only accessible from a small path

through the jungle, the dumping ground went largely unnoticed until a few months ago, he said.

Compelled to action like the pastoral hero in Jean Giono's novel *The Man Who Planted Trees*, the tawny-skinned traveler unleashed his inner naturalist and pitched his tent.

With no tools available, Atilla began shifting the piles of trash by hand.

"I started to clean. Every day I dug in the dirt, cutting my hands on broken glass. I worked like a dog," he said. I burned the trash, moved the dirt and cleared the jungle. Day after day, I cleared 200 to 300 meters of garbage," Atilla recalls.

Cleaning is a vital part of Atilla's personal philosophy.

"When you enter your subconscious, your expectations and beliefs are like a mountain. At the end of the day you must burn that mountain. Clean it and tomorrow start again," he said. Atilla said he wakes at 6am to start to build his "mountain" and at night he "burns it away like trash."

Not content with his cleaning, Atilla has been known to give free-of-charge yoga lessons on the beach to anyone who wants to join.

Atilla said it is yoga that helps to keep his mind strong and helps to motivate his environmental endeavors.

With several meters of trash now gone, Atilla has set his sights on new environmental projects.

Flintstone's Beach Bar, at the north end of Kamala Beach, resembles most other surf-side shanties in Phuket, serving cold beer, snacks and fresh fruit. But since the chain-smoking shirtless Turkish yogi showed up, the joint has a new appeal.

Befriending the bar owners,



Photos: Elizabeth Branca

**Left: Taking a short break from clearing and building, Atilla Pecek takes a moment to reflect on his day's endeavours. Top right: On the northern end of Kamala Beach, where the jungle meets the sea, sits the remote Flintstones Beach Bar. Bottom left: Atilla and a few other volunteers helped build a stone retaining wall on the jungle's edge.**



Atilla focuses on cutting back the thick jungle, threatening to engulf the bar, all the while entertaining bar patrons with his eco-philosophy rants.

Flintstone's cook, Parumyu Boonyanakit, said "Atilla is like family now. He likes to talk with our customers and they enjoy having him around. He worked very hard to clean the beach."

After watching him remove trash for weeks, Parumyu and Atilla became close friends. Both men shared a vision for the beach front's future and formed an alliance in order to keep the fastidious Turk's beautification project going.

Atilla believes in harmony and the good will of people.

In order to sustain his idea of a bohemian paradise, he does not indulge in any compensation or discounts from the bar. On occasion, he will take a short rest in the bar's palapa to enjoy a cool drink and always pays.

Making friends along the way, he recalls a Swedish couple who recently helped him clear jungle and construct a rock wall behind the bar.

"The couple came to me and offered to help me clean, they just wanted to be a part of something good," Atilla said.

A visiting Danish sculptor

also became one of Atilla's fans, and offered to make decorative Buddha statues from stones on the beach. The statues are expected soon. Atilla humbly mentions others who have come searching for the 'beach philosopher' of Kamala.

Every place has a soul, Atilla says. "This one[Phuket] has a feminine energy beautiful and peaceful."

For all the foreign gypsies washed ashore in Phuket, dreaming of a peaceful life in a pristine paradise, take heed; and be assured the Turkish yogi is keeping paradise clean.

-Elizabeth Branca



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## EXPAT GALLERY

## Ian Potter

It would be difficult to visit Phuket and not see the influence of Ian Potter's lighting designs in so many of the high end resorts, restaurants and luxury villas on the island. Ian has also created mood and technical lighting for the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, at the Aman Resort at the Summer Palace in Beijing, and in the spa in the Connaught Hotel in London's Mayfair.

"Most people spend the bulk of their day working and sleeping with only about five hours for personal pleasure, so I think it's a good investment to spend the time, effort and money to get the lighting right in one's home or wherever else one goes to enjoy life."

Ian came to Phuket in 1997 to take a year off from managing a lighting company in Singapore and KL. After three weeks of relaxing on the island, he set up Andaman Lighting with the aim of supplying local hospitality outlets with lighting systems. His first clients were the new luxury villa owners who wanted upscale design and installation. Soon, many of the island's five star resorts recruited Ian's design skills to provide internal and external lighting concepts.

"My focus is on creative lighting design that gives the 'wow' factor to provide pleasure, art, and mystery. This type of light-

ing can have passion and soul and make a living space look very different between day and night. At night a room can be made romantic, cold, artistic or practical, depending on the lighting concept."

Ian was born close to London and completed a five year apprenticeship program in electronic and mechanical engineering at a technical college in Guildford. While still a youth he worked for a company that measured fuel flow into the engines of large British navy ships, the same engines used in Concorde airplanes.

He spent the early 1980s working as an engineer for Trend Control Systems, designing control systems for services equipment in large buildings. Clients included Heathrow Airport and commercial buildings in London as well as hospitals around England. When not busy at work, Ian was involved in grass-track racing in old cars with roll bars, or perfecting his aim when shooting clay pigeons. In 1987, Trend sent him to work in Hong Kong.

"I was ready for the adventure of something different and I immediately enjoyed my new life in Asia. As I had been working on the engineering side of building systems, I was then asked to work selling the systems to large buildings in Hong Kong."

After a couple of years,

Trend was bought by Pillar, one of the FTSE's top blue chip companies, and Ian was made Managing Director for Asia Operations.

In 1992, he moved to Singapore to consolidate operations for building control systems and became General Manager of MK Electric, a division of the parent company. He then joined Light Sound Image's Singapore office as Managing Director.

"By 1997, the Asian financial crisis provided the opportunity for me to start a new life on Phuket. My wife Sutisa and I bought 7 rai of land on the side of a mountain overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay.

"On a driving trip around Thailand, we found a traditional teak house in Ayutthaya which we were able to buy and have shipped to Phuket. We have added other buildings around this house to make our family home, which we call Villa Anusara."

Today, Ian is working on one of the latest Aman resorts, located in a quiet valley in Hang Zhou, two hours south of Shanghai.

"The resort will encompass the entire village, which is being restored retaining all the architectural design features. This gives me the opportunity to create a lighting design complimentary to the age of the structures and subtly add the required sense of luxury."

To meet Ian's current work load he is looking for a partner. He can be contacted at [ian@andamanlighting.com](mailto:ian@andamanlighting.com).

— 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.

by Benz Chaengwattana

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**PERFECT POLISH:** SenSes Beauty and Wellness Spa celebrated their grand opening on January 9 in their new location at the MedPark at Royal Phuket Marina. The VIP guests were treated to complimentary champagne and nail treatments and were pampered with a selection of beauty services that SenSes offer.



**GOVERNOR GROOVES:** A New Year party took place on January 14, organized by Prosecutor Pichai Srichamnong. Many officials joined the party, including Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngob, Vice Governor Smith Palawatwichai and Court Chief Varangkana Sucharitakul. Bands played while dancers and acrobats performed, Gov Wichai even got up on stage to sing.



**CARD CACHET:** Phuket Vice Governor Smith Palawatwichai chaired the opening ceremony for the Phuket GIC Card at Jungceylon. A new revolution in reward cards, the GIC Card enables holders to save points, support local charities and receive prizes. Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Sirichai Silapa-archa was also in attendance.



**HOTEL HELPING HANDS:** Ambassadors from Sheraton Grande Laguna were provided with a warm welcome from two Phuket schools; Baan Nai Thorn and Baan Leam Sai. Over 15 ambassadors, including the resort's General Manager Klaus Christandl, visited the two schools on January 13 to donate educational equipment and cleaning materials.



**YOUNG AND FABULOUS:** Thai superstar Tata Young performed at the site of the new Eva Beach Project on January 16 for an enthusiastic crowd. Pictured from left: Co-founder of the Eva Group, Mr Bruno Paride; Performer, Tata Young and Managing Director, Mr Authanop Pankamnerd.



**BEANTOWN BOYS:** The Beelzebubs concert on January 7 was a fantastic success. The well-known male acappella band from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts performed live at the British International School (BIS). 'The Bubs' held a workshop the following day, enjoyed by all in attendance.



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# Raya Thai Cuisine: A downtown treat

**On the  
menu**  
WITH  
**Wilko**

Here's a conundrum for you: Is it fair and ethical to keep excellent restaurants and beaches a secret on a tourist-destination island?

Now that's a two-pipe mystery, isn't it Watson? And where the hell's my violin? Think about it; if the destination exudes an 'un-invaded' charm (a concept northern France and Belgium cannot begin to comprehend) then why not keep it a secret? But if it's so good, then why not share it with others?

For example, let's take the once-unsung Ao Sane Beach near Nai Harn (in itself a 'hidden gem' to use tourist brochure-speak).

Nowadays, Ao Sane is so overrun with wobbly middle-aged Germans, no doubt due to trendy Berlin and Munich glossies drooling over its coral-and-pebble beachside charms, that it'd really be best to change its name to 'Auf Wieder-Sane'.

Another example is the 'exclusive' Freedom Beach, north of Patong, that makes a complete mockery of its moniker. You can't even sit on that beach without having to pay to be there, not even on the sand... Now tell me, where's the 'Freedom' in that?

"Ah," the owners will no doubt argue, "everything costs money. Soon the tourists will demand a free lion show at Laem Singh..."

So definitions, by definition, are definitely getting laxer and laxer on Phuket.

So it's with trepidation and a strong temptation to use a lot more words ending with '-ion' that I introduce *Gazette* readers to Raya Restaurant in Phuket's Old Town.

Sure, we've all heard of

Dibuk Road's culinary charms, and the wonderful Siam Indigo and China Inn in the same area, but as far as I have checked, no-one has yet chiseled into the mother lode of Raya's seam of old-Phuketness and emerged displaying its gleaming yield.

This two-story wooden gem is situated on New Dibuk Road and has a history of hosting, if not the crème-de-la-crème of Thai society then at least the riz-de-la-riz. Movie stars, government ministers, visiting diplomats have been in the know and now, for Raya's sins, Wilko is spilling the beans.

For starters, the 90-year-old building has all the charm of a turn-of-a-(last)-century house, with a magnificent but alas defunct 78-RPM record player at the entrance, a staircase worthy of a 'Frankly my Dear, I don't give a damn' scene, and oodles of space in which to act out your fantasies.

The rather bright tulip-shaped light shades along with 1950s poster-girl ads for cigarette and tea companies, as well as a pleasingly lived-in feel, all add up to an atmosphere if not romantic, then certainly bohemian.

Khun Kulab, the owner, is in great demand as a food teacher and has trained several prominent Phuket chefs. She even takes food orders from Bangkok and, as mentioned, when the big shots are in town they head straight to Raya, and for good reason.

In the happy juice department, Raya has a modest eight-label wine list featuring two French, one Chilean and five Australian wines, with none over 850 baht. We opt for a Hardy's red and it slips down well with a sweet crabmeat curry served with rice vermicelli (350-400 baht). We also order a *pla nueng manao* (380-450 baht), dished up quicker than you can say 'steamed lemon fish'. There's a stir under the table and a flash of orange, but we had been warned about *Si-Tong*, the restaurant's tabby. He's un-

obtrusive and mildly disdainful of people who actually sit at a table to eat. "Why bother? I certainly don't," he intimates before disappearing into the night with a contemptuous farewell flick of his tail.

An innocuously chili-free *som tam* with deep-fried squid is next (100 baht). We're starting to wind down due to a combination of the wine and the large portions and would have probably grown roots, branched out and flowered if it hadn't been for a later engagement. In fact, we were mildly surprised that so many people came, saw and conkered out so quickly when Raya is a great place in which to chill out. Sure, the service is a little

over-prompt, lending a slightly impersonal touch, but Khun Kulab and her sister couldn't be more welcoming.

For higher priced Thai food in genuine surroundings, you can't go much better than Raya.

*Raya Thai Cuisine. 48 New Dibuk Road, Phuket Old Town. Next to Shintaro Japanese Restaurant. Tel: 076-218155 Email: rayarestaurant@gmail.com. Thai cooking classes available.*



The Golden-Age-meets-East theme of Phuket Town's Raya Restaurant brings a unique charm to accompany the eatery's famous dishes, all set amidst the classic appeal of a 90-year-old Sino-Portuguese building.

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Acqua is one of the most contemporary and chic restaurants in Phuket, with a high reputation for the freshness and quality of its ingredients and for the extensiveness of the wine list where all the top of the top wines find their places. Chef and owner, Alessandro will introduce you in a culinary experience, where authentic Italian specialty with a contemporary flair will make your experience unforgettable. Acqua can be booked for private lunches, dinners, parties-meetings.

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# Why the modern world loves Apples



While I was considering what to write in my first column about Apple hardware and software, I solicited the advice of friends and colleagues. I wanted to know what people outside the Mac sphere of influence wanted to read about.

Several interesting inquiries came my way, such as, "I heard Mac has no viruses..."

"Do people actually use Windows on a Mac?"

"How about a walkthrough on how to set up a Mac?"

And lastly, "Are there aliens inside Macs?" (that one was from my nephew; he's four).

The topic that kept coming up more than any other was, "Why are so many people switching?"

In the past, the stereotype of Mac users was fairly specific: design or creative professionals with not much need for collaboration on non-Mac systems. While Apple is still the market leader in creative software, this has not been their main focus for some time.

Apple has made it a priority to make its operating system and applications compatible with computers using Windows or Linux operating systems. The



**Millions of people have been making the switch from PC to Mac because of Apple's growing reputation for seamless integration, stable performance, sleek looks and easy to use software.**

company has shifted its development towards business software that is feature-rich, easy to use, and less expensive than similar software released by competitors.

Without even realizing it, people interact with a Mac almost every day. Hospitals, real estate and law offices, governments, web developers and a host of other business sectors are all successfully using Mac.

The developers at Apple have created a system that embraces the basic kindergarten edicts of cooperation, sharing and not hurting the other kids. It seems that business users are starting to recognize that Macs do play well with others. Gone are the days when Macs only work well with Macs.

Business owners are tired of not knowing what goes on with their office computer networks. They want to control more and pay less for technical support.

Every time a computer crashes, it's lost productivity for the company, and that costs money. Macs tend to offer more consistent up time, which means

businesses can get down to business. A simple strategy of make more and spend less applies here.

PC users are tired of crashes and viruses with virtually no support. If a PC crashes, most people don't know if it's a hardware or software problem. It leaves most PC users feeling like a child who has lost their parents in the supermarket, looking to the closest person for help.

