

# Phuket Gazette

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The Gazette takes a tour of Chinpracha House, a fine relic of the island's tin-mining past.

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## 'Dowsing rod' drug detectors under fire

THE SCIENCE and Technology Ministry is set to test the effectiveness of the Alpha 6, a 'molecular resonance' contraband detector being used by anti-drug agencies in Phuket.

The move comes after tests on the similar GT200 bomb-detection device revealed it succeeded in detecting explosives in only four out of 20 tries.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has ordered a review of the use of all 'molecular resonance' bomb and drug detectors following the test results.

"Scientifically speaking, dogs have already been proven to be more efficient than the bomb detectors," he said.

Critics of such devices claim they are little more than dowsing rods.

Makers say the devices are powered by static electricity and can detect contraband substances from up to 300 meters away.

Thailand has spent between 700 and 800 million baht to



**CONTROVERSY:** An Alpha 6 contraband detector. Makers claim the device is powered entirely by static electricity generated by its user.

acquire some 1,000 dowsing devices in recent years, Mr Abhisit said.

All agencies using such gear must report to him how many devices they have, how they use them and how much they spent for the discredited technology, he said.

The Science Ministry will test the Alpha 6, which sells for around 400,000 baht, with the same techniques used to examine the GT200.

Of the eight devices in use in Phuket, the Interior Ministry bought six and Phuket Provincial Office two. They are used by drug

suppression units at a number of police stations on the island.

Former Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan instigated purchase of the island's first two devices in early 2009.

All eight devices have been in use for around two months, following a launch ceremony in late December 2009.

Police at Tah Chat Chai Checkpoint are using their Alpha 6 in an effort to detect drugs coming on to the island.

"Though I have never heard a report of officers finding drugs with this device, it is still in use at the checkpoint," Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen said.

Wirote Suwanwong, who heads the provincial drug suppression unit, said his men have been using two of the devices and insisted they were effective.

The devices were used in the recent seizure of 2,080 *ya bah* pills, Mr Wirote said.

— Gazette and Nation staff

## Sisters torn apart by swim tragedy

OF FOUR sisters who entered the sea at Nai Harn Beach for a Valentine's Day swim, two were pulled unconscious from the water: one has since died in hospital, the other was hospitalized for two days.

Siriluck Glomsuk, 12, was in a coma for three days before Vachira Phuket Hospital doctors told her parents that her life support machine should be turned off.

She died with her family by

her side at 8pm on January 16.

Her younger sister, Karnjana, 10, has since been discharged from the hospital.

This is the second death of a child at the southern end of Nai Harn Beach in as many months. A 10-year-old boy drowned at the same spot on New Year's Day.

German tourist Wolfgang Hohlfeldt said that at 4pm on February 14, as he was walking along the beach, he heard a cry from a woman pointing out to sea.

"I saw young girls in the water in distress," he said.

Former lifeguard Thaveesuk Season, 29, said he Mr Hohlfeldt and 10 others pulled three sisters from the water. "We finally found the last girl, but she had been under too long," he said.

Both Mr Thaveesuk and Mr Hohlfeldt administered CPR to young Siriluck for 15 minutes, but to no avail.

At the time of writing, Siriluck's body was being

transferred to her home town in Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province for her funeral.

Currently, there are no lifeguards stationed on Phuket's beaches. A contract to supply lifeguards held by LP Laikham Co expired in November.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising said he expects to announce the winner of a new tender on March 8.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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## Ex-soldiers' Burmese trafficking plot foiled

**T**WO former soldiers face up to five years in jail for attempting to smuggle four Burmese illegal immigrants from Phuket to Kanchanaburi.

Immigration Police arrested Cpl Chettha Moonnam, 52, and L/Cpl Prasit Moonnam, 48, on the evening of February 9.

There were four Burmese women in the back of the men's pick-up when it was stopped at about 10pm on Thepkasattri Road in Tambon Srisoonthorn. The women's work permits were expired. The two men told the police this was the first time they had tried to smuggle alien workers, adding that the women had each paid 2,500 baht to be taken to Kanchanaburi.

Phuket Immigration Police Inspector Suparek Pankosol said the two men would be charged with sheltering or aiding illegal aliens. They face up to five years in jail and/or fines of up to 50,000 baht under Thai law.

After posting land title deeds as bail, the pair were allowed to leave Thalang Police Station.

The Burmese would be fined up to 20,000 baht each and repatriated, Lt Col Supaperk said.

The women's former employer in Rawai canceled their work permits about one month ago.

Lt Col Suparek said the women could be allowed to re-enter Thailand, but legally this time.

— *Gazette reporters*



## Taxi federation formed

**M**ORE than one thousand tuk-tuk, motorbike and car taxi drivers are banding together to form a new 'Patong Taxi Federation'.

One of the organization's primary goals will be to clean up the image held by many of Patong's taxi drivers.

A second aim will be to improve traffic flow by having a central body that will oversee all three types of transport.

The federation, formally established on January 8, is the brainchild of Patong Municipality.

Around 90 members elected Setthasak 'Ko Aew' Buason as temporary president of the Patong Taxi Federation at its first meeting. Ko Aew already leads a group of more than 500 saloon car and minivan drivers.

"The federation wants to improve Patong's image and make Patong the number one tourist

destination in the world," he said.

With the aim of improving traffic flow around Patong, the federation will set up fixed stands from which the various types of taxi will pick up passengers.

"Right now tuk-tuks parked at the side of the road are creating traffic jams, but the problem can be solved," he said.

Rental cars parked along the beach road were also a major problem, he said.

A call center will be set up to assign taxis for passengers.

"They won't be driving around looking for customers like they do these days," Ko Aew said.

A meeting with other taxi groups would take place soon and a new president might be chosen as a result, Ko Aew said.

These groups include more than 1,000 tuk-tuks, as well as the roughly 900 members of the Patong Hired Motorcycle Taxis

group and 500 members of the Saving Co-operative, another motorcycle taxi association.

All Patong taxis will have to join the federation. Drivers will be issued stickers, allowing police and municipal officials to check if they are members, Ko Aew said.

The federation will collect information and conduct background checks on all its members, he said.

"Most of our group members still run black plate [unregistered] taxis. We're going to set up a cooperative for black plate taxis and get them properly registered with green plates," he said.

Asked if the reputation of Patong taxis, particularly tuk-tuks, was affecting tourism in Patong, Koh Aew said he thought the poor state of the tourism economy was a world-wide problem, not one particular to Patong.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

## Hoteliers ride 90% high season occupancy

**H**OTELIERS island-wide are still enjoying 90 percent occupancy rates as the peak season tails off.

This year is a big improvement on last year, said Vice President Tan Chee Kiong of the Thai Hotels Association (Southern Chapter). Since last November, three-and four-star hotels have been reporting average occupancy rates of about 90 percent, he said.

He credited the rise in part to increased charter flight arrivals and partial recovery of the global economy.

Indigo Pearl Resort General Manager Arnaud Girodon said his resort at Nai Yang Beach has seen a 25 percent increase in occupancy compared to the same period last year.

The same optimism is being reported island wide. Dusit Laguna General Manager Peter Komposch compared this year's high season to that of 2008.

"We are operating almost at the same occupancy rate as 2008, which is a 10 to 15 percent increase on last year," he said.

Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa Marketing Communications Manager Nampetch Tipaxsorn said her resort was currently running at 86 percent occupancy.

— *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*

## Another young life lost on the roads

**A** YOUNG MAN was killed when he drove his motorbike at high speed into the back of an 18-wheel truck parked on the bypass road.

Police believe 22-year-old Uthen Thepohol failed to notice the truck because its

tail lights were switched off.

Mr Uthen, from Nakhon Phanom province, died instantly in the smash, which happened around 9pm on February 7 in front of the Namsaeng Rice Trading Company on the southbound bypass road in Rassada.

When Phuket City Police and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers arrived at the scene they found Mr Uthen lying dead on the road, his crushed motorcycle beside him.

The dead man, who was not wearing a helmet at the time of the collision, suffered a very serious head injury. Rescue workers took the body to Vachira Phuket hospital for examination.

At the time of writing, police were still searching for the truck driver for questioning, who was not present at the scene.

Police said in January there were 18 deaths, ten serious and 409 minor injuries on Phuket's roads.

— *Gazette reporters*



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# Cops net huge haul of *ya ice*

**N**ARCOTICS police arrested five members of a drugs gang on January 13, seizing *ya ice* with a street value of almost half a million baht.

The arrests come hot on the heels of Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong's warning that *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) use is on the increase on the island.

Phuket Narcotics Suppression Bureau police said the five suspects were transporting a large shipment of the drug from Bangkok to agents in Phuket.