Mac users feel comforted that almost everything is made and supported by the same company, so no matter what your problem is, you can get all of your support from the same people. Doesn't that seem logical and convenient?

Not only is the service level convenient and available globally, but Macs are easier to use. Do you know how to drag and drop with your mouse? If you answered 'yes', then you have already mastered the basics of a Mac.

Like anything new, if you switch from Windows or Linux to Mac, there is a learning curve. But the important thing to remember is that it doesn't take long to learn, and if you learn how to use one Mac program, you can basically use them all. Because Apple oversees and approves the development process, applications operate with the same look and feel.

In addition to simple functionality and the now legendary ease of use, design plays an important part in Mac development. Does anyone really look twice when they see someone using a Dell or HP? When someone is using a Mac, however, people notice.

Just like Ferrari and Porsche, Apple spends as much time designing the outside as it does the inside. Through design, your computer becomes more than just the sum of its parts; it becomes a piece that makes your home or office look better.

So, why Mac? Well, Mac consistently delivers some of the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the computer industry, far outpacing its rivals in both the desktop and notebook sectors.

All of this boils down to the simple fact that the average Mac user is far more satisfied with their computer than the average PC user.

My clients routinely tell me that they choose Mac because of value. A longer lifespan, fewer problems and an easy way to do complicated tasks all add to the value.

Even novice users can create stunning slide shows, interactive Web pages, million dollar presentations and even Hollywood-style movies within a couple of hours of unwrapping a new Mac.

With Mac's built in secure foundation, you can surf and share files over the web, knowing that your information and your family is protected and secure.

In my next article, I will talk about Mac's security against malicious software.

*Shane is the COO of Elite Asia and can be contacted via [www.eliteasia.org](http://www.eliteasia.org) or [info@eliteasia.org](mailto:info@eliteasia.org)*

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

## Caliente party at Royal Phuket Marina



The island's first latin dance party of the year will feature DJs Carlos and Ricardo from Bangkok's Latinos Sabotaje spinning salsa, merengue, bachata, reggae and latin-pop.

Enjoy some latin flavor with percussionists, tequila girls, and a salsa dance workshop. Party from 7:30pm-11:30pm at Town Square in the Royal Phuket Marina. Entrance fee is 500 baht and includes tapas snacks and a beer, glass of wine or soft drink. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com

### January 22 - 24. Sensational Sale

Millenium Resort in Patong will throw its first sale event featuring Versace, Aigner and other luxury brands for up to 70% discount. 11am-8pm. For further information contact Eve. T: 02-204 2255. E: eve@everestasia.com. W: everestasia.com.

### January 23. 'Chill Out' Sessions Volume 1

Relax after all the new year's parties with some smooth and uplifting house tracks. House maestros DJ T.J. Bangkok and DJ "The Professor" Pierandre from Italy select the best music for a chill vibe. Enjoy wines, beer and sparkling water from the bar and take in the sunset at Grasslands, Royal Phuket Marina's new pier side venue. From 6.30pm-9pm at Grasslands. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-7973364. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com.

### January 24. Phuket's First Celebrity Chef Raw Food Workshop

Celebrity raw food chef Ani Phyo will conduct a raw food workshop at Mom Tri's Villa Royale from 1pm-5pm. After six recipe demonstrations by the chef, participants can sample dishes including three guilt-free deserts, a main course, an appetizer, a soup and a drink. Advance tickets are 800 baht or 1,000 baht the day of the event. For more information contact Sylvie Yaffe, PR Manager. T: 087-888 9089. E: pr@villaroyalephuket.com. W: momtriphuket.com/events.htm. For more information about raw food Chef Ani Phyo visit [www.aniphyo.com](http://www.aniphyo.com).

### February 3 - 7. Phang Nga Bay Regatta

Fun-filled days of racing between the beautiful islands of Phang Nga Bay and Krabi. Perfect for families and less serious racers. Held around Chinese New Year, there is a party at a different beach venue throughout Phang Nga Bay each night from 10pm-11:30pm. For further information contact Vicky or Rolien. T: 085-069 0940. E: vicki@loxinfo.co.th. W: bayregatta.com.

### February 10. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club

Live International Stand-Up Comedy at The Punchline Comedy Club. The three performing comedians - John Moloney, Stewart Francis, and Pete Johansson have over sixty years of stand-up experience between them, so you can be assured of a fun packed night full of laughter. The air-conditioned comedy venue sells drinks at reasonable prices: beer 100 baht; selected spirits 120 baht; wine 140 baht. Show time is from 8-11pm at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong Beach. For more information contact Khun Boon. T: 089-6469278. W: phuketcomedy.com.

### February 13. Chinese New Year's Eve at Movenpick

In accordance with tradition, Movenpick has arranged a celebratory feast on Chinese New Year's Eve. The celebration brings friends and family to gather together to start the new year. You'll feast on a dazzling array of Chinese delicacies and international desserts. The Chinese New Year's Eve buffet dinner will be held at the Pacifica from 6:30pm-10:00pm and is priced at 1,288 baht ++ per person. Book a table for 10 persons or more and receive a complimentary 'Yu Sheng' Chinese New Year Salad. For further info contact Mr. Patrick De Staercke. T: 076-396139. E: patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com. W: moevenpick-phuket.com.

### February 14. Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year starts with the new moon

on the first day of the lunar calendar and is the biggest social occasion in the Chinese tradition. It is celebrated with gusto amongst Thailand's ethnic sizeable Chinese community and legions of Chinese tourists from neighboring nations who choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

### February 14. Jazz in the Park on Valentine's Day

The Rotary Club of Tongkah proudly presents 'Big Band' Jazz charity concert to raise funds for the Bang-neaw School at Queen Sirikit Park. Enjoy the night with favorite songs all played by the JCB Jazz Cool Band. There will also be a Classic & Super Cars Show. From 5pm-9:30pm. For further information contact Chaisak Koaysomboon. T: 076304090. E: chaisak@expressdata.co.th. W: tongkah.org.

### February 14. Valentine's Day Surprises at Movenpick

Surprise your loved one with a Valentine's Day dinner on the Lagoon Lawn with a romantic six-course affair. Dinner is served from 6:30 pm till 10:00pm and priced at 3,000 baht++ for six courses per couple, including a glass of sparkling wine and a red rose for the lady. For more information contact Mr. Patrick DeStaercke. T: 076-396139. E: patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com W: moevenpick-phuket.com.

### Free Computer Clinics

Have a computer problem? 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 in Chalong, Patong and Laguna. Click on the 'Old "Khunwoody.com" pages' link.

T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: KhunWoody.com. All clinics are from 10am-12pm. In Chalong, January 17, 24, 31 and February 21 and 28. In Laguna, February 14.

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# Small print can hide big secrets



## 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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A reader of this column recently visited me concerning a very unpleasant experience he had at the Singapore branch of a major world bank.

He had invested a six-figure sum in US dollars in what appeared to be a bond issued in US dollars by a large Australian bank.

What appeared strange on the paperwork he showed me was that in the first year of his investment, he was paid 12 percent and had received no more interest in subsequent years. The maturity date of the investment was 2016 and the capital value of his investment had fallen by 32 percent.

This was a ten-year

investment which did not seem to make much sense.

The reader telephoned his bank in Singapore and spoke to his personal account manager, giving her permission to speak to me about this investment. It was then revealed that what on the surface resembled a bond was in fact what they call a 'structured product'.

The structure was that this ten-year 'bond' only paid out interest when US cash interest rates were at low levels; it was all linked to US dollar Libor (London inter bank offer rate).

Should US short-term interest rates rise, the client would earn interest, but the Australian bank issuing this 'structured product' reserved the right to immediately recall the investment and return the capital at any time to the client. Obviously, they would only take this course of action if interest rates moved against them.

I was stunned that a very major bank would try and sell something like this to a member of the public, who was retired and whose own statement showed his risk profile as low/moderate with little knowledge of financial products.

In some countries the law specifically prohibits this type of activity. In any event, regardless of the legal situation, it is totally immoral for a leading bank to be promoting this type of product to private clients.

Products such as this are only suitable for institutional investors such as hedge funds and high yield bond funds. They



Be careful when investing in 'structured products' linked to the performance of stock indexes like the FTSE.

are probably too experienced to be ensnared. It was a case of 'heads I win, tails you lose'.

Another reader revealed that his bank in the Isle of Man had also sold him a 'structured product', based this time on the performance of the FTSE 100 index (the Footsie).

In this case, the bank had supplied a guarantee that he was protected should the index fall below 3500. However, as the index is now trading at close to 5500, they reserve the right to enforce a 'kick out' clause in September 2010 (their term).

At least this time it led to the client earning more than was comfortable for the bank.

I met another reader who had entered into a contract with a large insurance company in late 1999. This time, the insurance company offered an income of 10 percent a year. Before he took out this product he asked me to match this incredibly high offer, but, as he did not have any paperwork, I merely commented that it was extremely high.

Later, after he had invested his money, the full story was

revealed. The 10 percent income was guaranteed only if the S&P 500 index or the Footsie or the Japanese Nikkei 225 did not fall more than 27 percent.

In the stockmarket crash of early 2000, which continued until 2003, not just one but all three of these indices dropped by over 27 percent. The income he had received from this investment was indeed 10 percent a year but, as the guarantee had disappeared, what he was actually receiving was completely at the expense of his own capital.

The insurance company paid out nothing at all.

Fortunately for the public, this company no longer accepts new business, but on paper they are sound, being a wholly owned subsidiary of a major bank. Many people are still being offered annual income of 10 percent, not realizing that there is no guarantee involved, and that this is often depleting their capital without their knowledge.

Another scandal involving endowment policies with a large insurance company – also, coincidentally, a subsidiary of a

major banking group – erupted in the early 2000s in Hong Kong.

In this case, clients were persuaded that high growth rates of endowment products were so attractive that they should borrow 400 to 500 percent of the intended investment from a bank to maximize their returns.

Predictably, the stock market drop in the early 2000s impacted on returns and investors found themselves with massive loans and huge interest payments often secured by mortgages on property. The financial regulators were not impressed. This company is now closed to new business.

If a situation looks to be too attractive, it is wise to look closely at the small print or get a second opinion.

It is not only in the financial world that scandals exist. The mother of a friend of mine was recently told by a doctor at a Phuket hospital that she had terminal cancer. Further tests, carried out by a hospital in Bangkok, revealed that she was in fact suffering from a very rare type of non-contagious tuberculosis, which *could* become cancerous.

An operation and further treatment healed the condition, but one can easily imagine the trauma she and her family suffered.


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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.

MALLARD FILLMORE

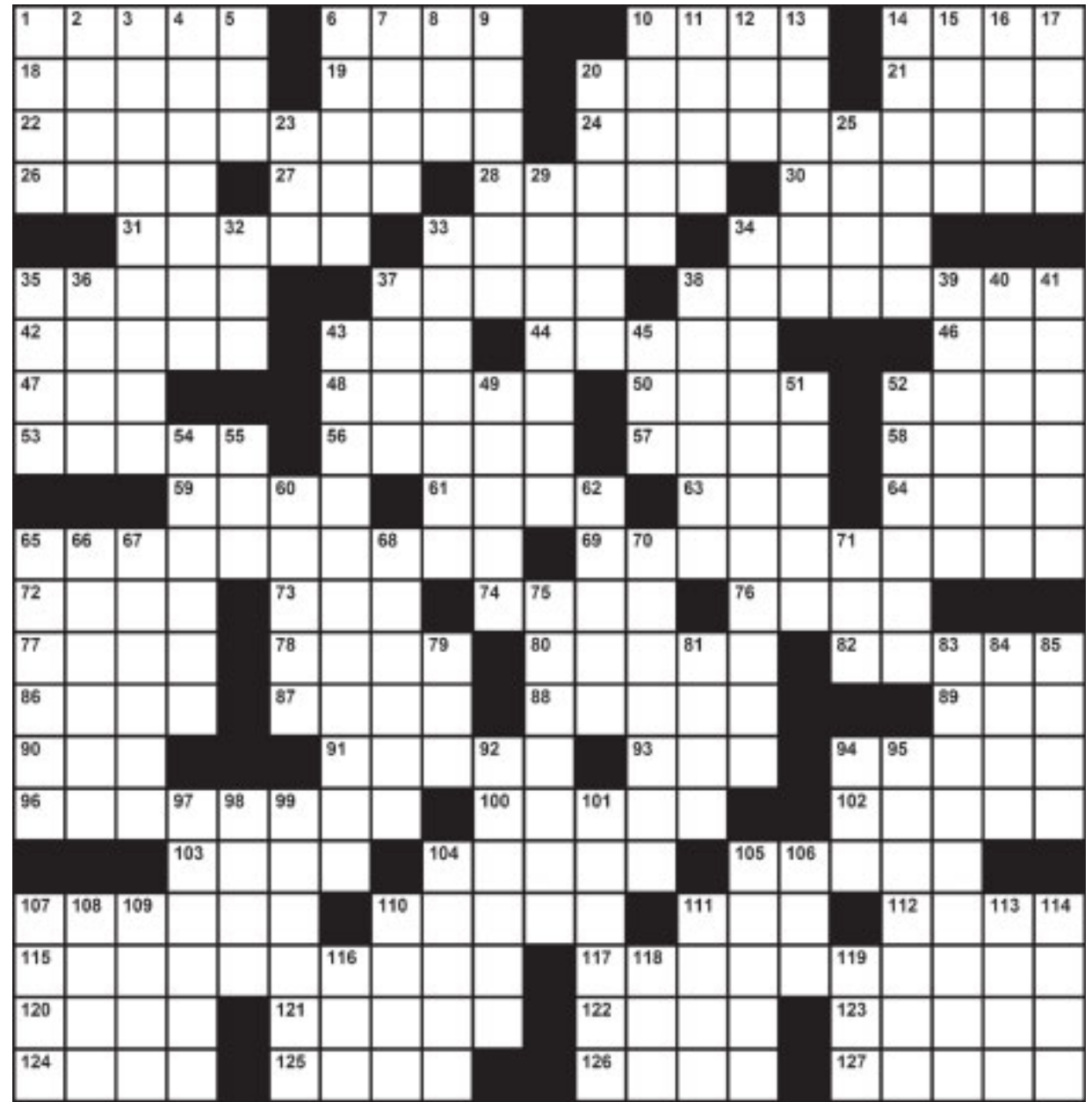
Solution: 8 letters

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

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9/15

Amphibious, Anthropomorphic, Book, Boss, Bruce, Cartoon, Chantel, Chet, Comic, Dave, Dilton, Diner, Duck, Eddie, File, Fish, Friend, Green, Interviews, Issues, King, Larry, Media, Newspaper, Noseworthy, OSHA Boy, Parody, Pencil, Pets, Pinkford, President, Printed, Quat, Rush, Story, Syndicate, Tank, Think, Thought, Veneer, Washington, WFDR, Wise



## ACROSS

- 1 "\_\_\_ up or ship out!"  
6 "And \_\_\_ gave names to all cattle" (Gen. 2:20)  
10 A Stetson has a broad one  
14 Intense criticism  
18 Tidal flood  
19 Budding band's handout  
20 About to blow  
21 "Peyton Place" actress Wood  
22 Vehicle for one in a cast, perhaps  
24 Chatterbox  
26 Can't stand the weight  
27 Brick bearer  
28 Japanese prefecture and city  
30 Arboretum  
31 A bit of antiquity  
33 It flows into the Missouri  
34 Entertain an honoree  
35 Biscuit's cousin  
37 \_\_\_ brulee (custard dessert)  
38 Centenarians, e.g.  
42 Sticks out one's bottom lip  
43 Gearwheel part  
44 Twin Falls locale  
46 Ar predecessor  
47 Roadie's tote  
48 Cargo quantities  
50 Alice, to Ralph Kramden  
52 "Mystic River" Oscar winner Sean  
53 Woodworker's tools  
56 Arm bones  
57 Unit of pressure  
58 Scottish island or N.Y. college  
59 Many govt. job titles  
61 Multivitamin metal  
63 Rx writers' org.  
64 Round dance official  
65 Misanthropic  
69 In a naive way  
72 "Tell me more!"