Police named the five suspects as Wachara 'Neung'

Khwanlamai, 33, Prachuap 'Dam' Phensawat, 40, Yugran 'Tik' Sangnimit, 27, Suriphorn 'Nuu' Saethohn, 23, and Athitiya 'Et' Buasaai, 33.

They were picked up in a car parked in front of Chotima Apartments on Soi Hachara off Anuphas Phuket Kan Road in Phuket Town.

Police said they found 67 packets of the drug totaling 155.7 grams stuffed in socks hidden in the gang's car. They also recovered a quantity of orange *ya bah* (methamphetamine) tablets with the letters 'WY' imprinted on the side.

The gang confessed to

selling another 20 bags of the drug to an agent for 80,000 baht prior to the arrest.

The swoop followed the arrest of a small-time dealer earlier the same day.

Police said they caught Anek 'Boy' Leewongsingkul, 37, in Village 5, Tambon Rassada in possession of a small bag of the drug at 10am.

Searching Mr Anek's home, they found several more baggies weighing a total of 12.58 grams, as well as a set of electronic scales.

They charged Mr Anek with possession of an illegal narcotic with intent to supply.

— *Gazette reporter*



The gang point to the drugs they were set to deliver to agents in Phuket.

## Aussie falls to death after room mix-up



Nathan Edwards, a 25-year-old air steward from Adelaide, died after plunging from the fifth floor of his hotel in Karon.

**A** YOUNG Australian air steward fell to his death at Phuket's largest resort hotel in the early hours of February 14.

Police believe Nathan Edwards, 25, fell five stories at the Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa on Karon Beach after trying to enter the wrong room.

Chalong Police Inspector Boonlert Ongklang said he received a report that a tourist had plunged to his death at the hotel around 3:30am.

Col Boonlert said Mr Edwards was on vacation in

Phuket with 13 colleagues from V Australia airlines.

After a night out drinking in Patong, he returned to his hotel and mistakenly attempted to enter room 515 rather than his own, which was number 5105, Col Boonlert said.

A Syrian couple inside were woken by Mr Edwards, who angrily kicked the door when his keycard failed to open it.

The Syrians called reception, asking them to send security.

Around this time, Mr Edwards apparently lost his balance on an external walkway and fell, dying instantly of head trauma.

V Australia released a statement expressing regret for the accident.

"It is with the deepest sorrow that we confirm the loss of one of our team members in accidental circumstances whilst off duty in Phuket yesterday evening," it said.

"We have no further comment to make as our priority at this time is to protect the privacy and offer our support to our crew member's family at this very sad time."

Mr Edwards's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for examination.

— *Gazette reporter*

## Encroachers spotted from the sky



Bang Khanon reserve forest last month.

**F**OREST protection officers arrested two men for illegal encroachment after helicopter surveillance revealed signs of forest destruction in Phuket.

Panumet Dam-on, chief of the Phuket Forest Protection Unit, said officers spent three hours in a helicopter searching for signs of encroachment on February 8.

The team flew over three sites. The first was Bang Khanon forest reserve in tambon Thepkasattri, two-thirds of which has already been destroyed.

Finding no new signs of destruction there, officers surveyed the heavily forested Nakkerd and Kamala hills.

They spotted six new patches of

destruction, each between two and three rai.

On the morning of February 11, officers visited one of the sites in the Kamala Hills, where they found two men cutting down trees.

They arrested Samart Phokham, 41, from Maha Sarakham, and Daeng Porgwang, 52, from Nakhon Phanom. They confiscated an ax, a knife and a shovel as evidence.

The two men confessed to illegal encroachment after being hired by a man named 'Lo'.

They did not know Lo's real name or where he lived, they told police while in custody at Thalang Police Station.

The encroachment areas were probably being cleared to be used as rubber or palm oil plantations, Mr Panumet said.

A new road cutting through a hilly forested area in tambon Pa Khlok was also revealed by the aerial survey, Mr Panumet said.

"We're still in the process of checking land titles for that one," he said.

"The forest encroachment situation in Phuket has not reached an extreme," he said.

"The largest area of destruction we've found is at Bang Khanon forest, where about 180 rai has been cleared."

"The rangers are working hard to protect the area," he added.

— *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

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# Phuket digs deep for Haiti

**M**ONEY raised in Phuket to help earthquake-stricken Haiti may surpass the 3-million-baht mark, as the Rotary Club of Patong has already sent more than 400,000 baht to its Canadian-based Shelter Box relief project.

Club president Woody Leonhard said matching donations from the Canadian government will result in more than 800,000

baht going to the charity. Shelter Box is a worldwide Rotary project that is sending survival kits to the devastated country, where 200,000 lives were lost in the January 12 earthquake.

Rotary members, Phuket residents and others including the Rotary Club of St Moritz, Switzerland had raised 405,000 baht for Shelter Box, Mr Leonhard said.

Meanwhile, the Phuket Red Cross has raised around

two million baht for Haiti.

Phuket's Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop was among many volunteers who bar-hopped in Patong on the evening of February 11, carrying a donation box and asking tourists to give a little cash.

A total of 1.4 million baht was collected on the night, much of it from the sale of 300 baht 'Phuket help Haiti' T-shirts produced specifically for the



Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop (above) collects donations from tourists. A Haitian survivor (left) gets treatment.

## Donate to help Haiti

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**Rotary Club of Patong**  
see W: rotarypatong.org

event. They were snapped up quickly by hordes of tourists until supplies ran out.

"It looks like Phuket has hit 3 million baht," Mr Leonhard said.

Both the Rotary Club and the Phuket Chapter of the Thai Red Cross Society, chaired by Thaisika Phraisa-ngop, are still accepting donations for the relief effort (see above).

— Gazette reporters

# Early bird catches an education

**P**HUKET International Academy Day School (PIADS) has announced its Early Bird Registration for the 2010/2011 academic year, as well as its full and partial Scholarship Program.

PIADS, implementing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, and staffed by highly qualified, internationally recruited and IB experienced teachers, is encouraging students from nursery up to grade nine to apply for a number of openings for the upcoming academic year. Registration ends on April 19. The PIA Scholarship Program is offering part/full time scholarships for academic excellence, outstanding ability in the visual or performing arts, swimming, leadership potential and qualities of active citizenship.

These scholarships are open to students in grades six up to, and including, grade nine. Interviews will be held in March with successful applicants being notified in April. For more information contact: E:fawn@pia.th.co. T: 076-336000 W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

# Expat fugitive bus-ted

**A**N EXPAT fugitive wanted by police for nine months in connection with two cases of fraud was arrested at Phuket City Bus Station on a bus bound for Bangkok on February 15.

Belgian Yvon Van Eyersen, 57, was sought for his involvement in the misappropriation of 6 million baht in customer investments from his Phuket Patong Assest Company last year.

He was denied bail and could

be jailed for up to three years if found guilty, said case officer Pol Capt Umporn Musikpan.

Mr Van Eyersen will also face fraud charges for the misappropriation of membership fees while he served as managing director of the Easy Fitness Center, located on Chao Fa West Road.

Almost 2,000 members lost their 4,000-baht joining fee following the fitness center's closure in April last year.

— Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

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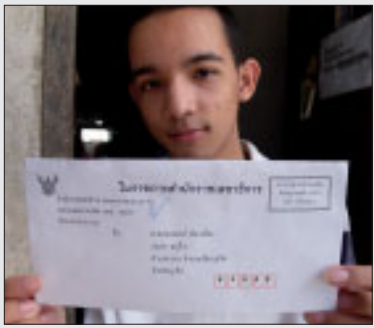
## Leukemia patient gets royal treatment

**A**SIXTEEN-year-old Phuket leukemia patient has been granted 800,000 baht to pay for medical treatment after writing a letter to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej asking for help.

Jenarong Tapklaeng was diagnosed with leukemia one year ago. Due to his illness, he has been unable to attend classes at Dowroong Wittaya School since then. In a letter he wrote to HM the King in November last year, Jenarong said that his mother did not have the money required to pay for his expensive treatment.

"I just want to be a normal boy... go to school and make friends," he wrote. "I have to fight the pain all the time."

The letter struck a cord. Last month, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop received a letter from the Bureau of the Royal Household asking him to



**Young Jenarong gets some good news from the Bureau of the Royal Household.**

find financial assistance for Jenarong and his mother.

The Phuket chapter of the Thai Red Cross Society, Phuket Social Welfare Office and Karon Municipality are helping Jenarong get treatment in the chemotherapy ward at Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Hospital in Haad Yai.

Doctors at Vachira Phuket Hospital and PSU Hospital are conducting tests to see if Jenarong could benefit from stem cell donations from the bone marrow of his 14-year-old sister Natthakarn.

According to the Red Cross, Jenarong's mother Wasuthida earns just 800 baht a month washing clothes out of her Kata home.

"I want to thank HM The King for helping my boy," Wasuthida said.

— **Pimwara Choksakulpan**

## Plastic ploy hits snag

**T**HE 'Phuket No Shopping Bag' project was officially launched on February 14, but a controversial plan by island retailers to charge for plastic bags is on hold.

The launch ceremony, which included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), took place at Central Festival Phuket.

About 1,000 people turned up for the event, which was the highlight of a three-day public awareness campaign aimed at reducing the use of plastic bags and promoting other 'green' initiatives, such as recycling and the development of renewable energy technologies.

Many government and private sector organizations had exhibits, including displays of artificial flowers and other items made from recycled goods. There was also a wide variety of reusable cloth bags for sale.

Plans to add a financial incentive for people to use reusable shopping bags has hit a snag, however.

Although 24 major retailers on the island signed an MoU agreeing to charge one or two baht for plastic bags, the launch



**Three students with cloth shopping bags at the 'Phuket No Shopping Bag' project launch.**

date has been postponed indefinitely while project organizers continue to lobby three major holdouts to go along with the plan: Tesco-Lotus, 7-Eleven and Carrefour.

Energy office director Jirasuk Tummawetch said representatives of all three are expected to meet with the Phuket governor to discuss their involvement soon.

A source told the *Gazette* that Carrefour is willing to sign the MoU, but only if Tesco-Lotus does so as well.

A spokesman from CP ALL, which operates all 7-Eleven outlets in Thailand, earlier said it would not charge for plastic bags because it already has a

policy of using sunlight-degradable plastic bags at all of its shops in Phuket and other tourist destinations in the region.

Despite this, many 7-Eleven outlets in Phuket not run directly by CP ALL, but through its franchisees, continue to distribute regular plastic bags in large numbers and free of charge.

Some retailers are taking their own approach to encouraging use of reusable bags. For example, for every purchase over 300 baht at the B2S Bookstore at Central Festival Phuket, if the customer takes the products home using their own bags the store will donate three baht to the United Nations Children's Fund, better known as Unicef.

Central has also agreed to donate the proceeds from the sale of plastic bags to environmental protection projects.

— **Pimwara Choksakulpan**

### Have your say

*Have you been charged for plastic bags in Phuket? If so, be a citizen reporter by sending an email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)*



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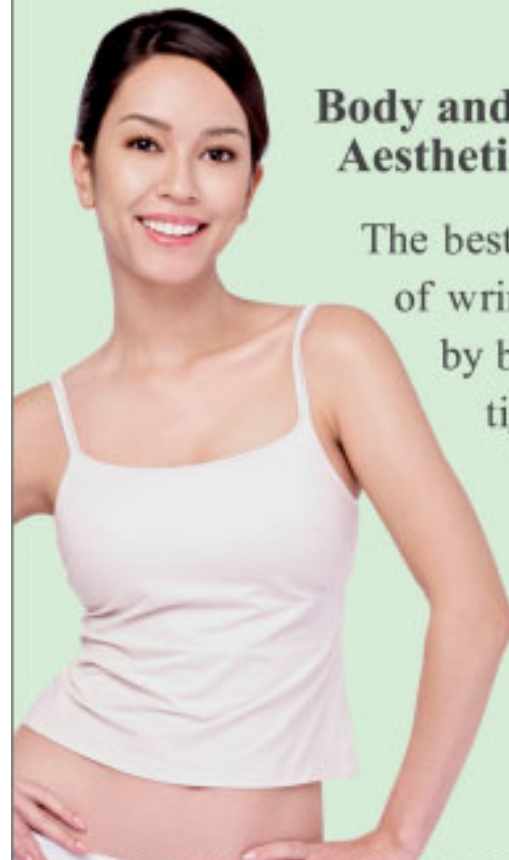
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Staff of Siam Ocean World in Bangkok preview the aquarium's Chinese New Year show with messages from the deep.

## Queer News

### Tiger pelts gone to dogs

NAKHON RATCHASIMA: More than 200 tiger skins seized near Khao Yai National Park last week weren't quite what they first seemed. Examination revealed that the majority were actually dog and cow pelts painted with stripes.

The 204 animal pelts were seized from a temple in Pak Chong District by officers from the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) on February 12. The officers were acting on a tip-off from locals who saw a suspicious number of animal pelts being dried in Wat Simalai Songdhamma.

Initially the skins appeared to have come from tigers and other big cat species. There was also one crocodile skin. After being examined by experts, however, it was found that only the crocodile skin, one leopard skin and five skins from other cat species were authentic.

The almost 200 remaining

skins were made by painting dog and cattle skins with stripes.

The monks at the temple claimed all the skins belonged to the temple abbot. The abbot was planning to tattoo the skins with Buddhist scripture and sell them as lucky charms, his disloyal monks told the authorities.

DNP Director Jatuphon Burusaphat said it was unlikely that the abbot was working alone and that his accomplices are now being hunted.

"I want to warn people who like to buy holy items made from animal remains that this is not just illegal; they can also be conned. For example in this case they weren't tiger skins, but dog and cow skins – if you worship them they will not bring good fortune. They are a cause of animal cruelty as well," Mr Jatuphon said.

With this being the Chinese year of the tiger, he was particularly worried about the smuggling of tiger parts, he added.

Source: Khao Sod

# Corruption draining disaster relief funds

BANGKOK: Disaster reports from six Northeast provinces have been found to be false and submitted by corrupt officials wanting to get their hands on 475 million baht earmarked for emergency relief, the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) said.

The findings would soon be forwarded to the National Anti-Corruption Commission for a final decision on the indictment of officials from local government bodies in Roi Et, Udon Thani, Kalasin, Surin, Nakhon Phanom and Sakon Nakhon,

PACC secretary-general Phin-yo Thonchai said.

The PACC also proposed that the word 'disaster' be more clearly defined in the regulations, so officials and contractors can be stopped from exploiting ambiguous interpretations.

Random inspections at 168 sites given the 'disaster-zone' tag uncovered several irregularities. For instance, officials had used the same photos over and over again in several different reports on flooding.

Also, several relief projects in the same districts were

awarded to the same contractor at sites that were inspected and approved by the same group of officials. In one district, one manager was found to be in charge of all projects as well as their inspection.

In addition, no blueprints or work plans were available for most of the projects, while several were awarded to unqualified contractors.

In many cases government inspectors could not even locate projects or repair works that they had approved.

Source: The Nation



### Dinner is served

A US soldier taking part in Cobra Gold joint military training exercises in Chonburi prepares to swallow a scorpion as he learns how to survive in the jungle. Photo by Channarong Porndilokrad

### Sex aids, porno seized

BANGKOK: Police seized more than one million baht's worth of pornography and sex aids in a raid on a Bangkok warehouse on February 10.

Commander of the Special Operations Police Division Thanaphol Sonthet said police found almost 4,000 pornographic DVDs in the warehouse on Si Thammarath Road. The haul

also included a large selection of dildos, a quantity of Viagra and an assortment of other sex aids and aphrodisiacs.

Maj Gen Thanaphol warned that the sex aids and aphrodisiacs had not been approved by the authorities and could be dangerous.

Police have yet to track down the owners of the goods.

Source: Khao Sod

## Former minister's relative murdered

YALA: A relative of a former interior minister was shot dead outside his home in the early hours of February 9.

Forty-one-year-old Karin Matha, the *kamnan* (chief) of Tambon Balo in Raman District, was shot multiple times by an unknown number of gunmen armed with M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles. He died at the scene.

Mr Karin was a relative of Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, who served as interior minister under Thaksin Shinawatra.

Lt Gen Kasikorn Khirisri, commander of the Civilian-Police-Military Taskforce, said police are investigating three possible motives for the killing: a personal dispute; a dispute over local politics; or a connection to the ongoing problems in the Southern border area.

"We cannot yet discount any of the motives. We have to wait for police to collect detailed evidence and witnesses," Gen Kasikorn said.

"The assailants could have taken advantage of the unpeaceful situation in the area to mask the true motive of the attack," he added.

Pheu Thai Party MP Sukar Matha, another relative of the victim, said he believed the killing was either motivated by a personal conflict or related to the insurgency.

Local politics were unlikely to have motivated the killing as Mr Karin was not involved in any political disputes, he said.

Mr Karin was the second member of the Matha clan to be murdered in recent years, he added.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

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# Valentine's tiny tusker

Tourists have been flocking to the Saiyuan Elephant Camp in Rawai to see a baby elephant, or 'chang noi', born there over the weekend.