- 73 British health org.  
74 Exercise regimen from India  
76 "Take a number" site, possibly  
77 Playing a fifth qtr., say  
78 A concha tops it  
80 "Dragnet" credits item  
82 "Fibber \_\_\_ and Molly"  
86 Actor Kilmer and namesakes  
87 "Shoulda, woulda, coulda" one  
88 Court TV coverage  
89 Disagreeably chilly  
90 Kin of arrogance  
91 Striciness  
93 Sue Grafton's "\_\_\_ for Moose"  
94 Beyond partner  
96 Like slow days for anchormen  
100 2003 "American Idol" winner  
102 "\_\_\_ in a million years!"  
103 French door feature  
104 South American mountain chain  
105 Use the tub  
107 Maintain as true  
110 "\_\_\_ Gold" (Peter Fonda film)  
111 Wide partner  
112 Automaker \_\_\_  
115 Official stationed at an entrance  
117 Upholstery protectors  
120 "Free Willy" animal  
121 Unsentimental  
122 Really enthusiastic about  
123 "10" actress  
124 Catamaran canvas  
125 Improve, as acting skills  
126 Place at the start?  
127 Class closing?

## DOWN

- 1 Adds a border to a quilt, e.g.  
2 "Aren't we the

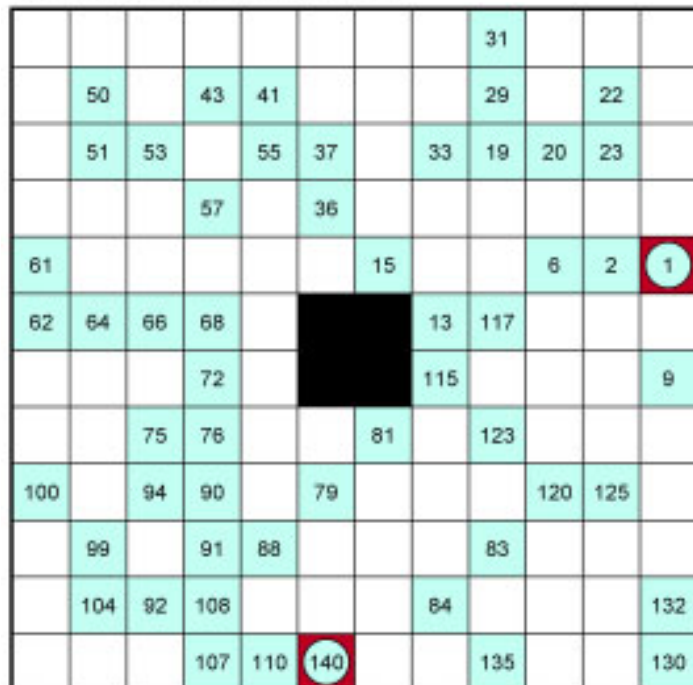
- 3 Some polling units  
4 Alternative to "here"  
5 Undulant swimmer  
6 For the case at hand  
7 Lacking business  
8 "What \_\_\_ a bank?"  
9 Bummed out  
10 Belly up  
11 "Tat-tat" preceeder  
12 "How was \_\_\_ know?"  
13 Came together  
14 Bit of broccoli  
15 Praise highly  
16 Pre-deal ritual  
17 "Blazing Saddles" Oscar nominee  
20 Represented visually  
23 "The Sweetheart of Sigma \_\_\_"  
25 Gym paraphernalia  
29 Banjo's Japanese cousin  
32 Broadway's "\_\_\_ Miserables"  
33 Evening dress material  
34 Auto show attractions?  
35 Box without a prize  
36 '78 Crichton thriller  
37 Air-conditioned  
38 Harding, McKinley or Taft, e.g.  
39 Achieve with nothing to spare  
40 Brook  
41 Based on the number six  
43 What a stereotypical grandma carries  
45 Product of human creativity  
49 Like many newspapers  
51 Use caller ID  
52 Antsy outing?  
54 Does some work on the house  
55 Serpentine signal  
60 A school might

- 62 be found using it  
63 Churchillian trademark  
65 Assumed  
66 Period of immaturity  
67 Like pitches that hit the plate  
68 Japanese immigrants  
70 Writer Gordimer and photographer  
71 Tree with winged fruits  
75 Force one's opinions on others  
79 Work measurement unit  
81 Add weight or speed  
83 They humble themselves  
84 Leaf gatherer  
85 Pitcher  
92 Downright mean  
94 Flick of "A Bug's Life"  
95 Isn't naughty  
97 Aeronautical maneuver  
98 Carefree adventure  
99 Catch, spider-style  
101 "Empress of the Blues" Smith  
104 Coeur d' \_\_\_, Idaho  
105 Drum major's accessory  
106 Basketball court's three-point line, e.g.  
107 Chaotic happenings  
108 "\_\_\_ good time, call \_\_\_"  
109 A hyperbola has two  
110 "\_\_\_ a midnight dreary"  
111 Final outcome  
113 On the loose  
114 Charges, as a retailer  
116 Area commanded by D.D.E.  
118 Where to get in line?  
119 Gray matter?

## HIDATO®

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 140 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



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Difficulty ★★★★★

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August 17, 2009

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

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GULL**FERRIS BEEF ENCORE**

# Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. The Penny Black was the world's first stamp. What was second?
2. Which country produces Tokay?
3. Where could you legally flash your dong, then spend it?
4. The Bald Eagle is America's national bird. What is Britain's?
5. Australian Clement Wragge instituted what?
6. What does 'ZIP' stand for in the American ZIP code?
7. What wood is plywood mostly made from?
8. What is a hummum?
9. Which sport are left-handed people banned from playing?
10. What food was invented in a sanatorium in 1890?
11. What is a bellwether?
12. What was Procul Harum's greatest hit?
13. Percy Shaw invented what in 1934?
14. What animal produces its own sun tan lotion?
15. What was a Nuremberg egg?
16. What was the name of Sir Isaac Newton's dog, which is believed to have inspired the modern 'doggy door'?
17. Who was devoured by dogs in the Old Testament?
18. In literature, who is the alter ego of Percy Blakeney?
19. Juglans Regia is the real name of what type of nut tree?
20. Released in 1971, which popular album cover for the Rolling Stones had a zip on the front?

Answers below

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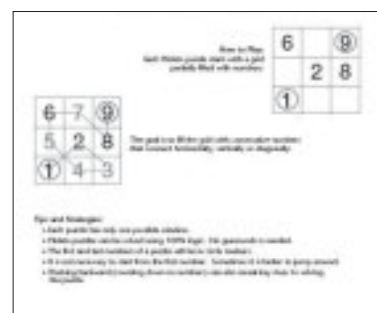
# Puzzle Solutions

**Wonderword Solution: Assistance**  
**Solution to this week's crossword:**

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

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Two Penny Blue;
2. Hungary;
3. Vietnam;
4. Robin;
5. Naming Hurricanes;
6. Zone improvement plan;
7. Birch;
8. Turkish bath;
9. Polo;
10. Kellogg's corn flakes;
11. The leader of a flock of sheep;
12. A Whiter Shade of Pale;
13. Catseyes;
14. Hippopotamus;
15. Pocket watch;
16. Diamond;
17. Jezebel;
18. Scarlet Pimpernel;
19. Walnut;
20. Sticky Fingers.

**Hidato: How to play and this week's puzzle solution.****WHATZIT? solutions**  
**1. Con artist.**  
**2. Birds of a feather.**  
**3. We'll meet again.**

### Hidato Puzzle Solution

2/22

47	46	45	44	42	40	39	30	31	28	27	26
48	50	52	43	41	38	34	32	29	21	22	25
49	51	53	54	55	37	35	33	19	20	23	24
60	59	58	57	56	36	16	17	18	5	4	3
61	63	65	67	69	70	15	14	12	6	2	1
62	64	66	68	71			13	117	11	7	8
96	74	73	72	77			115	116	118	10	9
97	95	75	76	78	80	81	114	123	124	119	126
100	98	94	90	89	79	113	82	122	120	125	127
101	99	93	91	88	87	112	85	83	121	133	128
102	104	92	106	109	111	86	84	137	134	129	132
103	105	108	107	110	140	139	138	135	136	131	130

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# Stargaze '09: How the pundits fared

As a cynic and a curmudgeon, I've always been skeptical about astrology. At the turn of every year, astrologers make predictions for the coming year. Sometimes I clip their predictions from the newspapers, and the end of the following year I review them to see which ones came true and which ones didn't.

In their predictions for 2009, the astrologers didn't do too badly. One who didn't do so well was Raymond Lo, of Hong Kong. He predicted that because 2009 was an Earth Ox year, it would bring "more stability...a time of meditation and rebuilding." Stock markets would become "more stable and calm," and "there should be no conflict."

Well, if I remember correctly, the markets were fairly

unstable in 2009. Lo was right about the absence of conflict – just so long as you don't count the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as conflicts, nor the diplomatic standoff over the Iranian and North Korean nuclear projects, nor the struggle to hammer out a climate-change agreement in Copenhagen.

We had plenty of conflicts right here in Thailand between the government and the Red Shirts, not to mention the spats between Thailand and Cambodia.

Maybe Lo meant to say that there would be no conflicts in Hong Kong.

Other Chinese astrologers predicted trouble for U.S. President Obama, partly on the grounds that he's the nation's 44th president, and in Mandarin Chinese the number four is pronounced the same as the word for death.

This superstition has always irritated me, because although both words are pronounced the same, the tones are different and the written characters are different. That makes them different words. And even if they

were the same, so what? But it's still early days for Obama, so the jury is still out on this one.

Thai astrologers seem to have done better than their Chinese counterparts.

"If you think the airport closures and mobs were bad, then next year [2009] will be worse," predicted astrologist Paweena Vasanareungsuk, a graduate of the Hamburg School of Astrology.

"Prime Minister Abhisit will face the most exhausting mission in his life. There will be things happening to him that he can't possibly control."

Considering the riots during Songkran in Bangkok, the disruption and cancellation of the Asean summit in Pattaya, and the attack on Abhisit's car, that prediction was a home run for Ms Paweena.

Unfortunately, she blotted her copybook in a sidebar that prescribed remedies for ailments likely to afflict people born under different signs of the zodiac.

I'm an Aries, and Paweena diagnosed Arians as being susceptible to headache,

migraines, colds, and sinus problems. To counter these, she recommended carrot juice and camomile herbal tea.

Well, hey. I don't have problems with migraines, colds, and my sinuses, and the only time I get headaches is when somebody tells me to drink carrot juice and camomile tea. I'm a guy. Guys don't drink carrot juice and camomile tea. Guys drink beer. My friends tell me that beer is what keeps those migraines, colds, and sinus problems away.

In sum, I have to give Ms. Paweena an 'A' for her political predictions and an 'F' for her health prescriptions. Camomile tea! Sheesh.

Another Thai fortune teller, Phanuwat Phanwichartkul, warned that the government would face major problems in April, possibly even bloodshed, if new elections weren't held. His focus in April was right on target, because that's when we had the Songkran riots, the Asean debacle, and the assault on Abhisit.

Abhisit scraped through the crisis, and one astrologer,

Kornharis Buasuang, predicted that his government would last its full four-year term if it managed to get through September. For that we have to stay tuned.

Both Phanuwat and Kornharis warned of "terrorism and natural disasters, especially earthquakes," in 2009. These are always a safe bet, but you'd think they might have mentioned the H1N1 virus, the fires in Australia, and the typhoons in the Pacific.

In general, the Thai astrologers did better than the Chinese ones. Maybe they study different stars. Or maybe it's because they're looking at them from different angles.

I was impressed despite myself by the accuracy of the astrologers who predicted problems for Abhisit, and especially when they specified April as a critical month.

But don't anybody ever tell me to drink carrot juice and camomile tea.