Prapoj Hoysung, mahout of the 32-year-old mother Phang Phimpha, said the baby was born at 3:16am on Saturday, just as Phuket was preparing for the dual celebrations of Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

Both the new-born male and his mother, who had to endure 24 months of gestation, are in good health.

Phang Phimpha was allowed to stop her work carrying tourists more than three months ago to prepare for the birth, he said.

Mr Prapoj said the time of birth and other details would be taken to a monk to ensure the elephant is given a suitably auspicious name.

New-born elephants are born with an average mass of 77-113kg, consuming up to 11 liters of mother's milk per day. Depending on the sex and siblings, an elephant may be weaned until their tenth year of life.

However, Thai tourists have already coined the name 'Ang Pao Valentine' for the baby pachyderm. Ang Pao is the name of the red envelope used to contain cash gifts given on Chinese New Year.



US Navy crew members of the *USS Curts* paint railings along Kamala Beach front as part of a 'ComRel' project.

## USS Curts cares

American naval ship the *USS Curts* (FFG-38) and her 220-member crew were anchored off Phuket recently for five days of R&R.

While on respite from their military duties, the crewmen volunteered to help with a community service project in Kamala, including adding a fresh coat of paint to a 200-meter stretch of seawall railing along the Kamala Beach road.

Despite individual crew members having just 48 hours on shore before going back out to sea for a six-month deployment, many of them volunteered eight hours of their free time to make the contribution to their host community.

The 'ComRel' (community

relations project) was organized with the help of the Rotary Club of Patong and Kamala municipality, and included a visit by the crew members to Kamala Beach School, which was severely affected by the 2004 tsunami.

*USS Curts* Commander Thomas Workman and Command Master Chief Michael Maley presented souvenir hats and coins to the school and local government officers, and thanked them for the opportunity to give something back to their host community.

The volunteers were also treated to a Thai lunch and some traditional Thai dancing by some of the school children, which added a special flavor to their experience and promoted a cultural exchange between Thailand and the volunteers.



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# And all that jazz...

By Elizabeth Branca

On Valentine's Day, the Cool Jazz Band of Marseilles, France took the stage after dark at the Jazz in the Park concert, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tongkah. The nine-man band started their set with Sinatra's *Fly Me To The Moon* and played for almost two hours, covering many jazz favorites.

The venue was packed with happy couples out to enjoy a night of live music under the stars. When the seating area opened, guests were treated to a sprawling array of catered Thai-style food and candle lit lounges serving brightly hued martinis.

Earlier, the Phuket Chamber Youth Orchestra kicked-off the outdoor event with *Pachelbel's Canon* and a Vienesse polka. The young group of musicians have been practicing diligently for their debut performance.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, Queen Sirikit Park was illuminated in lanterns, serving as the perfect festive backdrop.

The 'Classic' and 'Super' Car Show displayed an impressive collection luxury autos. The polished chrome drew many curious visitors into the automobile promenade for a closer look.

**CLOCKWISE:** Puwanart 'Beaver' Dejarkom conducted the Phuket Youth Chamber Orchestra for their debut event. Lanterns were hung in Queen Sirikit Park to to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Sexy red cars were featured in the The Classic and Super Car Show. Members of the Jazz Cool Band jam the night away at the Jazz in the Park concert.



# Island Inspiration



Since setting up his studio and gallery in Bang Tao more than a year ago, Thailand's top fantasy artist Veerachan Usahanun has added more pieces to his 'Miracles of Ganesha' collection, inspired by scenes of the sea.

*The Creator* (right), 120x16cm combination technique on canvas, depicts the Hindu pachyderm god Ganesha breathing life with an aquatic theme through a saxophone. Artist Veerachan was inspired by shells and sealife he discovered around



the island. The incredibly detailed painting explores life's many fantasies and mysteries comprising an array of weird and wonderful characters with human and animal forms.

Veerachan's paintings take up to three months to create, beginning with full-size sketches, which are then recreated in amazingly intense detail on canvas or MDF board.

His paintings are also spectacularly enhanced with crafted wood and metal frames individually created for each painting.

"Living and working in Phuket has given me a fresh outlook and inspiration," said Veerachan.

"Phuket is a good location to live and work, as people here seem more open to my art."

The 'Miracles of Ganesha' collection began about five years ago, and Veerachan has so far created 13 large paintings in his unique, three dimensional combination technique.

For more information visit [www.fantasyganesha.com](http://www.fantasyganesha.com).

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# More adventures in the the jungle



**Y**oga for children is fun and healthy. This is the second part in the series 'adventures in the jungle' which features instruction by children's yoga teacher Barbara Van Oers, from the Abyssan Yoga & Wellness Center.

Yoga kids can stretch like a wildcat, float like a butterfly, bend like a tree, and relax like a lizard.

Traditional yoga postures are playfully offered as a story guided with music and materials. Each pose challenges and stimulates the imagination and senses of the child.

The Yoga Moment's lessons have themes like jungle, sea or moon, which all turn into exciting, wonderful yoga adventures.

Many positions are inspired by animals and things in the natural world to make the kids' yoga practice fun.

Poses help to stimulate the child's muscle suppleness, strength, concentration, and self esteem. Yoga is essential for helping children relax in a stressful world. The poses are for kids of all ages. Now, let's go on an adventure!

## Tree

In the jungle you see a beautiful, huge tree, very quiet and strong.

### Technique:

1. Stand upright with your feet together. Imagine you are a tree and you send roots deep into the ground, through your feet.
2. Gaze softly at a point on the wall. Become as still in your body as possible.
3. Lift your right foot and place the sole as high up on your left thigh as you can. If this is too difficult, place your foot on your shin instead.
4. Join your hands at your heart. Find your balance, breathe in, take your arms above your head and join your palms. Your arms and hands are the branches and leaves.
5. Balance here, breathing deeply and becoming still and centered.
6. Release the pose slowly and repeat on the other side.

**Benefits:** This classical balancing pose gives poise and teaches how to be strong and rooted, without being rigid.

## Wild Cat

A wild cat creeps through the jungle, looking for a prey.

### Technique:

1. Rest on your hands and knees, placing your hands directly under your shoulders and your knees under your hips.



The wildcat



The lizard



The butterfly

2. Make your back as flat as you can. As you breathe out, lift your back as high as you can, like an "angry cat".
3. Push down into your arms, rounding your back and dropping your head down.
4. Breathe in, tilt your pelvis and push your belly toward the floor.
5. Hollow your back, move your head right back and look up.
6. You are now a "happy cat".

**Benefits:** This simple dynamic pose loosens up the neck, shoulders and spine. It also

teaches how to synchronize movements with breath.

## Butterfly

Beautiful, colorful butterflies are flying around and play with you.

### Technique:

1. Sit on the floor and draw the soles of your feet together. Bring your heels as close as you can and hold onto your feet or ankles.
2. Sit up straight and tall. Bounce your knees up and down for about a minute.
3. Extend gently forward from



The tree

your hips, keeping your back as straight as you can. When you can't go any further, let your back gently curve over.

4. Stay here for a few seconds, then come forward and stretch out your legs.

**Benefits:** This posture is favourite among kids. It keeps the hips open and flexible and the whole pelvis and abdomen healthy. The forward bend part also gives the back an invigorating stretch.

## Lizard on a Rock

If your look carefully you see a lizard on a rock, motionless.

### Technique:

1. For this exercise you need a friend. One is the rock, the other is the Lizard.
2. We connect through our toes and kneel back to back. Then we become reptile and stone.

3. Rock folds down over thighs into child's pose while the lizard squats nearby.

4. The lizard asks: "May I rest on you?"

5. Lizard places sacrum on rock. Relax and open your heart.

6. Lizard leans back across the rock with one position facing the floor, the other to the ceiling. Both children should be comfortable.

7. Close your eyes and breathe in and out a few times.

8. Slowly open your eyes and come back up.

**Benefits:** Apart from it being a lot of fun, this exercise stretches the back, recharges and gives a wonderful, relaxed feeling.

After the yoga session we sit together for about 10 minutes and draw what we experienced in the jungle. That's it for our jungle adventure.

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## Cerebral craft in Truth

Currently on display at Galeria Phuket 346, are 14 collected works of contemporary Thai artist Sutee Kunavichayanaont's and his exhibit the "Half-Truth". Inside two Sino-Portuguese style buildings, Sutee's modern art, influenced by icons Dali, Warhol and Pollack, dots the floor and walls of the gallery and cafe. Open and flooded with natural light, sinewy sounds of bass pulse through the speakers, while guest sip their cocktails and take in Sutee's expressive works – the space is the embodiment of metro-chic.

Remarkably, Sutee's body of work spans three decades, having been featured in the national galleries of France, Japan, UK and the USA at a very young age. In recent years he has become a favorite among sophisticated collectors worldwide. Using a variety of mediums, ranging from resin to iron, to LED light, his work portrays a uniquely cerebral inter-pretation of social, environmental and cultural messages existing in Thailand.

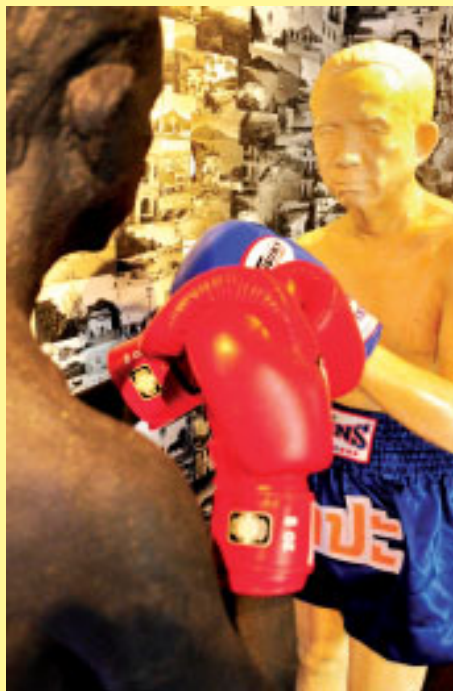
Via sculpture, painting and acrylic molds, Sutee's messages are conveyed like a quiet and thought provoking conversation, prompting those to ponder the meanings of social symbols and cultural boundaries. "We follow rules and customs with out thinking... I am not criticizing anyone. My art prompts people to ask: 'Why do we follow traditions?'"

One of the works featured at the gallery, *The Elegant Middle Finger*, is a striking hand pose painted on wood with gold-leaf. "The middle finger is sacred to Buddhists monks because they bless with it, but in the West the middle finger is taboo..."

Sutee enjoys that fact that exhibit visitors take pause to discuss his pieces, "I play on the cultural differences and question their meanings. All meanings have contradictions within different cultures and can be perceived as a blessing or an insult... Or maybe both."

The Half-Truth exhibit will remain on display at Phuket 346 until May 9 and is open to the public. For more information on the artist or the exhibits venue visit [www.phuket346.com](http://www.phuket346.com) or call 076-256128.

– Elizabeth Branca



## Aqualung lovers unite

When Rupert Hay and Joanne Li from Hong Kong, requested something different for their Valentine's Day wedding ceremony the simple solution came from Monica Angove at Tropical Phuket Functions. An underwater wedding ceremony on Phi Phi Island would be the dive of a lifetime.

After months of planning, the betrothed couple were ushered out to Phi Phi on chartered Tawan Cruises *Riviera 42'* yacht along with their intimate wedding party of family and friends.

Rupert is an experienced diver with 200 dives under his scuba belt, whereas his bride Joanna, although far from a rookie, has only about fifty. Both were very enthusiastic to tie the knot in an underwater location at Ao Nui Koh, which is one of Thailand's most romantic destinations and premier dive spot.

The soon to be wedded couple and their PADI wedding entourage had a brief rehearsal en route to the watery chapel.

After the boat anchored, the bride, groom and guests suited up for their unique dive with fins, masks and tanks. Dressed in a flowing white wedding gown, jewels and scuba gear, the bride slipped into the blue water to exchange vows and rings.

"For a somewhat off the wall experience, the wedding worked seamlessly, we couldn't have wished for more. We and our family will remember this perfect day for the rest of our lives" said the blushing bride.

The ceremony commenced when groomsmen, bridesmaids, wedding photographer and co-ordinator watched the bride and groom join hands.

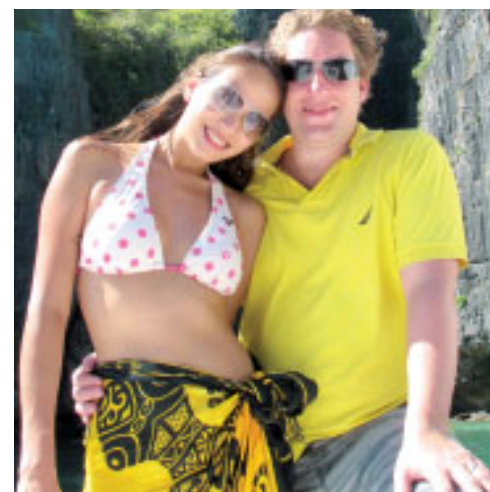
Highlights from the deep sea nuptials included an exchanging of vows, a wedding kiss sans the gear, followed by a 'carry over the threshold' and a celebratory dance. To finish off the dive, the couple then toasted with Gatorade and ate 'wedding cake' (a chocolate Hershey bar).

After the ceremony the groom explained: "We had hoped for a unique and memorable day for our wedding and certainly, we had all that in this wonderful location of Koh Phi Phi."

"Everything was fantastic and we owe many thanks to Monica for arranging this event over the last few months, and scuba Nick and the crew for pulling together such a special underwater ceremony and day trip."

Following the ceremonial dive, the newlywed couple and their wedding party members changed into their swimwear and enjoyed a relaxing tour of Phi Phi with more snorkeling.

Nick Fawcus-Robinson of Scuba Nicks dive company can be contacted by email at [nickfawcusrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:nickfawcusrobinson@gmail.com).



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## EXPAT GALLERY

## Robert de Graaff

Robert de Graaff arrived in Phuket in 1996 as the first General Manager at the Allamanda in the Laguna Phuket group of resorts.

His congenial personality and particular talents at creating guest satisfaction were the skills required in the mixed-use resort. But the Asian financial crisis the following year provided Robert with a new opportunity.

He decided to set up what is today the Albatross Lufthansa City Center, a full service travel agency at Laguna Phuket's Canal Village, next to his popular international restaurant, the Albatross Café.

"I've had an interesting international career in the hospitality industry and have worked in 25 countries. But I have been happy these past 14 years working and living in the cosmopolitan environment of Phuket. It really does have the best of many cultures."

Robert was born in Holland but his family moved to Salvador in Northeastern Brazil while he was a small child. (His father worked in the tobacco export business.) He stayed in South America for his first 13 years and became fluent in Portuguese, English and Dutch.

"It was a wonderful childhood. Many weekends we would ride horses behind the beautiful

beaches, hunting for wild pigs and looking for lobsters in the sea."

When Robert was 13, his parents sent him back to Holland to finish his education. In 1974, he was drafted into the military, and after officer training school he was posted to Aruba in the Dutch Antilles in the Caribbean.

"This is where I first became involved in dealing with people and discovered I had an ability to learn languages easily. I decided I wanted to go to Cornell University in New York and study hotel administration."

He was initially rejected by Cornell as his application was too late for the next term, but Robert was not to be discouraged.

Through the efforts of the Dutch Ambassador, he got a job in the front office of the Marriott Group's famed Essex House hotel in New York City, and then secured a place at Cornell.

He graduated in 1979 after working hard to condense the four-year program into three. During the summers, he worked on Dutch cruise ships sailing between New York, Bermuda and the Bahamas, and became the ship's Financial Controller.

After graduation from Cornell, Robert was recruited by InterContinental Hotels to work as a roving auditor for their properties around the world. His

postings included Dubai, Lisbon, Gabon, Geneva, Ivory Coast, Rio de Janeiro and a particularly long stay in Kinshasa, Zaire.

He quickly rose through the ranks of InterContinental and was appointed Assistant to the President of Operations for Europe and the Middle East.

"I liked the adventure of opening new hotel properties in challenging locations such as Eastern Europe in the days when it was still behind the Iron Curtain."