*You can scold S. Tsow for his cynicism at s.tsow@gmail.com.*

## Horoscopes ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♈ Isla Star



**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Those born under the sign of Aquarius who have had a disappointing start to the year should be cheered this week. Your efforts at work are forecast to bring the recognition you deserve, and a promotion is highlighted. Where love is concerned, having a whole-hearted approach to a new relationship could make you vulnerable.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Time is on your side in the world of business as others are predicted to be late for deadlines this week. Those Pisceans who have found it difficult to get going since the start of this year are advised to consider streamlining their social commitments. A cloud forms over romance – your reluctance to leave the past behind could prevent a relationship from moving forward.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): A bracing week lies ahead for many Arians. A water sign friend finally produces information you have needed to succeed in business, but there are signs that speed will be of the essence. Those in a committed relationship are predicted to discover the cause of a partner's recent

unhappiness. If you are single and ready to mingle, Aquarius has the same idea this weekend.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Trying to do too many things at the same time could trip Taureans up this week. There are signs that your agenda will overflow causing appointments to be missed or delayed. Another earth sign may become especially upset when you have to let them down at the last minute on Tuesday. Romance is subject to mixed signals this weekend – someone who you thought shared your interest could have found excitement elsewhere.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Friends are surprised this week when Geminis turn down social invitations in order to stay at home. Your usual willingness to party is forecast to be affected by a downturn in both energy levels and finances until the end of January. Changes in your domestic environment may be hard to come to terms with, but the long-term outcome will be positive.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Many Cancerians will have to finally admit that their heart is not in a prospective work project this week. This will give you chance to move on to a scheme that has been in the pipeline for a while. Someone born under the sign of Aquarius can help you to succeed, but Leo cannot be counted on. Those who are single find out that there's no need to be shy around Sagittarius this weekend.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Your efforts to effect reconciliation between friends who have fallen

out are appreciated this weekend. Social life will bring more satisfaction than work in the last days of January as a new colleague is forecast to cause ripples. At home, your partner's enthusiasm for decorating comes as a pleasant surprise, although it may be hard to curb their spending on the project.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): The last week of January brings good news for many of those born under the sign of Virgo. The stars suggest that hard work in recent weeks has not gone unnoticed and some kind of bonus is forecast. Romance moves onto a smoother path when a personal problem is laid to rest. There may be fireworks within your family circle this weekend when someone announces a radical plan.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Librans suffering from the New Year blues are inspired by a secret shared by Aries this

week. A fresh perspective on your personal situation could reveal that change is not as out of the question as you imagined. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to schedule business or bureaucratic meetings for, as the stars will support your efforts to get a better deal.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Where finances are concerned, many Scorpions will start to realize that a New Year's resolution is impractical, but your general plan to start saving more will become more feasible this week. A monetary commitment is forecast to become less demanding and earning power should gradually become stronger over the coming weeks. A minor disagreement with a partner could get out of hand this weekend.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Finances continue to flow more freely, with less emphasis on outgoings for most Sagittarians. Those still counting the

cost of an expensive holiday season could see a family member offering something in return. Your romantic chances with an earth sign become more positive when the person in question realizes that you are more serious than they suspected.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns can expect closure regarding a personal dilemma this week, but another problem concerning money will not be solved until you find a way of coming to an agreement with a difficult water sign person. The stars suggest that Wednesday is the most auspicious day for finalizing this matter. Those who are single hear something to their advantage about Aries this weekend. The number three can be lucky on Thursday.



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## A prescription for injustice

The arrest of a 17-year-old New Zealander for possession of diazepam without a prescription last month (*see news pages*) raises serious questions about the consistency of law enforcement in Phuket.

The facts of the case are pretty clear. The teenager admits to buying the pills. And he admits he had no prescription for them.

The Psychotropic Substances Act of 1974 makes it illegal to possess diazepam – and a whole host of other ‘Schedule IV’ drugs – without a doctor’s written permission.

The officers who arrested him were just doing their job. Right?

Well, when the case is viewed in isolation, the answer has to be ‘yes’.

But ‘isolation’ is a good word here, because this was the *only* case of prosecution for diazepam possession in 2009.

Phuket Provincial Police statistics show the island’s cops seized a grand total of nine diazepam pills last year – the nine the young Kiwi was caught with.

They also confiscated 253 pills and 8 grams of alprazolam (trade name Xanax) in 18 cases over the same year.

But despite this smattering of arrests, you’d be forgiven for thinking possession of these drugs – and others such as antidepressants and erectile dysfunction treatments like Viagra and Cialis – without a prescription is legal.

Pharmacists across the west coast of the island are more than happy to sell them to tourists, prescription or no. The only documentation required is issued by the Royal Thai Mint.

That this happens is well known to the authorities.

Indeed, a high-ranking source in the Phuket Public Health Office admitted his department allowed pharmacies to sell the drugs, albeit only in small quantities.

The regulations could be enforced if the will existed. Most Phuket Town pharmacies, or those in other areas where tourists are scarce, are scrupulous in their adherence to the law.

It seems the availability of these drugs serves to cement Phuket’s reputation as a haven for those seeking pleasure, along with the widespread availability of certain other ‘services’ that are also technically illegal.

But is it right to make prescription drugs so easily available as to appear legal – and then arrest tourists who buy them?

Of course it’s also notable that in the case of the 17-year-old Kiwi, no pharmacist has been arrested for selling the drugs.

In a complex world, joined-up government might be an impossible dream. But in this case it appears that one hand is dishing out prescription drugs – while the other is slapping handcuffs on the wrists of those who buy them.

– Dan Waites

**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.

### Bag charges lining retailers’ pockets

I wholeheartedly agree that the incinerator at Saphan Hin is overloaded, but what on earth am I missing regarding the two-baht charge for plastic bags at supermarket check outs?

How does this help the environment?

For corporations to make even more profit from what was once a free item smacks of a cynical move towards higher profits, not of environmental awareness.

If the players involved had thought the campaign through, we would have road signs informing us of the usefulness of recycling plastic bags, discouraging littering and urging people to be more environmentally friendly. But I forget: this costs money.

I would gently suggest that Mr Anthony and his season-changing ilk put their money where their mouth is and quit posing as environmental warriors while reaping huge profits from selling the island off piecemeal.

A promotion to encourage the use of cloth bags? Yes.

Lining the coffers of major corporations who are posing as environmentalists? No.

A genuine island-wide awareness campaign to reduce waste and littering albeit at a loss for the major players? Of course.

**Sam Wilkinson**  
Rawai

### Thailand’s big day

February 26 is a huge day for Thailand and tourism.

If Mr Thaksin loses his 76 billion baht, it could undermine everybody’s efforts to rebuild the tourism industry, particularly if

violence rears its ugly head.

People cannot put themselves ahead of the welfare of Thailand and her hardworking everyday citizens. The effect of this is cumulative, and continued violence will put Thailand back several years.

It’s too bad that hopes for strong continued tourism are based on such a sandy foundation. Somebody needs to step up to the plate and put the welfare of Thailand first for a change.

Wouldn’t that be novel?

**Mike Messmer**  
South Dakota, USA

### One foot in the grave

Reading your newspaper, I am saddened by the number of serious crimes on the island – in particular murders – and accidental deaths in recent years. It seems to be getting worse. Every weekend there seems to be a murder, or at least one motorcycle-related death on the roads.

I guess the majority of these go unreported unless deemed newsworthy by Thai or English media. It would be interesting to know the average life expectancy and see a comparative analysis of Phuket’s murder rate with another island tourist destination.

I know the *Phuket Gazette* publishes crime statistics on a monthly basis, but what are we supposed to take from them if we have nothing to compare them to?

If the aforementioned problems are to be addressed, then we have to know how other tourist destinations fare in order to either adopt their policing methods or ignore them.

Maybe Phuket’s murder rate is insubstantial compared to other tourist destinations, but I think we have the right to know.

Someone should report on this issue as a matter of life and death. The people demand it.

**Tanya Rolinski**  
Mai Khao

*This topic was discussed by our editorial team when preparing the annual crime figures for 2009 (see news pages). However, statistical analysis can be a dangerous endeavor, one which if not done precisely can yield misleading results. Given that the actual population of the island is largely unknown, we felt it would be best not to calculate murder rates for comparative purposes based on estimates. Also, using the ‘official population’ skews the murder rate in a way that might unnecessarily damage the island’s most important industry.*

– News Editor

### Save the Similans

I was on the Similan Islands for New Year’s. It was very beautiful, but some things were bothering me: why are the fishing boats fishing in the marine park? I could see them dragging nets very close to the islands and all the other divers were very upset.

We pay a lot of money to the marine park. If they are do not take care of the marine life, divers will go to other destinations.

We also found a lot of fishhooks and lines at dive sites.

And where are the sharks? Probably in the fish market. Last year when I went to the Similans there was a dolphin’s head floating between the boats at Thap Lamu pier – not so nice. I hope you can take a closer look at fishing practices at Thap Lamu and write something about this.

**Mikael Fruges**  
Phuket

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



# Why 7-Eleven won't charge for plastic



## FIRST PERSON

A plan to charge consumers one or two baht for plastic bags is set to go into effect on February 14. There are currently 24 major retailers in Phuket agreeing to go along with the plan, which is intended to encourage shoppers to carry away goods in reusable bags in order to reduce the amount of solid waste produced on the island. Notable holdouts to the plan are Tesco-Lotus and the 7-Eleven chain of convenience stores. Here Suwit Kingkaew, senior vice president of CP ALL Public Company Ltd, which owns 7-Eleven's Thai operations, explains why his chain will not be joining those charging for bags. Compiled by Stephen Fein.

Thank you *Phuket Gazette* and readers for your viewpoints on 7-Eleven and plastic bags. CPALL is the Thai public company that operates 7-Eleven in Thailand. We share with you the same passion to reduce the use of plastic bags, although we have adopted an approach which does not involve adding expense for customers.

First, none of our stores in Phuket, the Phi Phi Islands, Samui, Koh Tao and Phang Nga use traditional plastic bags, but ones with sunlight-degradable material. A message is clearly printed in Thai on 7-Eleven plastic bags [explaining this]. We have used them for two years and are expanding their use to other areas.

Second, the company has in the pipeline a plan to use biodegradable plastic bags. The project is well underway in cooperation with the National Innovation Agency, the Ministry of Science and Technology and private agencies. After huge investment, we are geared in this direction.

Third, 7-Eleven stores in Phuket have done many other things to help the environment, for example monthly Big Cleaning Days spent recycling with locals, cloth bags promotions, and so on.

We appreciate some retailers' initiative to charge customers for plastic bags, but would carefully deliberate this measure. 7-Eleven's customers are diverse.

Some of them ask: where does all the money go? Are big corporations taking new profits at the cost of me, the customer? Unless an authority stipulates it as a legal order, charging a fee this way can be against consumer protection law, which could lead to retailers being sued.

We would like to learn more about the results of this measure and would appreciate it if a representative could monitor any reduction, or publish any findings when available. We have done a lot of studies with related partners, government and non-government alike, and come to terms with biodegradable materials. The company is currently working harder in this direction.

It is our sincere view that in a country like Thailand, which is new to this type of environmental issue, having different practices (as we do) is a healthy state of affairs toward sustainable solutions – both for customers and our causes.

CP ALL has operated 7-Eleven in Thailand for over 20



years. I do not want to bore you with what we have socially contributed to society, but if interested please feel free to visit our website: cpallnews.com.

*After receiving the above statement in our Gazette Internet Forum, the Gazette checked a few 7-Eleven shops near our offices in Phuket Town to find that none of the plastic bags they were giving customers were, in fact, sunlight degradable. They did however carry the Thai-language message: "please reuse to stop the problem of pollution". We raised this point with Mr Suwit, whose*

*spokesperson once again replied as follows on his behalf:*

Thank you for your call letting me know that some 7-Eleven stores in Phuket do not use degradable plastic bags. As discussed on the phone, the company policy is still firm: that all stores in Phuket use sunlight degradable material.

Nonetheless, please understand that there are two types of 7-Eleven stores in Phuket. The first, operated by the company, are called 'corporate stores'. You can identify them by the company name and logo in the front window's top corner. The other

is operated by a type of franchise called a 'licensee'. These stores are mostly in the city area.

All corporate stores in Phuket use sunlight degradable plastic bags. However, as the cost of degradable plastic bags is slightly higher, it happens that some franchised stores do not regularly use them.

Thank you for letting us know that a couple of franchised stores in Samkong are not using sunlight degradable bags. Company executives will talk to store owners and look into our ordering system to ensure that degradable plastic bags are used in both types of 7-Eleven stores in Phuket.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang  
Phuket 83000. Fax 076-  
213971, or submit your issue  
at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

## How long does it take to get an international driver's license?

My Thai spouse is trying to get an international driver's license. After passing the exam for a driver's license in Thailand, can she then immediately apply for the international license, or is there a waiting time?

Richard Market  
Chalong

An officer at the Phuket Land Transport Department replies:

There is a waiting time. A Thai person must possess a driver's license for five years before applying for an international license.

Initially, all drivers must obtain a temporary driver's license, which is valid for one year. When the temporary license expires, applicants can immediately apply for a five-year driver's license. Once this is secured, you can then apply for an international driver's license.

To apply, you must supply the following documents:

1. A medical certificate
2. Identity card (or passport)
3. Two 4x6cm-sized photos
4. House registration copy (or work permit copy for aliens)

For more information contact the Drivers' License Office, Phuket Land Transport Department, Rattanakosin 200 Pee Rd, Talad Nuea, Muang Phuket, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211019, 076-214930. W: [dlt.go.th/phuketdlt/](http://dlt.go.th/phuketdlt/)

## Do you need a special permit to transport gas bottles?

While transporting an Argon gas cylinder in my truck, I was stopped by police at a random roadside check point. The police officer told me it was unlawful to transport gas bottles and fined me 4,000 baht.

Do you need a special permit to transport gas bottles?

Peter Stadler  
Rawai

An officer at the Phuket Chamber of Commerce replies:

Possession of an Argon gas cylinder is illegal without a business license. Since it is wrong to transport illegal things, the driver was fined for carrying the Argon gas cylinder.

An independent law or accounting office can help you through every step of obtaining a new business license. It will take approximately two weeks to process and will cost about 15,000 baht.

You can also register a new business at the Department of Business Development, but it will take more time on your own. You can find all of the documents needed at the Department of Business Development. The cost to register is approximately 7,000-8,000 baht.

The business license is valid for one year.

For more information contact Department of Business Development Office, 38/12, Rattanakosin 200 Pee Road, Talad Nuea, Muang Phuket, Phuket 83000. T: 076-217406, 076-217746. F: 076-224419. E: [phuket@dbd.go.th](mailto:phuket@dbd.go.th).



## Rugger on the rise

The rugby coaching sessions at Prince of Songkla University, organized by the Phuket Vagabonds, continue to grow in popularity, with in excess of 30 children attending regularly.

The children, who come from a variety of schools and backgrounds, are learning the skills necessary to play rugby from Pat Cotter and a few other veteran rugby players from the Phuket Vagabonds team.

The morning sessions, which take place from 9am to 12pm every Saturday at PSU in Kathu, are for children of all abilities aged 7-15.

While the younger children are given a gentle introduction to the sport in the form of touch rugby, the older children are mastering the physical aspects of the game, including rucking,

mauling and tackling.

In regular attendance are the Sai Nam Yen under 15 team, who are competing regularly in regional competitions.

Cotter feels that the group of boys from Baan Sainamyen School in Patong are benefiting from the regular training.

"They are getting coached at school by a teacher who used to play rugby for Yala and really knows the game. They are coming here every Saturday and they are improving rapidly," he said.

The Sainamyen team will be hitting the road next month to compete in a seven-a-side tournament in Songkhla on the weekend of February 6 - 7 and then traveling to Bangkok on the weekend of February 21 - 22 for a 10-a-side competition.

## Phuket football scene about to go Brazilian



Youth athletes playing football at PIA using a *futbol de salao*. The success of the recent Futsal World Cup brought enough attention to Phuket to establish a permanent Brazilian Soccer School.

Following the success of the recent Futsal World Cup at the Phuket International Academy in which over 50 children participated, Brazilian Soccer Schools has decided to set up shop in Phuket.

The Brazilian Soccer Schools programme is based on the South American game of *futbol de salao*. The game is played with a size-two football (a normal football is size-five) and the aim is to make children of all ages and abilities as technically skilled and comfortable with the ball as possible.

Martin Hill has moved from Bangkok to Phuket specifically to set up a Brazilian Soccer School.

"I am a professional coach with 12 years' experience and I have been head coach of Brazilian Soccer Schools in Bangkok for the past two years, but it has always been a dream to set up my own academy.

"Most of my coaching has been in the US, where I was coaching traditional football, but

I have found the Brazilian method is better because it teaches kids the basics so well. If you can play football with a *futbol de salao* ball you can play with anything, that's why Brazilian footballers are so skillful," he said.

Brazilian Soccer Schools is the brainchild of English football coach and businessman Simon Clifford. Clifford, a former school teacher, developed a close friendship with Middlesbrough's Brazilian midfielder Juninho, who taught him about *futbol de salao*. Clifford then traveled to Brazil and used the knowledge he had learned to create a new syllabus back in his native UK.

Clifford has since expanded his Brazilian Soccer Schools franchise to other regions and countries, including Hong Kong, Nigeria, South Africa, United States, Australia, Holland, Canada, Malaysia, Bermuda, Singapore and Mexico, as well as Thailand.

Brazilian Soccer Schools is now the largest football coaching

organization in the world with over one million children attending sessions around the globe.

Manchester City's Micah Richards is the most successful graduate to date, though there are an estimated 1,700 youngsters working their way through the professional academy ranks.

Martin Hill is hoping the Brazilian Soccer School in Phuket will develop local talent on the island. "I am hoping to raise the level of football across the board from kids who can barely kick a ball to prospective professionals. I have seen first hand the improvement in players who train using this system and there is simply no better way for children to improve their soccer skills," he said.

There will be coaching sessions at PIA on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. For more information contact Martin Hill at Tel: 085 331 0295, or Email: martinhillphuket@hotmail.com.

- James Goyder

## Coming up in sport

### PSU Phuket League Cup 6 - February 7

Prince of Songkla University will organize the 6th annual PSU Phuket League Cup for kickoff on February 7, 2010 at the university football field in Kathu.

### Wichit Municipality 4th annual 'Mini-Marathon' - February 7

Wichit Municipality will host its fourth annual 'mini-marathon' on February 7, with races over two distances.

Wichit Mayor Kreetha Saetan said the event is meant to teach young people how to spend their time productively, support healthy drug-free lifestyles and support tourism.

Races will start in front to the Wichit Municipality offices on Chao Fah East Road.

*Race distances and age classifications are as follows.*  
4.5-kilometer fun run:

Males: 13 and under, 35 - 44, 45 - 54, 55+, open

Females: 15 and under, 35+, open

10.5-kilometer road race:

Males: 15 and under, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60+, open

Females: 15 and under, 30-39, 40-49, 50+, open

Trophies will go to the top five finishers in all three categories. All finishers will receive medals for participation.

Application forms are available at the Education Section at Wichit Municipality on February 6 (10am-7pm) or on race day from 5am to 5:30am. For more information call 076-525100 (x170-172) or 080-6481363.

Thai-language application forms can be downloaded from the website: phuket-wichit.go.th.

## England pulls ahead in Fair Play

Week two of the Fair Play Football League saw all six teams in action for the very first time. Around 50 children gathered at the British International School for the second round of fixtures in the newly expanded league.

England made it two wins out of two and soared to the top of the table with a dominant 5-2 victory over Brazil. The margin could have been wider but for some heroics from the Brazil goalkeeper, Ow.

Spain made an impressive debut after not competing in week one, defeating Germany 4-1 to leave their opponents routed to the bottom of the table with two losses from their first two matches.

The best of the action was found in the fixture between Argentina, also making their debut, and Holland. The teams were tied at 3-3 with minutes remaining when Jackson Main,



who claimed a hat trick in the loss to Brazil in the opening week, popped up to grab the winner.

For Jackson, 12, it more than made up for the disappointment of scoring three goals and still winding up on the losing side the previous week.

"Last week was disappointing so it was good to win a game this week. I thought the game was going to end in a draw so I was happy when I scored. I have four goals already and I would love to be the top scorer,

but I am just looking forward to next week," he said.

The next round of matches will take place at the Youth Football Home next Sunday.

### Fair Play League Current Standings

England	6pts
Brazil	3pts
Holland	3pts
Spain	3pts
Germany	0pts
Argentina	0pts

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# Flying start to ICC's season

In the Island Furniture Cricket League, the Kingfisher Island Cricket Club (ICC) overcame stiff resistance from the Village Cricket Team to clinch their second win of the season in as many matches.

The ICC were strong favorites going into the match, but did not have things all their own way as the Village ran up a respectable total of 160 runs before being bowled out in the final over of their innings.

It was an impressive total with Pakistani pace man Ismail Bhatti restricted to a solitary wicket that gave the Village hopes off an upset. ICC made a slow start, but started to pick up the run rate with batsman Sumit Sharma at the crease.

The team then capitalized on some sloppy fielding and also a bit of good fortune with miss hit shots



Sporting a new look with an orange strip, ICC battle under the watchful eye of umpire and former captain Sameer Khan.

consistently landing a safe distance from the fielders before cruising to the required total in the 21st over for the loss of just three wickets.

Man of the match Sumit Sharma is confident ICC will be the team to beat once again this season.

"We have lost one player

since last season but we are still strong and I am confident we can win the league again this year. There are more teams than last year and I think the standard in the league has improved, I was happy to score a half century for my team today," he said.

## Golf tourney brings out top amateurs



The 20th Murphy International Invitational Golf Tournament. From left: host organizer Derek Murphy, Oxford Landing Trophy Winner Jennie Creasy, Yoshiko Murphy with daughter Mika and overall winner Chris Michaelides

A select field of unranked amateurs form around the world gathered at Phuket Country Club's (PCC) Old Course on January 11 for the 20th Murphy International Invitational Golf Tournament.

The popular annual event started at the PCC in 1991 and has attracted fields of up to 100 players from Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, England, Japan and Greece.

Among the fields were previous winners Captain Simon Creasy, former senior Cathey Pacific pilot and his wife Jennie,

and former Attorney General of Niue (a protectorate of New Zealand) Warner Banks.

Host organizer Derek Murphy was unable to play due to an operation on his golfer's elbow, but welcomed his brother Douglas Murphy SC, a Senior Counsel from Brisbane and Derek's son Simon, twice winner of the tournament.

To add to the international flavor of the event, other participants included American Kevin Winfield, Dayton Henry from Jamaica, Englishmen Mike Regan and Peter trace, Fumiko

Kataoka from Japan, and Chris Michaelides of Greece.

The winner was Chris Michaelides and the runner up was Warner Banks.

Nearest the pin successes went to Leigh Roberts, Mike Regan, Dayton Henry and Kevin Winfield.

Longest drive was won by John Moriarty.

The Oxford Landing Trophy, presented to the golfer who enjoyed his or her golf the most, was won by Jennie Creasy who amassed an unusually modest stableford score.



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## 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.

This year's peak season has been a blast from the not-so-distant past of 2006, say, when tourism numbers were on the rise and the property world for the most part was a sunny place. The looming dark angel of an impending financial implosion was only a figment of some madman's imagination.

While over the past 18 months tourism has walked through a Valley of Death of near biblical proportions, things turned around this peak season, nearly mimicking the rise of some hopeful singer from karaoke favorite to

American Idol superstar.

As I drive through the island, I can't help but marvel at the sheer number of tourists who have hit the pavement of Paradise Incorporated. It's mad city: dodging speeding motorbike drivers with no shirts on, rocket-ship vans headed to James Bond Island, and entire families lingering with caution as they wait to cross streets, like dingo dogs held back by an invisible electric fence.

Phuket tourism is back, but both the faces and the places are changing. It's a bit like going to jail for some small-time drug offense and being temporarily cut off from the outside world. After a short sentence, you're thrust back into the stark light of day of a hometown you almost don't recognize. Almost, that is; for the familiar small corners and street signs are still there.

Mass tourism has found Phuket like never before, with budget airlines increasing the number of travelers in the skies. Charter flights from frigid Euro-zones touch down in Phuket with passengers emerging like cramped up pilgrims setting foot on the New World. Noah and his ark have nothing on this place;



**THE NEXT KHAO SAN?** Though a bustling high season has returned, it has not been the same as in years past. A dominating presence of budget travelers are flooding the island, seeking out the cheapest hotels. It could have a negative affect on the once promising market of luxury property in Phuket.

instead of two of every type and color, it's two thousand of each and every one.

The question starting to creep into my cluttered subconscious – a distraction that just won't go away, like the fly that won't get out of your car – is: will mass tourism create a monster that takes over the

island, like a homegrown variety of the infamous Godzilla? Possible headlines are now pouring into my head: *Godzilla vs. Phuket*, or *King Kong wreaks havoc on Patong*, or even something with that creepy Chucky guy.

My conflicted mind remains unsettled. We now have the numbers, and they're indicating lower spending and a change of market driving forces.

Driving through Kamala on the way home from the office, sprawling beer bars now litter the main roads as beckoning bar girls holler at their future soulmates (if only for an hour or two), telling the passing tourists how much they love them.

Yes, 'we love you too', Phuket, but the question gnawing at my gut for the moment, like some crazed weasel amped up on speed, or an overgrown sewer rat, is: will the creation of a strictly numbers-based tourism market derail the formidable growth of upper-end and luxury property, hence throwing us into the ranks of (dare I say) that dreaded P word (Pattaya)?

Numbers-based growth was the darling of Wall Street,


and look where that got them. It's a vicious cycle, but Phuket could be falling into it. Evidence can be seen as we start to see a considerable overbuild of new hotels. Room rates are shrinking in an attempt to get larger hotels to compete on rates, shifting the focus to reducing costs in order to make profit. No upgrading or renovation takes place.

At the end of the day, the local tourism industry could end up looking like a down-on-his luck, day-drinking tramp, with more than a few wrinkles around the edges, ready to carelessly throw away whatever is left. I'm going to have nightmares about that one.


In a nutshell, while we find ourselves in a situation similar to the backseat passengers in an epic though oddly dark Willy Wonka-style journey into the unknown, we need to think about where we want to go.

Is it too late, or is this just a temporary dilemma, filling in the empty time as the greater world recovers and those big spending tourists flock back to our shores? Or have we made our bed, forcing us now to sleep in it?




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# Phasing out your investment nightmares

**B**uying real estate property that is being developed in several phases is an investment trend on the rise in Thailand.

In recent years, investors have made substantial capital appreciation gains by purchasing 'off-plan' units in the early stages of development.

But many, more hesitant, investors are missing out on potential gains due to a depreciation of investment confidence caused by the world economic crisis.

Since the crisis hit, investors have been more likely to buy completed units and resales.

But buyers should consider both investment options carefully.

When conducting your due diligence checks – before signing the property's legal documentation – a buyer should find out if a developer plans to add more phases to a development.

Additional phases may provide attractive common facilities: clubhouse, swimming pools, shops and other amenities. This could make your unit more interesting for potential buyers in the future.

However, there can also be drawbacks. Additional phases can take years to complete. Accessibility to your unit could be hampered by ongoing construction, and complaints of noise



**SHARING CAN BE TOUGH:** Investing in a property with multiple building phases and 'common facilities' should be considered carefully. Additional phases will increase the volume of people in your development complex. AFP Photo.

can also be common. This could not only cause you prolonged dissatisfaction in your unit, but also reduce the lettability of your property, resulting in loss of rental income and a sore head to match.

Furthermore, you should carefully scrutinize how the common facilities in a multi-phase development are managed, and by whom.

A developer may designate

certain parts of a project to a management company: new road(s), a club house, swimming pools, shops and other amenities. But management of these common facilities will come at a cost and should be taken into account. Management fees can also be subject to change if new facilities are added to a development at a later date.

Additional phases will in-

crease the volume of people in your development complex, and should be factored into your decision making process.

There may also be a limited number of parking spaces in your complex.

In summary, carefully consider all pitfalls with regard to investing in a project with multi-stage development phases and common facilities.

*This article is written by the International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd.*

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# Twisters, twiners and trellises

I have recently built two wooden arched trellises in my garden. Correction. I didn't build them, a Thai friend did: a man of infinite resourcefulness who seems able to turn his hand to any problem or project.

I had already searched the south of Phuket for a ready-made arch of galvanized metal similar to one I had in England, but such products do not seem to exist here. A niche for an enterprising nurseryman, perhaps?

Anyway, the wooden ones are fine – sturdy structures made with eucalyptus poles, obtainable at any wood store in three-meter lengths. This timber is dense, oleaginous and therefore resistant to termites, an important consideration. Moreover, the arches have been positioned close to established shrubs such as bougainvilleas and allamandas that are being retrained to embellish the trellis.

Which brings me to climbing plants. The much-mentioned bougainvillea is not technically a climber at all, but it appreciates support and can be readily trained to cover an existing structure. After a couple of weeks, mine has already spread across the arch of the trellis.