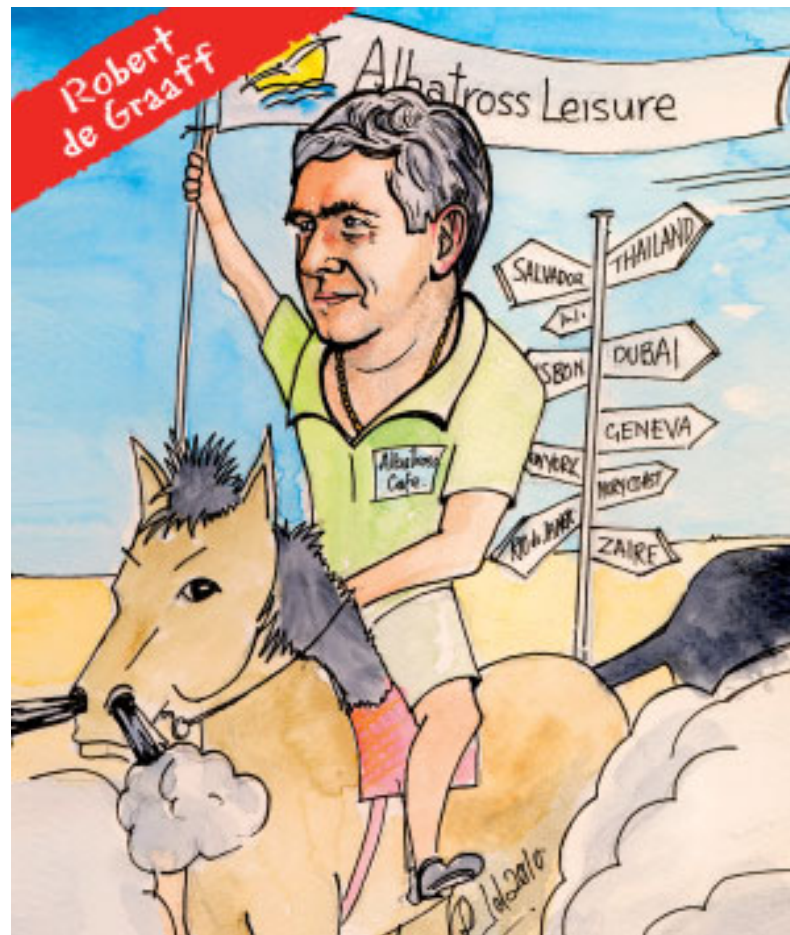
In 1987, Robert struck out on his own and returned to his roots in Brazil. He opened his own property, the Hotel Tabas dos Pataxos, and the following year was appointed General Manager of the Hotel Salvador Praia where he says he tripled gross operating profits.

He returned to international operations with airline/hotel company SAS as a financial controller and General Manager for a property in the Arctic Circle. He then operated the SAS hotel in Kuwait during the Gulf War, from an office in Brussels.

In 1992, he was recruited as GM at the Amari Rincome in Chiang Mai.

"When I came to Thailand, it felt very much like my home in Brazil. There are many festivals and a colorful culture. The people are both fun loving and there is a strong sense of family. My wife Busaba and I really enjoy our business. We get to travel every time we meet with a customer."

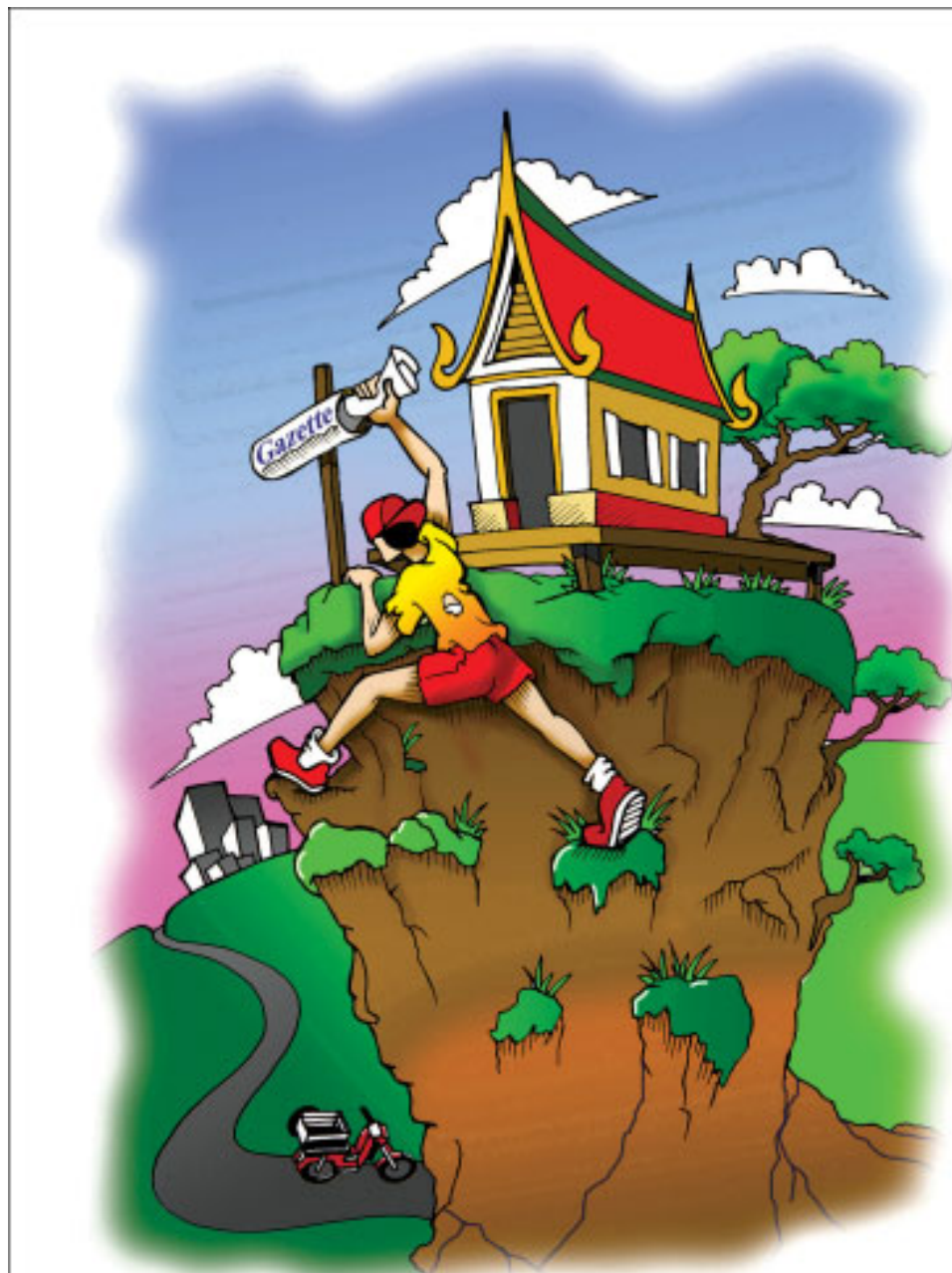
— Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

## ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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



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**BRAVERY BONUS:** During the Tourist Police volunteers meeting on February 6, the CEO of the Crissey Group, Claude de Crissey (3rd from left), handed out certificates of appreciation along with bonuses. The three award recipients were Ronnachai Patpien (2nd from left), Dussadee Tinavpura (5th from left) and Wattana Jeampapai (4th from left). The officers garnered accolades after thwarting a robbery attempt against a guest in a Patong hotel.



**KINGS OF COMEDY:** John Moloney, Stewart Francis, and Pete Johansson brought down the house with laughter on February 10 at the Punchline Comedy Club, held at the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong. The three comedians split sides with their more than sixty years of stand-up experience between them, each of them delivering a unique, 40-minute stand-up routine.



**SCHOOL DAY SMILES:** Phuket International Academy Day School (PIADS) was just one of several Phuket schools which participated in the Phuket Private Education Fair, on February 15 at Central Festival. PIADS is currently offering 'early bird' student registration from nursery to grade nine, and accepting students for its International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme starting next academic year (2010/11). The event offered perspective students and their families the opportunity to meet representatives and gather information from several private schools. Pictured are (right to left): PIADS Headmaster Mr Len Peters, Administrative Secretary Kasanan Suwanmongkol and a prospective parent.



**FEELING FINE:** VIP guests give the thumbs up after dining on seven courses at Climax Poolside Dining & Music Lounge at Absolute Bangla Suites. The February 11 event launched Fine Wine Dine Phuket International Culinary Club. Pictured are (left to right): PGTV Executive Producer Marc Mulloy, *Phuket Gazette* Desk Editor Scott Phillips, Absolute World Group of Companies Chairman Bryan Lunt, *This Week in Phuket* Manager Adam Duggan, Climax Poolside Dining & Music Lounge Operations Manager Stephan Bouwman and *This Week in Phuket* Managing Director Aaron Doolittle.



**DRESSED TO IMPRESS:** Getting into the spirit of the new year, JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa Vice President and General Manager Robert Lohrmann and 'associates' dressed in traditional Chinese garb on February 15. Mr Lohrmann and his sales team celebrated the year of the tiger by greeting hotel guests and wishing them good fortune.



**FUNGI FETE:** Duangjitt Resort & Spa opened the largest kids club in Patong on February 14. The Magical Mushroom Kids Club kicked off with a big party, where each mushroom house was filled with toys, games and costumed hosts. Children spent the day exploring the brand new fungi-shaped playhouses and making new friends.