A word of warning: bougainvilleas are unpredictable. They either grow so vigorously



**SCANNING THE VERTICAL HORIZON:** Very popular in western gardens and full of endless possibilities in a tropical Phuket garden, trellises have proven to be a worldwide favorite. Excellent choices for Phuket are the colorful bougainvillea (top right) and the climbing lily (bottom right), which often grow here naturally.

that they endanger everything within reach of those spiny branches, or else they struggle to survive the initial planting. But they will stand any amount of pruning.

Now hybridized in a wide range of colors, prospective buyers would do well to choose one of the newer cultivars – there is a brilliant vermilion one for example – rather than the all too familiar pinks and crimsons.

The other trellis was positioned next to a couple of

established allamandas, one yellow cultivar [*cathartica*] and the other a dusky pink [*violaceae*]. Like the bougainvillea, these shrubs need to be tied to the trellis frame, since they do not produce tendrils or naturally attach themselves to adjacent structures. They will appreciate the support.

Although both bougainvilleas and allamandas are often classified as vines, they lack the characteristics of a true climber. Most tropical climbers have developed the propensity to survive in dense, dark forests by corkscrewing up and above the gloomy understorey and reaching the sunlight above; temperate climbers employ a similar if less

dramatic strategy to make the most of existing light.

Of these, some ascend by winding in anti-clockwise spirals: wisteria, convolvuli such as morning glory, or members of the pea family – *Clitoria ternatea* for instance. Others spiral in clockwise fashion, like honeysuckle [*lonicera*] or clematis. Although these last named twisters are not denizens of tropical climes, the sweet clematis [*paniculata*], though more familiar in North Asia, is cultivated here. With its panicles of small white and inevitably fragrant flowers, it should enhance the appearance of any man-made structure.

Yet more climbers produce



Photo: Magnus Manske

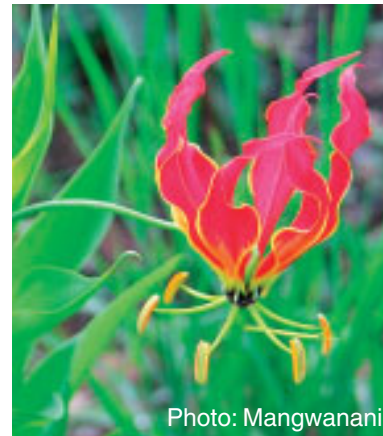


Photo: Mangwanani

tendrils, either from leaf tips or from stems, which then rapidly attach themselves to anything within reach.

One such plant, which often grows here on waste ground near the sea, is the climbing lily [*Gloriosa superba*] or *dao dueng* in Thai. It has unusual flame-like, crinkled yellow petals with red tips and it will reach a couple of meters in height.

A third category of climbing shrubs consists of plants that attach themselves to surfaces by means of suckers or rootlets – ivies and creeping figs [*Ficus pumilla*] come to mind. In general, these are better suited to walls. The advantage of the first two kinds of climber – twisters and tendril makers – is that they require little or no attention apart from occasional clipping if they become too rampant. A good choice, therefore, for your trellis or arch.

I have planted several other climbing shrubs. One is *Vallaris glabra* (*chammanat klang*) for which there appears to be no common English name, perhaps because it has Indonesian origins. Suffice to say that it has small white blooms which, like so many white-flowering tropical shrubs, exude an intense perfume.

Like my morning glory [*ipomoea*], I have not tried to grow it here before, but I will monitor its upward progress. Two other white flowering climbers you might try are the Nepal trumpet vine [*Beaumontia murtonii*] or *kamlang chang saan* in Thai, which needs moist soil conditions, and the tuberose [*Stephanotis floribunda*] or *son klin thao*, which also boasts attractive glossy leaves.

Three other shrubs I am employing in this new role have already been tried and tested. First, the ragoon creeper [*Quisqualis indica*]. This is both a vigorous grower and profuse bloomer which produces abundant clusters of pink and red florets. Given good conditions, it will bloom all year, so I am hoping it will look good on the new construction. Remember though that its flowers are heavy and the supporting branches will need to be tied.

So too the purple bignonia [*Saritaea magnifica*], similarly vigorous and well able to spread its ample evergreen foliage and trumpet-shaped blooms across the over-arching structure.

Finally, the pale yellow allamanda. Unlike its more spectacular cousin, it is a genuine twiner – the thin stems will corkscrew rapidly skywards in an anti-clockwise direction – and it will therefore need little or no attention.

I do not recall either its Latin or Thai name, but I do know that it is invariably sold in garden centers suspended in a hanging basket (actually a plastic pot).

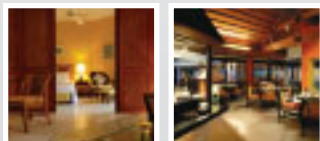
I'm not sure why, since, like all these plants, its inevitable progress is upwards.

## LAGUNA

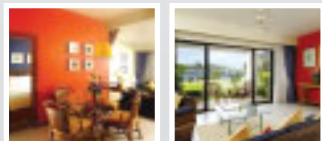
PROPERTY RESALE

Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda Studio THB 6.5 M 2 Allamanda 1-Bedroom Suite THB 8.5 M

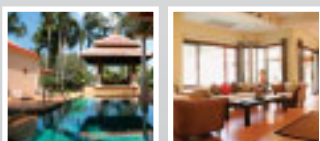


- 1 bed 1 bath
- rental pool
- freehold



- 1 bed 1 bath
- fully furnished
- freehold

3 Laguna Townhome THB 19 M

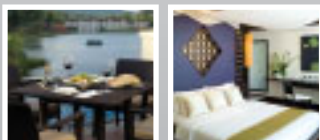


- 3 beds 4 baths Townhome
- fully furnished
- 25 sqm private pool
- golf course view



- 2-storey detached Residence
- 4 beds 3 baths
- fully furnished
- lagoon view

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 38 M



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## Construction Update

## Rawai

# Eva Group finds room for second luxury project

Following the success and demand for the luxurious 'The Eva' homes in Rawai, The Eva Group recently announced the launch of another ambitious development, 'Eva Beach'.

The Eva Group will manage all aspects of the project, from planning to construction through to project management, three areas that often involve interaction of several separate companies.

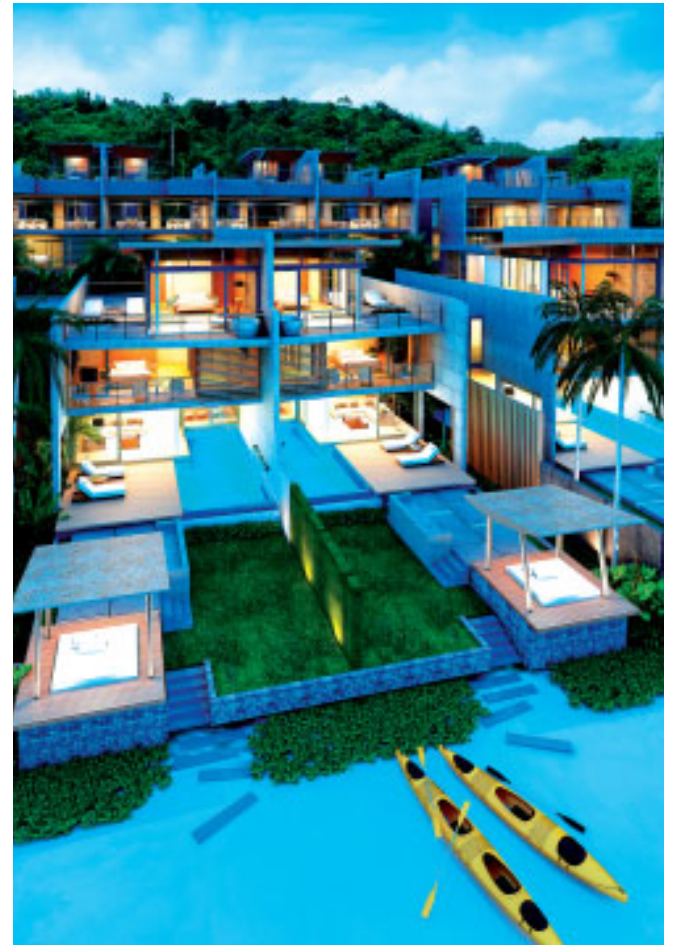
Managing Director Authanop Pankamnerd co-founded The Eva Group with Bruno Paride in May 2008. Prior to developing The Eva Group, Mr Authanop, who also owns the construction & design firm 'Authanop Engineering Co Ltd', was a civil engineer and contractor on some 30 projects in the region.

"I saw a gap in the market. Too many developers were focusing on profit, losing sight of what buyers wanted," he said.

Situated on the hills of Rawai with views of Phuket's southeast coast, approximately a 45 minute drive from Phuket Airport, 'Eva Beach' will be within minutes of popular Nai Harn Beach, and considerably close to a selection of restaurants and retail giants Tesco Lotus & HomePro.

Offering two distinct design types, 'Eva Beach' villas range from 420 sqm to 500 sqm of living space. Built on either three or four levels, each home features three sizable bedrooms with ensuite facilities that incorporate built-in amenities.

Homes will be constructed with private gardens leading directly onto the beach and are designed to accommodate both the long term residents and those



The Eva Group's new development, 'The Eva Beach' will be constructed in the hills of Rawai with uninterrupted views of Phuket's southeast coast. The project was developed following the success of Eva Group's first project, 'The Eva'.

seeking a holiday in Phuket.

The interior of each villa will include a fully equipped kitchen and spacious dining area, designed to accommodate a number of family members or guests.

A built-in sun patio and a roof patio with a barbecue are among the outdoor features.

Eva Beach will include 24-hour security and will be

tucked in a private cul-de-sac to provide its residents with privacy.

Prices will start at 27 million baht.

The announcement of the new project was celebrated on January 16 with a beachfront party on the property grounds, a performance by Thai superstar Tata Young and a catered selection of Thai cuisine.

## Phuket : "Best investment to put your money for the next decades"



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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### YANUI PARADISE BEACH



Apartments for sale. Prices from 2.75 million baht. Close to Yanui beach and Rawai beach. Tel: 087-884 4663 (English), 089-292 9416 (German).

### POOLSIDE RESTAURANT

Poolside restaurant/coffee shop in 9 Karat Condo, central Pattaya. Fully equipped and ready to operate. Price THB380,000, key money 100,000 /2 yrs, rent 5,500/month. Please contact Tel: 089-784 8949 (English & Thai). Email: toonology@gmail.com

### LAND IN RAWAI

for sale. Nice corner plot in Rawai, 528sqm, Chanote title. Asking price 3.3 million baht. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris\_silanachai@yahoo.com

### NEW CONDO PATONG

New one bedroom, fully furnished, close to Jungceylon. Will be completed in a few months. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

### LAND AT PA KHLOK



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

### 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

### BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

### LAND AND HOUSE

for sale. Land 1300sqm. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, internet, tel, cable TV, UBC, waste water treatment, no-external gate remote, garden springer, garden light. Price 12 million baht includes furniture. House more than 770sqm. Big garden & house. Soi Kokyang, Rawai. Phuket. Next to Two Villas. Tel: 082-275 1445.

### MASSAGE SHOP IN PATONG

Good location, cheap rent. 4 beds and 2 chairs for foot massage. Contact Khun Aoy. Tel: 082-288 2362 (English & Thai), 086-745 8876 (English & Thai). Email: toreborgerud@hotmail.com

### SUPERIOR SHOPHOUSE

4-story house for dwelling and business is for quick sale. Extraordinary fixtures and fittings. Sensational price. Tel: 087-518 8837 (English & Thai). Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

### LAYAN LAND 4 RAI

1 km. Layan beach flat. Nor Sor 3 Kor. No agents. 4 million baht. Tel: 083-502 1644. Email: andreapaoletti1@hotmail.it

### POOLSIDE APARTMENT

Large 85sqm open plan, one-bedroom furnished apartment with pool and secure undercover parking. Very quiet and natural location in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. 5 mins to beach. Contact Andy, at Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

### 2.4 MILLION BAHT HOME

Khok Kloy town, Phang Nga. 4 years old. 118sqm home on 904sqm plot. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, lounge, big kitchen, aircon, phone line, 2 car covered parking. Chanote. Tel: 081-728 4821.

### 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.

### 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.amphaiseabreeze.com

### LAND IN RAWAI

for sale. Good location in Rawai, 320sqm, Chanot title. Asking price 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris\_silanachai@yahoo.com

### HOUSE IN BANGJO

for sale. 2 bed, 2 bath, chanote, western kitchen, saloon, fully furnished. Price 6 million baht. Contact Khun Lek. Tel: 089-5903665.

### HOUSE IN KARON BEACH

Corner town house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sea and mountain view. Thai freehold, Chanote title, fully furnished. 6.3 million baht. Tel: 089-594 0423. Email: crustaceus@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon, hot water, washing machine, ADSL, WiFi, tel, garden. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach. Price 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara\_supertik@yahoo.co.th

### AMAZING MOUNTAIN VIEW



land plot. Only 3 mins to Nai Harn Beach, chanote with access road, electric in place. Finance OK, 1 year, 1/4 rai or 400sqm. Price 2.4 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: cjp Phuket@hotmail.com

### GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE



1,200 sqm with infrastructure, overlooking golf course in Kathu. 5,500,000 baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Email: julienmayard@me.com

### 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.

### PATONG TOWER

1 bedroom, 62 sqm. mountain view, freehold foreign name, 12th floor. By owner, no brokers. 5,200,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 8231. Email: peterlomm@hotmail.com

### PATONG CONDO

1.9 million baht, new decor, pool, 3 min walk to Juncceylon, 5 min to beach. Tel: 086-272 6755.

### GUEST HOUSE KAMALA

staff apartment, 4 bedrooms, UBC, cable, safes, hot water showers, lease 3x3. Sale 1.8 million baht ono. Tel: 089-971 6120.

### 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.

### LAYAN LAND



for sale. 11 rai, flat land. 3 min from Layan beach, hill and lake view. Price 4.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447.

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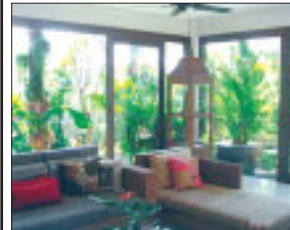
Bill Samet, Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks  
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### 3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



for sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity, access road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 9 million baht ono. No agents please! Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093.

### BARGAIN RAWAI POOL VILLAS

3 bed, 2 bath, 450sqm = 5.5 million baht. 2 bed, 2 bath, 320sqm = 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-894 1660 (English), 081-077 0133 (Thai). Email: cottrell@ttmaxnet.com

### 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.

### HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

### SALE 2 TOWNHOUSES

1 floor, 2 sleeping room. 200 meter to monument, quellwhater. 1.2 million each. Tel: 081-797 8480.

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# Property Gazette

## 2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view. Hasip Pee Road, 49sqw. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

## POOLSIDE APARTMENT FOR SALE

Brand new two-bedroom poolside apartment. 175sqm open plan living with 2 bathrooms, two bedrooms, large terrace, and secure undercover parking. Very quiet and natural location at Patong Beach. Open to offers. Tel: 081-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 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

## 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

## DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

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

## NEW BRAND CONDO

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

## HEAVEN ON EARTH



5 bedroom Thai style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang-Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are en-suite 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.

## KATA BEACH 5 STAR CONDO

Private resale because of relocation. Located in five-star resort. One bedroom corner apartment with living room, built-in kitchen, and balcony with outstanding and impregnable view overlooking the famous Kata Beach. Fully furnished, including TV, etc. Ready to move in. Priced at only 165,000 Euro. If interested, please see the website at the link below, or contact me at Tel: 076-333630, 089-825 3420. Email: b.rusconi@bluewin.ch Für weitere Details lesen Sie bitte unsere Website unter <http://www.theaccenta-phuket.com>

## LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sqw, nice flat land, quiet area, chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709-2933.

## 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.

## 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.

## SURIN BEACH

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

**3 BEDROOMS HOUSE** for sale. 62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dawroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

## 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.

## LAND AT PATONG BEACH

Top quality land plots for sale in the hills at the North end of Patong Beach. Elevation: 47m. Very quiet and natural location with wide access road, underground service, and good water supply. Contact Andy at Tel: 081-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

## CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

1 story house on land. 1.5 rai, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished at T. Taimuang, Phang Nga 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.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: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

## LAND FOR SALE

near the main road to Baan Don - Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

## 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

## 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.

## KALIM CONDO FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 128sqm. Freehold condo in Kalim for sale or rent. Just a few minutes to the beach and Patong. Tel: 081-537 9684.

## 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.

## TOWNHOUSE, 2 STOREY



opposite Boat Lagoon. 24sq wah, 3 beds, 2 baths. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

## NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



Manik area, 4.7 million baht. Chanote title, good for pool villas. Tel: 081-538 7050 or email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## PATONG HOUSE / LAND

1.5 rai of seaview land and fully furnished house in a prime area of Patong. Tel: 081-893 1360, 081-719 2903. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com

## PATONG CONDO

1.9 million baht, new decor, pool, 3 min walk to Jungceylon, 5 min to beach. Tel: 086-272 6755.

## HOUSE IN KAMALA

for sale. 2 houses on land. 2 ngan, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, Nor Sor Sam Kort title, good location, 5km from the beach. Price: 10 million baht. Direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

**Luxury Pool Villas Laguna/Layan**

Baan Lawadee is a Luxury Pool Villa development located right next door to Laguna Phuket Homes. Great location, beautiful finishes, currently priced from 13.5 to 15.5 million baht. There are only two villas remaining. For more information check our website at [www.baanlawadee.com](http://www.baanlawadee.com) Tel: 081-438 7062

## 2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 076-522938, 087-689 9679, 089-588 5458. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

## KRABI, AO-NANG POOL VILLAS

Land area 320sqm., 2 bedrooms. 6-7 million baht. Second home with strong rental income. Tel: 087-897 7380. Email: mrxelmay@gmail.com

## PRIME PLOT READY TO BUILD

Bangtao plot of 900sqm within gated area. Ready to build on. Water, electricity, concrete road. 4.5 million baht. Serious inquiries please email: pg1kl@hotmail.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.

## LAND NEAR RAWAI

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

## KATA SEA VIEW 4.9 MILLION BAHT

90sqm, 1 year old, furniture included. For full details click on the link below. Tel: 087-005 5951, 408-627 5793. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

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# Property Gazette

## DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

Kata centre, unique pent-house on 6/7th floors, 6 bedrooms, living room, terrace, jacuzzi, seaview. Total 450sqm living space. Now 29 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

## LAND PATONG HASSPI ROAD

for sale. Prime location overlooking Patong bay with stunning sea view, located right above Jungceylon. Nor Sor Sam Kor, land title, 2880 sqm. or 1.8 rai. Asking price 22 million baht. Contact Stig. Tel: 084-847 4377.

## POOL VILLAS RAWAI

Various sizes. 3 or 4 bedrooms, big gardens. Peaceful location. Tel: 085-783 1890.

## NINE HOUSES 2 RAI

Rawai, from 3.5 million baht or can buy all for 29.5 million baht. Tel: 087-209 5174.

## 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

## ROYAL PLACE CONDO

New 37sqm one bedroom condo for sale at Royal Place, near the Tesco Lotus intersection on the Bypass Road. Comes fully furnished including all electrical appliances. Ready to move in August. Complex has pool, gym, restaurant etc. 1.85 million baht. Tel: 083-982 3768. Email: drbeamshaw@gmail.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.

## CONDO PATONG

for sale. Fully furnished freehold in Andaman Beach Condominium, Patong, Phuket. 126.43sqm, 16th floor, seaview, 2 bedrooms, 1 living room. Contact Songpan. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

## HOUSE RAWAI/NAI HARN



for sale or rent 35,000 baht per month. 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, 9x4m swimming pool, 2 car parking spaces and aircon. In Rawai/Nai Harn, just minutes from the finest beaches and scenery to be found in Phuket. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

## SINGLE HOUSE CHERNG TALAY



1km. from monument, near main road, 10 minutes to airport. 60sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, fully furnished, 2 car parks. Nice kitchen and garden. 5.2 million baht. Tel: 082-899 9365.

## SALE CHEAP CONDO PATONG

Modern studio apartment, fully furnished, beach 400m. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 081-082 5707.

## CHANOTE, 29 RAI

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

## APARTMENT

3rd floor apartment in Karon Plaza for sale. Fully furnished w/ aircon. Bedroom, guest room, bathroom w/ hot water, kitchen, and large living room. 2 balconies. The apt also has a room for renting out. Pls contact above number. Tel: 076-396694. Email: gymworld@loxinfo.co.th

## SEA VIEW FLAT LAND

900sqm. Close to Mission Hill Golf Club, 10 minutes from airport. 1.65 million baht. Tel: 086-846 3266.

## LUXURY VILLAS RAWAI

Ready to move in or build to your wishes. Highest possible quality and luxury for your satisfaction. Tel: 085-783 1890.

## 4 RAI FOR SALE

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

## NEW TOWN HOUSE



in Phuket Inter villa project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 airconditioning unit, common pool access. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

## CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com.

## LAND ON COCONUT ISLAND



for sale. 120 rai, 420m beach front 670m along island's main road. Ideal for Marina resort. Tel: 081-825 9728, 081-370 6200. Email: manopjd@gmail.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

## BEACH LAND KHAO LAK 5 RAI

Beautiful 5 rai of land. You won't find better than this. Next to a 5-star resort. 118m of beach. Stunning land. Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

## 80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

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

## KALIM CONDO FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 128sqm. Freehold condo in Kalim for sale or rent. Just a few minutes to the beach and Patong. Tel: 081-537 9684.

## DIRECT FROM OWNER/BUILDER

New project in Rawai, close to Beach/ Pier, 4 apartment with pool, all furnished include company 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

## 0.5 RAI 'CHANOTE' FOR SALE

Thalang, area Tonsai Nat. Park, waterfall, Int. School, Russian Church. Tel: 081-005 5701. Email: info@grass-routes.com

## KATA SEA VIEW 4.9 MILLION BAHT

90sqm, 1 year old, furniture included. For full details click on the link below. Tel: 087-005 5951, 408-627 5793. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

## VASSANA RESIDENCE



for sale/rent. Rawai/Nai Ham, Soi Kemy. 3 exclusive luxury apartments. Each apartment comprises 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, large Euro-style kitchen and living room, large balcony back and front with sweeping views over Rawai and Andaman sea. Swimming pool and roof top whirlpool. Price start at 8.5 million baht. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com

## LAND AND HOUSE

for sale. Land 1500 sqm. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, internet, tel, cable TV. UBC, wastewater treatment, no-external gate remote, garden light. Price 12 million baht, includes furniture. House covers more than 770 sqm. Big garden and house Soi Kokyang, Rawai, Phuket. Next to Two Villas. Tel: 082-275 1445.

## 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.

## HOME IN LAGUNA



Don't settle for a home "near Laguna" or "close to Laguna". Here is your opportunity to own a home in Laguna. I am offering my custom-built, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms home overlooking the 4th fairway at Laguna Golf Course. Home is fully furnished and includes free golf membership at Laguna Golf Club. High speed internet and cable TV installed. Price 17.5 million baht. Call Steve. Tel: 076-305657, 087-888 1913.

## THE ROYAL PLACE

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

## MOVE QUICKLY



Take advantage family membership of Laguna Phuket Golf Club. This designer house in a great location comes complete with fully furnished European kitchen, 3 bedrooms (2 master suites) with bathrooms, all with TVs, internet and view of the private pool set in a tropical oasis. Lounge and dining room. 5 minutes to Bang Tao Beach and Laguna Phuket Golf Club. German private vendor. Only 11.8 million baht. Motivated vendor. Call at 089-868 6842 to arrange for private viewing.

## 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.

## LAND BETWEEN NAIHARN/RAWAI

for sale. Chanote title. 960sqm on the road. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

## SALE STUDIO APARTMENT

Patong, freehold, 46sqm. Swimming pool, fully furnished. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

## LUXURY VILLAS RAWAI

Ready to move in or build to your wishes. Highest possible quality and luxury for your satisfaction. Tel: 085-783 1890.

## QUICK SALE

Land in Laguna Phuket area. 4 rai at 6 million baht per rai, Chanote. Located near Anchan Villas and Tanod Villas. Good size to do residential project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE / RENT



312sqm. 3 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. Sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 45,000 baht per month. Please contact Khun Sam. Tel: 085-110 6449 (English & Thai). For further details, please see our website at <http://ipdproperty.com/30-chalong-villa/30-chalong-villa.html>

## LUXURY LIVING

for quick sale. 2 en-suite bedroom and under roof room, free form swimming pool, Jacuzzi. Only 5 minutes to Naiyang beach for 9.5 million baht. Connecting with 2 bedroom house for 4.5 million baht for quick sale, together for best price ever. Call now. Tel: 087-271 4484 (Eng-Thai), 085-889 1220 (Eng-Swedish). Email: supha2007@hotmail.com

## SEAVIEW PROJECT

What an investment! Fully completed 8-unit apartment building in Karon with panoramic view. 8 large units, decks, 25m pool + 2 jacuzzis on the roof. Buy this property for 33 million baht and sell the units for 50 million. Call us at Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (English). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

## PATONG SEA VIEW

nice land. 2.3 rai at 18 million baht per rai. Nice location in a quiet area of Patong. Road and utilities access to the land. Ready to start a villa project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai on a public road with water. 80m long beach, white sand, no rocks, includes shophouse and a beautiful view. Beautiful land! Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

## Looking for land to buy?

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















# Island Job Mart



**Additional Show Artists, MCs, DJs, Event and Entertainment sales persons wanted.**

**Part time / full time work opportunities, Phuket, Thailand.**

We provide top class party and event entertainment to Phuket Resorts and Hotels.

Contact Khun Rick: 085 791 5719.  
Email: info@coconutheadentertainment.com  
www.coconutheadentertainment.com

**Western Villa Operations Supervisor**

- Maintenance and/or hotel experience required
- Will consider all Western male/female candidates
- Responsible for inspecting and supervising the maintenance of luxury villas
- Responsible for the audit and implementation of service standards together with our trainer
- Develop in-villa staff dedication and commitment to outstanding guest service and great care of the property
- Must have own car (no motorbike due to great distances to cover; car+gasoline allowance provided)
- Excellent command of English and computer literacy required
- Report to GM as well as individual owners
- To start immediately or as soon as possible if notice needs to be served

Please send CV with photo and expected salary to  
a.craig@phuketvillasandhomes and m.riha@samuivillasandhomes.com

## ACCOUNTANT

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

## 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

## NEED AN HONEST COUPLE

To work at the house as a maintenance guy and a maid. Live in. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-926 3286.

## RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful guesthouse in Karon. Thai national. Tel: 086-271 8254. Or send email to: ninapartments@hotmail.com

## CASHIER RECEPTIONIST

for new spa in Karon. Thai female good job and salary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2718 254.

## HOME MANAGER


Looking for woman with Thai and English to run our household. Duties include shopping, cleaning, cooking, paying bills, and taking care of dogs. Both a car and motorcycle are provided, as well as accommodation and all living expenses. Salary up to 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-532 6144, 086-940 1504 (English). Email: gshrk1972@hotmail.com

## RESTAURANT MANAGER

We, a restaurant on a hillside with a good view, are looking for an experienced restaurant manager who also has a background in marketing in the Phuket market. Tel: 076-261940, 081-877 9292. Email: prakaisiroj@hotmail.com

## URGENT RECEPTION NEED

If you have any further question please contact us. Email: phanida@tamarindvillaphuket.com



**Real Estate, Phuket**

Ocean Worldwide is a well established property agency that offers a proven international marketing system balanced with dedicated personnel who are committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and professionalism. An opportunity is available for an individual to work with our international clients to proficiently communicate information on our recommended Phuket properties. We are looking for a conscientious and ambitious person to join our team.

**Sales Support Executive**

You must be enthusiastic, have a positive attitude and possess above average communication skills. You will be expected to liaise with existing and new clients in person, on the telephone and through email correspondence. You will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle with high earning and advancement capabilities. Basic Salary + Commission + International travel expenses for property exhibitions.