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# A triumph of form over content

## On the menu

WITH  
Wilko

Every morning, outside a large lapidary store along Chao Fa West Road, a smartly-dressed security guard energetically waves on by the frantic rush-hour traffic. His white gloves are spotless, his baseball hat immaculate and his trousers pressed to perfection.

Despite the admirable attention he pays to his appearance and the undeniable enthusiasm he displays in his line of work, he is, to all intents and purposes, completely useless.

He is, not to put a fine point on it, an ashtray on a motorbike; a chocolate teacup; a windshield wiper on a submarine. Not one driver heading north to work on this section of road heeds his well-natured admonitions or needs to be urged onwards in the right direction.

This form-above-content regional mania is, to put it the least, perplexing for us farangs. In spite of the thousands of totally illegal three-wheeler motorcycles that reduce road traffic speed to 1kph until we can get past the things, only to narrowly avoiding smashing into oncoming traffic doing exactly the same thing, nothing is done about them.

Yet I was once pulled over by a traffic cop in Phang Nga Province while heading to the beach for, wait for it... Not wearing a shirt. After expressing my surprise I was subsequently and brusquely informed that not wearing a shirt was a bona-fide traffic violation.

And so the form-above-content mania spreads and spreads, like a good-looking bacteria (if there is such a thing), even into the hospitality industry where impeccably-clad wait-staff members attend table in

palatial surroundings yet invariably get your order wrong. But hey, they look good, and that's what counts, right?

Nah, not really: So that's why it's truly enlightening to rediscover a restaurant where content is as important as form. This enlightened Nirvana of the senses (steady on, Wilko...) is to be found in Rawai in the form of L'Orféo.

In its third incarnation now, new owners Stéphanie Roy and Benoit Anglade, both French, form a genial couple and are affable hosts. New to the restaurant business, they're enthusiastic – infectiously so – and it's a pleasure to know that, in a restaurant as attractive as L'Orféo is, they're assiduously determined to get things right.

A tuna tartare with plum and ginger priced at 340 baht and duck foie gras poêlé with raspberry vinegar and fresh mango for 630 baht make up delicious, if somewhat pricey, appetizers.

The feuilleté of red snapper with cream sauce, spinach and fresh pasta for 530 baht and New Zealand lamb tenderloin with rosemary sauce, sautéed potatoes and vegetables at 550 baht bring up the rear as main courses.

Astute *Gazette* readers, perhaps having by now shot off their weekly angry emails to the beleaguered editor complaining that the crossword is too easy and the quiz too hard, would also have realized two pertinent factors that form L'Orféo's make-up: One – that they don't muck around in menu selection and two – that the fare here doesn't exactly come at street-noodle prices.

Fair enough, but with food presentation and execution that complements the exotically fitted-out interior complete with silk swathes, large dried-flower



displays and rich color schemes. Check-out the bathrooms, they'd put William Somerset Maugham himself in a foot-stamping, interior-décor rage of jealousy.

A choice of air-conditioned dining and alfresco soft-lit tarpaulin-covered space, maybe it's best to sum up the place as a haute gamme upscale refuge from the usual west-coast over-busy choice restaurant choices.

"Comparisons are odious," said the bard.

So I won't mention other similar restaurants on this 'sunny place for shady people' to quote Maugham's description of the South of France, not least of all because I don't want to sound too revolting. And who does?

Wines are well represented with 11 red labels; a palatable matti rosso and blanco house selections along with two rosés, which are fast becoming the tippie of the air-kissing orange-colored, sun-bed-addicted people in northern 'Engerland'.

L'Orféo also offers nine whites and a champagne choice. As for us, we happily ploughed through a bottle of Château Roc du Breuil, Côtes de Bourg AOC, 2003 and enjoyed great desserts after.

So in summary, the well-



Rich color schemes and a choice of alfresco or air-conditioned dining make for an exotic experience at L'Orféo in Nai Harn.

dressed waitstaff and the sumptuous décor serve only to complement the food as they should do, and do so well. As a culinary experience, it's hard to top it in the immediate area. It's pricey but an ideal venue for a blow out. One suggestion to Ben and Stéphanie though; how about

a baseball-capped chap by the gate, blowing his whistle to guide diners into the car park? Not...

L'Orféo lounge bar and restaurant is located at 95/13 Soi Sai Yuan, Nai Harn. T: 076-288935 or 081-956 0204. W: orfeo-phuket.com

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 **THAI** presents **Phuket International**

# Blues Rock Festival

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## 26-27 Feb

Gates open at 5pm

**Charlie Musselwhite**  
**Richard Clapton**

**Rich Harper (USA)**

**The Prodigal Sons (Norway)**

**Andy Gonzales (USA) & The Rockin' Angels**

**AkashA (Malaysia)**

**KNIKI (Australia)**

**The Groove Doctors & Friends (Thailand)**

**George Cordeiro (USA) & Fai Jang Blues Gang**

**RetroVision (Thailand)**

**Robert 'One-Man' Johnson (USA)**

**Admission Fees (2 days access) - Ticket Hotline: 086 682 2639**

General: THB 1,000 (advance purchase), THB 1,500 (at gate)...

VIP: THB 3,000 (advance purchase), THB 3,500 (at gate) incl. access to VIP area with free flow of beer & wine.

The Festival is a Charity Event with profits donated to Patong Rotary Club, providing educational support for Phuket's local underprivileged children.

Advance tickets are available through [www.thaiticketmajor.com](http://www.thaiticketmajor.com) and from the following local locations:

**Phuket Gazette**

**SF**

Cinema Central Festival

**Holiday Inn**

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**Tai Pan**

**Festival Warm-Up Gig**  
Thursday, Feb 25 (10pm)  
at Tai Pan, Patong Beach.

**phuketbluesfestival.com**



## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

## Phuket International Blues Rock Festival – February 26-27



Presented by THAI Airways International, the Blues Fest is back to rock the Hilton Arcadia for the 5th time with the best program in the event's history. On top of the bill is the legendary Charlie Musselwhite and his band from the USA, who will bring the Festival to the finale Saturday. One of Australia's top musicians and a household name in the Blue's world for the last 35 years Richard Clapton will close the show with his band Friday. Rich Harper returns by popular demand, and from Malaysia comes the AkashA world music band. From 6pm - 1am at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort, Karon Beach. For further information contact Andy Andersen. T: 086-682 2639. E: phuketmusic@yahoo.com.

**February 20. Fashion Session at Royal Phuket Marina**  
"Phuket Professionals" present their 2010 collections. Fashions and accessories by leading International brands: Calvin Klein, Mona, Rip Curl, StarBlu and Grace of Art. At Skippers Bar on the Boardwalk, Royal Phuket Marina. DJ set by J.C. Free Entry and Free Canapes. From 7pm to 9:30pm at Skippers Bar & Restaurant. For further information contact Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com.

**February 24-25. Blues Festival Fund Raising Dinners**  
Join musical legends for dinner in two exclusive Phuket International Blues Festival fund raisers. Join Australian music superstar Richard Clapton at Baan Rim Pa, Patong from 7pm to 10pm on February 24. On February 25, join American blues legend Charlie Musselwhite and his wife Henrietta. Limited to six guests per dinner. Four seats are still available for dinner with Richard Clapton. For reservations contact Andy Andersen. T: 086-682 2639. E: phuketmusic@yahoo.com. W: phuketbluesfestival.com.

#### February 27. House Sessions Volume II at Royal Phuket Marina

Another evening of smooth, chill, and uplifting house tracks. Featuring special guest DJ T.J., Bangkok's smooth house maestro is back again by popular demand, this time with a special guest percussionist. Kick off your shoes and relax on the grass with a fine view of the marina. Groove to the music and enjoy fine wines and cold beer from the bar, and just chill with us at Grasslands, Royal Phuket Marina's new open-air pier-side venue. Tickets are 100 baht with one free glass of wine or one free beer. Free Entry between 7pm-9pm. From 7pm to 11:30pm at Grasslands - Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com.

#### February 28. Makha Bucha Day - Public Holiday

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

#### March 5. Great Night on Fire at Watermark

The Watermark Restaurant at Boat Lagoon welcomes guests to Great Night on Fire: A Fire & Music Wine Dinner. Enjoy fire dancing, live music and a four-course dinner accompanied by an exquisite wine selection. Be dazzled by an artistic fire dance performance by beautiful Nong Kwan and a live atmospheric DJ set by Pierandrea, aka 'The Professor'. Prices are 1,700++ baht. Seats are limited. Please make your reservation in advance at 076-239730. From 7:30pm to 1am at Watermark Boat Lagoon. For further information contact Mario. T: 084-305 9243. E: mario@ugolinigroup.com. W: watermarkphuket.com.