Email your CV, with references to [sandra.oneill@oceanwpp.com](mailto:sandra.oneill@oceanwpp.com)

**Ocean Worldwide Company Limited**  
382/76 Lagoon Road., Cherngtalay  
Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand  
Tel: +66 76 325 986 Fax: +66 76 325 988  
[www.oceanwpp.com](http://www.oceanwpp.com)



**Senior Legal Assistant**

- Age: not over 33 years
- Bachelor's degree or higher in law
- At least 2-3 year work experience in legal field (preferably property area)
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel is essential
- Good negotiation, interpersonal skills and a cooperative manner and character to deal with government agencies

**Lawyer license and Barrister at Law will be preferably considered.**

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or send your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

**Group Director of Human Resources**  
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.  
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoontorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang,  
Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: (66-76) 271298-300 Ext. 2 Fax: (66-76) 271718  
Email: [sunisas@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:sunisas@lagunaphuket.com)

## SALES ADMINISTRATOR

Thai National required for busy real estate company. Applicants should be able to communicate well in both spoken and written English and have good computer skills. Tel: 076-527565 Send CV and current salary details to [info@phuketoceanvillas.com](mailto:info@phuketoceanvillas.com)

## RECEPTIONIST KATA

Female Thai with good English skills needed. Attractive salary and working conditions. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-892 1621.



**Experienced Advertising**

Sales people wanted  
**Thai female preferred**

Must have experience in advertising sales in Phuket or Bangkok. Good salary for the right person.

Contact us  
**IDM (Imagine Digital Media)**  
[www.idm-asia.com](http://www.idm-asia.com)  
[info@idm-asia.com](mailto:info@idm-asia.com)  
Tel: 076 521 977



Wine Connection is looking for the following candidates:

**Marketing Executives  
Sales Executives**

**Profile:**

- 25-35 years old, Thai, female candidate is preferable
- Minimum 2 years of experience in the Sales and/or Marketing of consumer product
- Good command in English (written & spoken)
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Pleasant personality with good negotiation skills
- Pro-active, convincing, problem solver
- Self-motivated, service minded, result oriented
- Computer literate

**Key Responsibilities**

**Marketing Executive**

- Structure & carry out a marketing plan to enhance the value of the company's wholesale department products and services.

**Sales Executive**

- The function requires 70% prospecting, 25% client follow up, 5% public relations.
- Client target: hotels, restaurants, bars and pubs
- Find new business opportunity with existing clients and prospects
- Build a strong client relationship
- Conduct commercial follow up of the visited clients
- Construct client visit reports
- Report sales activity and market visit, to Sales Manager

**Other position available: Sales Admin**

**Good benefits for the right candidate.**

Please send your CV/resume to  
[SeniorHrPhuket@wineconnection.co.th](mailto:SeniorHrPhuket@wineconnection.co.th)  
or call for further information at  
076-282411 # 13, 15

## PROMOTIONAL STAFF WANTED

Thai national, good English, basic computer skills. Full-time. Tel: 081-537 6866.

## DIRECT MARKETING PERSON

wanted. Qualified person for direct marketing of real estate products from our off-site locations. Experience in OPC or offsite direct marketing helpful. Excellent communication skills required. Must enjoy direct public contact. Salary and commission available. Email qualifications or CV to: [Patrick@raimonland.com](mailto:Patrick@raimonland.com)

## ENGLISH WRITER – SEO

Write comments for websites in blogs. Native English and PC skills are mandatory! Send resume. Tel: 076-613 0533, 085-473 7812 (English). Email: [michiel@zonneke.com](mailto:michiel@zonneke.com)

## NANNY / HOUSEKEEPER

Maid and Nanny wanted. 50-year-old man with 12-year-old son seeks Maid / Nanny. Flexible working schedule to follow international school calendar. 4 hours a day, 4 day a week work and weekends during school session. On vacation time, every day full time 8:00 – 5:00pm. Must be able to drive and I will supply the vehicle. Pay is 15,000–20,000 baht a month. Must be able to speak, read and write English. Submit resume for review and consideration to [bob\\_tames@yahoo.com](mailto:bob_tames@yahoo.com)

## ACCOUNTANT

Thai accountant required for SCUBA diving Liveaboard Company in Phuket. Responsible for bookkeeping, accounting procedures, salary admin, stock-control, monthly and annual tax forms, and Social Insurance. Will also be responsible for submitting, applying for and renewing all kinds of documents, e.g., licenses, permits, etc. To arrange an interview, please telephone. Tel: 076-383819, 084-923 4109 (English). Email: [mshandur@hotmail.com](mailto:mshandur@hotmail.com)

## CRUISE DIRECTOR WANTED

Full-Time Cruise Director position offered on Liveaboard in Thailand and SEA. Must be a certified and renewed PADI Instructor (or higher). Preferred are individuals who are multi-lingual; have dived Thailand and SEA extensively; and are able to work independently and willing to start immediately. Non-smoking and persons who have a true passion for the underwater world preferred. To arrange an interview, please call. Tel: 076-383819, 084-923 4109 (English). Email: [mshandur@hotmail.com](mailto:mshandur@hotmail.com)

## SALES EXECUTIVE

Established real estate agency is seeking motivated Thai national for the position of Sales Executive. Applicants should be fluent in English and have good computer skills. Excellent salary plus commission. Driving License essential. Tel: 076-527565. Apply by email: [info@phuketoceanvillas.com](mailto:info@phuketoceanvillas.com)

**Looking for a job?  
Looking for a better candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net/)**



# Island Job Mart

*It could be the start of something life-changing.*

**Phulay Bay**  
The Ritz-Carlton  
Reserve

As a growing global organization, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is committed to the selection, growth, recognition and development of talented and motivated individuals, from both within and outside the Company, to fill our current and future hotel job requirements throughout the world.

We go out of our way to create an excellent working environment for our employees, just as we aspire to create a memorable experience for our guests. Those who join our team also become part of an astounding and impeccable reputation that is unrivaled throughout the world.

We are currently searching for the Ladies & Gentlemen for Phulay Bay, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve Krabi, Thailand the following positions are available:

<b>Food &amp; Beverage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurant Manager 1 position</li> <li>• Beverage Manager 1 position</li> <li>• F&amp;B Supervisor 2 positions</li> <li>• In Villa Dining Assistant Manager 1 position (Room Service Manager)</li> <li>• Server (FB Attendant) 9 positions</li> </ul>	<b>Culinary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sous Chef 1 position</li> <li>• Pastry Chef 1 position</li> <li>• Pastry Cook 1 position</li> <li>• Cook 6 positions</li> <li>• Cook helper 3 positions</li> </ul>	<b>Engineering</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering Supervisor 1 position</li> </ul>
<b>Housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Villa Attendant 7 position (Housekeeping)</li> </ul>	<b>Sales &amp; Marketing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant to Senior Director of Sales (Base in Bangkok) 1 position</li> </ul>	<b>Loss Prevention (Security)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss Prevention Manager 1 position</li> <li>• Loss Prevention Officer 5 positions</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit Manager 1 position</li> <li>• AR Officer 1 position</li> </ul>	<b>Spa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spa Manager 1 position</li> <li>• Spa Therapist 5 positions</li> </ul>	<b>Front Office</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Villa Manager 1 position</li> <li>• Call Center Supervisor 1 position</li> <li>• Butler 2 positions</li> </ul>

**Qualifications:** Fluency in English and boutique resort experience is preferred.

Our Ladies & Gentlemen will enjoy a 5 Days Work Week  
And a THB 7,000 Guaranteed Service Charge for the first year of operation!

Please visit our website : [www.ritzcarlton.com/careers](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/careers)  
And you will be able to see whether there are suitable vacant positions available as well as to apply online for any other vacant position.

Address: 111 Moo 3, Tambon Nongthalay, Amphur Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand  
Tel: +66 75 628 111 Fax: +66 75 628 191  
Website: [www.ritzcarltonreserve.com](http://www.ritzcarltonreserve.com), [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:info@octopusasia.com) only. We will contact applicants by return.

## 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: [bdronkers@righttoplay.com](mailto:bdronkers@righttoplay.com)

## STAFF WANTED

Cook and waitress. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-690 9114.

## NURSE NEEDED

Full time nurse required. Thai National only. Care for 89-year-old English woman in Kamala. Room available. Please call for more information. Tel: 080-699 2436. Fax: 076-279605. Email: [kokakat@gmail.com](mailto:kokakat@gmail.com)

## OFFICE ADMIN PERSON

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai person with good English and computer skills. Must be bright, confident, outgoing and able to communicate with farang clients. Good salary and bonus scheme. Tel: 076-288908. Fax: 076-383646. Please send CV to [jobs@siamrealestate.com](mailto:jobs@siamrealestate.com)

## RAWAI BEACH CLUB

The exclusive outdoor seaside lounge/club is recruiting young dynamic individuals for the following positions: waitress/waiter, bartender/bartender. Qualifications required: pleasant personality, English communication skills, guest service oriented. Interested candidates please submit your CV to: [rawaibeachclub@gmail.com](mailto:rawaibeachclub@gmail.com). We offer good benefits and unique opportunity to grow within the company.

## NAUTILUS DIVERS

Need English speaking, Thai female shop assistant. Dive experience preferred. Working on Kata beach. Tel: 081-968 5904.

## MARKETING EXECUTIVE

A person with at least 2 years' experience in hotel and restaurant marketing is needed. Salary with standard basis and commissions according to sales revenue. Tel: 081-877 9292, 083-503 3329, 083-503 3347 (English & Thai). Email: [prakaisriroj@hotmail.com](mailto:prakaisriroj@hotmail.com) For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.gracegardensphuket.com>

## RESERVATIONS/ OFFICE CLERK

Requirements: Male/female Thai National with Bachelor's Degree or higher. Excellent written and verbal English skills. Full Time, 9-6pm. Starting salary: 15,000 baht per month for the right applicant. Please submit current resume with photo by email. Tel: 084-051 7455 (English & Thai), 084-879 8115 (Thai). Email: [info@atsumihealing.com](mailto:info@atsumihealing.com). For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.atsumihealing.com>

## CASHIER

Mini-mart requires part time and full time Cashier. Thai national, good English, computer skills. Forward CV by email. Email: [info@buonappetitogroup.com](mailto:info@buonappetitogroup.com)

## URGENT NEED: KITCHEN STAFF

If you have any further question please contact us. Tel: 076-281084, 083-969 6084. Email: [phanida@tamarindvillaphuket.com](mailto:phanida@tamarindvillaphuket.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://www.tamarindvillaphuket.com>

## skydance

### Reinforcements needed!

Helicopter company, operating tours and charters, looking for highly talented professionals to join our fun and exciting team! Like to fly? Here's your chance to take the skies!

### 1. Sales Consultants

Sales Consultants are responsible for finding new travel agents and hotels selling our products and maintain relationships with them throughout southern Thailand, mainly in Phuket. Assure that the agents and their customers requirements are satisfied in accordance to company's objectives. Prepare presentations for clients and reports to management.

### Qualifications:

- Excellent customer service and experienced in selling in the tourism market/industry
- Organized team player with the ability to multi-task and calm under pressure
- Excellent interpersonal skills and self-motivated
- Excellent communication/presentation skills Thai and/or English
- Minimum computer literacy in MS Office and Internet
- Able to work irregular hours, weekends and holidays

### 2. Secretary/Administrative Officer

### Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Basic accounting skills
- Excellent communication skills in Thai and English
- Computer literate

### 3. Driver/Messenger

### Qualifications:

- Have driver's license, own motorbike preferred
- Knowledge of English preferred

### What we offer:

Professional work environment, career growth, competitive salary and/or commission, health insurance, and depending on position: company phone and traveling expenses.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume along with salary requirements to: [hr@skydance.aero](mailto:hr@skydance.aero) or [info@skydance.aero](mailto:info@skydance.aero)

5/3 M.5 Viset Rd., T. Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130

[www.skydance.aero](http://www.skydance.aero)

(Agents inquiries welcomed!)

## EXPERIENCED HOTEL STAFF

Reputed hotel in Patong (Phuket) needs experienced English speaking staff aged 25 years and above.

– 1) Front Office Manager (female). Salary: 12,000 baht + service charge.

– 2) Receptionists (1 female, 1 male). Salary: 10,000 + service charge.

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## Rentals

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12,500 baht per month. 5,200 baht per week. Please contact. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### CAR FOR RENT

Mitsubishi Triton 4 door and Toyota Yaris. Available after Jan 15, 2010. Please call or email for more details. Tel: 081-970 3136 (English). Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

### JAZZ VIOS CITY FOR RENT

Delivery service with good price. For more details please contact. Tel: 081-538 8567.

### BRAND NEW CAR FOR RENT

Honda City (just out from showroom) auto, first class insurance. Only 7,000 baht per week. Monthly rate available. Tel: 081-343 0777.

### NEW ISUZU DMAX FOR RENT

Good car, 28,000 baht per month or long-term offer. Contact Arisa. Tel: 081-539 8501.

## Bicycles

### 2 MOUNTAIN BIKES



For sale. Good condition. Selling 15,000 baht. Tel: 084-843 3251.



Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

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(heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Live in Chalong?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**K L Mart**

**Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it**  
**with Khun Laddawan (076-280403)**

**GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!**  
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published  
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Or subscribe online at [www.phuketgazette.net/subscribe.asp](http://www.phuketgazette.net/subscribe.asp)



## Phuket Gazette SPECIAL DELIVERY

Weekly Gazette hand delivered to your home or office!

EVERY SATURDAY  
ANYWHERE on Phuket Island  
RAIN, SHINE (bird flu, whatever....)

1 year (52 issues): 1,560 baht

- ☐ Enclosed is my check payable to The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd  
☐ Charge my: ☐ Visa card ☐ MasterCard

Surname (as appears on card)

Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Year

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Last 3 digits  
on back of card

Issuing Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day / Month / Year

Deliver to: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.)

COMPANY NAME (if this will help us find the address)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

TAMBON \_\_\_\_\_

AMPHUR \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Required)

(Required)

### Looking for a place to stay?

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

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

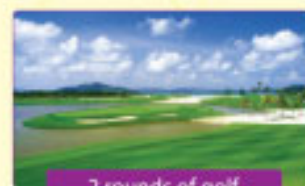
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This offer is sponsored by Marriott Vacation Club International as part of an advertising plan for this Vacation Ownership program. Attendance of a vacation club sales presentation lasting approximately 90 minutes is required. A couple must attend the presentation together. This offer is subject to change without notice and subject to the availability at the time of reservation.