#### March 27. Saint Patrick's Day Ball at JW Marriott Resort and Spa.

Bringing in a bit of the celtic festivities from around the world, JW Marriott presents the first St Patrick's Ball Phuket has ever seen. This event is about all things Irish, including the best of food, beer and craic. The Life Home Project is proud to be the beneficiary of this event. Tickets are 3,000 baht and include free flow wine and beer at dinner. The night will be sparkled with live and silent auctions along with many raffles. Join us for an evening of sophistication, fun and dancing till dawn. From 6:30pm to 2am. For further information contact Nid. T: 086-984 1580. E: joojee88@yahoo.com.

#### April 2-8. Day-Night and Day art gallery at Royal Phuket Marina

Day-Night and Day will feature the works of renowned artist Nguyen Tan Cuong on mixed media canvas. The theme of time in 'Day-Night and Day' contains several moments that continuously run around and mingle, opposing the contradicting aspects of the flow of time. The artist has participated in art exhibitions in Vietnam, Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, Philippines, Belgium, Korea, Italy, USA, England and Canada. The exhibition runs from 11am to 7pm on weekdays and from 12pm to 6pm on Sunday. At D Gallery in the Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Watinee (Ann) Kaewket. T: 076-360867. E: info@dgallery.co.th. W: www.dgallery.co.th

#### April 6. Chakri Day – Public Holiday

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

#### April 8-11. Phuket Oilfield Classic 2010

The Red Mountain and Loch Palm Golf Courses welcome all competitors to their 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament. This event attracts International golf pros as well as local competitors. Come join in the fun on the weekend before Songkran and see if you can win some of the fantastic prizes available to all contestants. Lucky contestants will bid for a once-in-a-lifetime collectible at the Charity Auction, like a framed Carlos Santana Guitar or the F1 Checkered Flag signed by all the F1 Drivers. For further information, contact Mark Cameron. T: 081-882843. E: mark@phuketoilfieldclassic.com. W: www.phuketoilfieldclassic.com.

#### April 13-15. Songkran Festival – Public Holidays

Songkran – Thailand's biggest holiday – celebrates the beginning of the Thai New Year. Also known as the Water Festival, Songkran is held during the driest months in Thailand, and is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring (traditionally only a little, but these days a lot) of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

#### May 1. National Labor Day – Public Holiday

Thailand's National Labor Day is a public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

### Free Computer Clinics

Have a computer problem? Frustrated with your Internet connection? Upgrading from a pirate copy of Windows? Want to know where to buy a computer, or get one fixed? How about "3G" phones, or "HD" TV? 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. Even if you don't know a USB from a DVD, drop by and ask away. All clinics are from 10am-12pm.

February 21 & 28 – Chalong

March 7 – Patong

For more info contact Woody. T: 076-290468.

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# Exploring averages



## 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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The global financial crisis has left in its wake two different economic scenarios: debt laden countries in the west and emerging markets with strong economic fundamentals in many Asian countries.

However, there are exceptions; Japan, with its enormous debt, has more in common with the west.

Investors in stockmarkets will naturally be attracted to the areas of growth. However, many companies benefiting from emerging world growth have their roots in the US, Europe and Japan.

The use of a truly 'international' or 'global' fund may well have a place in the current environment. This type of fund has the ability to 'cherry pick' the best of global opportunities. The biggest risk to this type of fund is the reality that the fund

manager's performance is benchmarked against a global index, which is weighted heavily in favor of the US, Europe and Japan. This would virtually cancel out the advantages of going the global route.

Fortunately, not all funds that invest worldwide are managed with a view of replicating indexes. There are several that truly just invest in the best of the best.

Investors who believe that newer world markets offer the best potential returns have a wide range of choices available. One category is emerging markets, which tend to be highly profitable, but suffer from high levels of volatility. It is a route that is best reserved for investors who are prepared for these major bumps in the road and is also attractive for investors who intend to 'dollar-cost-average' their entry rather than relying on simply placing one lump sum into an investment.

Dollar cost averaging is a technique that is easier in theory than in practice. Simply put, if an investment goes down in value, it is human nature not to want to put good money after bad, or in military terminology: 'never reinforce failure'.

In the investment world, adding capital to a market or group of markets that have fallen in value lowers the average cost of entry.

For those of a positive disposition, it means that falling markets have advantages, although in the longer term the investor still wants markets to rise.

BRICS is another area of investment that is particularly of interest in the current environ-



WASHINGTON REHAB: (from left) Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.; James Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan Chase & Company; John Mack, chairman of the Board of Morgan Stanley; Brian Moynihan, CEO and president of the Bank of America Corporation participate in a Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission hearing on Capitol Hill in January. The commission is hearing testimony on the root causes of the recent financial crisis and how now to prevent it in the future. Photo: Mark Wilson/Getty Images/AFP

ment. This term, originally coined by the US investment bank Goldman Sachs, stands for Brazil, Russia, India and China. These four countries are certainly enjoying strong economic growth. Brazil and Russia have huge supplies of natural resources while India and China have vast human resources.

The combination of all four gives an investor access to completely different economies with enormous growth potential.

Goldman Sachs may have coined the term 'BRICS', but a number of other groups have adopted this approach, as it is so attractive. Another feature of this method of investment is that it gives an investor access to companies that probably would not appear in any usual portfolio.

Russia is a prime example. Most notable for its emerging

companies, Russia has other attractions which usually remain unheralded, such as the retail sector. Since the fall of communism, a number of Russian retailers have emerged. In a short space of time some have become highly sophisticated and profitable, but have had to go to the stockmarket to fund expansion.

The use of four countries in a group is also a defensive approach, in that the fund manager can divert funds from Russia to India, for example, if political circumstances of market conditions warrant this strategy.

In the investment world it is always useful to have alternatives.

Naturally, investors can also invest in just one country; in the larger, long-established markets there is often sufficient depth, choice and liquidity available to

make this feasible.

In emerging markets, a single country approach is often combined with extremely high risk, as these markets often end in a frenzy of investment; only to be followed by a long lasting crash.

Thailand is a perfect example. The main SET index reached its peak in early 1994, at over 1,700. Before the onset of the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997, the index had already fallen to the 1,400 level. In the months that followed, the index collapsed to just over 200. Even now, the index is only at around the 700 level.

The investment world is fraught with hazards.

Few would have thought that after Japan's stockmarket reached its peak in late 1989, twenty years later, it would only be worth around 25 percent of those highs.

## Low cost carriers form first alliance

By Alastair Carthew

It was only a matter of time. Air Asia, the world's most successful low-cost carrier, and Jetstar Airways, the Qantas long haul low-cost carrier subsidiary, announced the first alliance of budget airlines.

This is good news for Phuket, which is already well served by both carriers.

The non-equity alliance follows an industry trend of recent years driven by the need to

rationalize costs, build wider networks, improve customer service and create better inter-line linkages on the ground.

The fully commercial airline industry has had alliances since 1997, when Star Alliance was formed, followed by One World then Sky Team. These alliances have successfully created new products and services, and helped rationalize networks and reduce their own costs.

The Air Asia-Jetstar linkage

is aimed at just that: reducing costs, pooling expertise and creating an alliance in Asia Pacific that could prove a genuine powerhouse if the two airline cultures gel successfully to take on the established full-service carriers.

It signals a red flag to the other regional budget carriers, most of whom operate on razor thin margins, which restrict their abilities to expand their networks; something Air Asia has managed

to do despite the recession.

What does it mean for Phuket? AirAsia is establishing its second hub in Thailand after Bangkok, and Jetstar has made an immediate impact with its direct services from Australia. In fact, given that much of Jetstar's traffic from Australia is during Phuket's low ['summer' season] and Australia's winter, this link up will hopefully result in even more flights during the low season.

Alliances like this always cost a bit upfront before the cost saving synergies kick in, but if the two carriers can hold their ticket



An Air Asia counter at Changi Airport, Singapore. Photo: AFP/Roslan Rahman

costs through prudent cost control, the full-service carriers are in for a tough time.

The danger, of course, is that the alliance will become so dominant in the Phuket market that they won't have sufficient competition or incentive to keep their fares down. Time will tell.

The alliance is really indicative of what has happened worldwide where consolidation is continuing to happen, particularly in Europe, as smaller and medium-sized carriers continue to struggle, while being gobbled up by larger carriers such as Lufthansa and Air France.

It is the first low-cost carrier alliance of its type, but it will certainly not be the last.



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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.

OUR CAT FELICIA TURNS 15

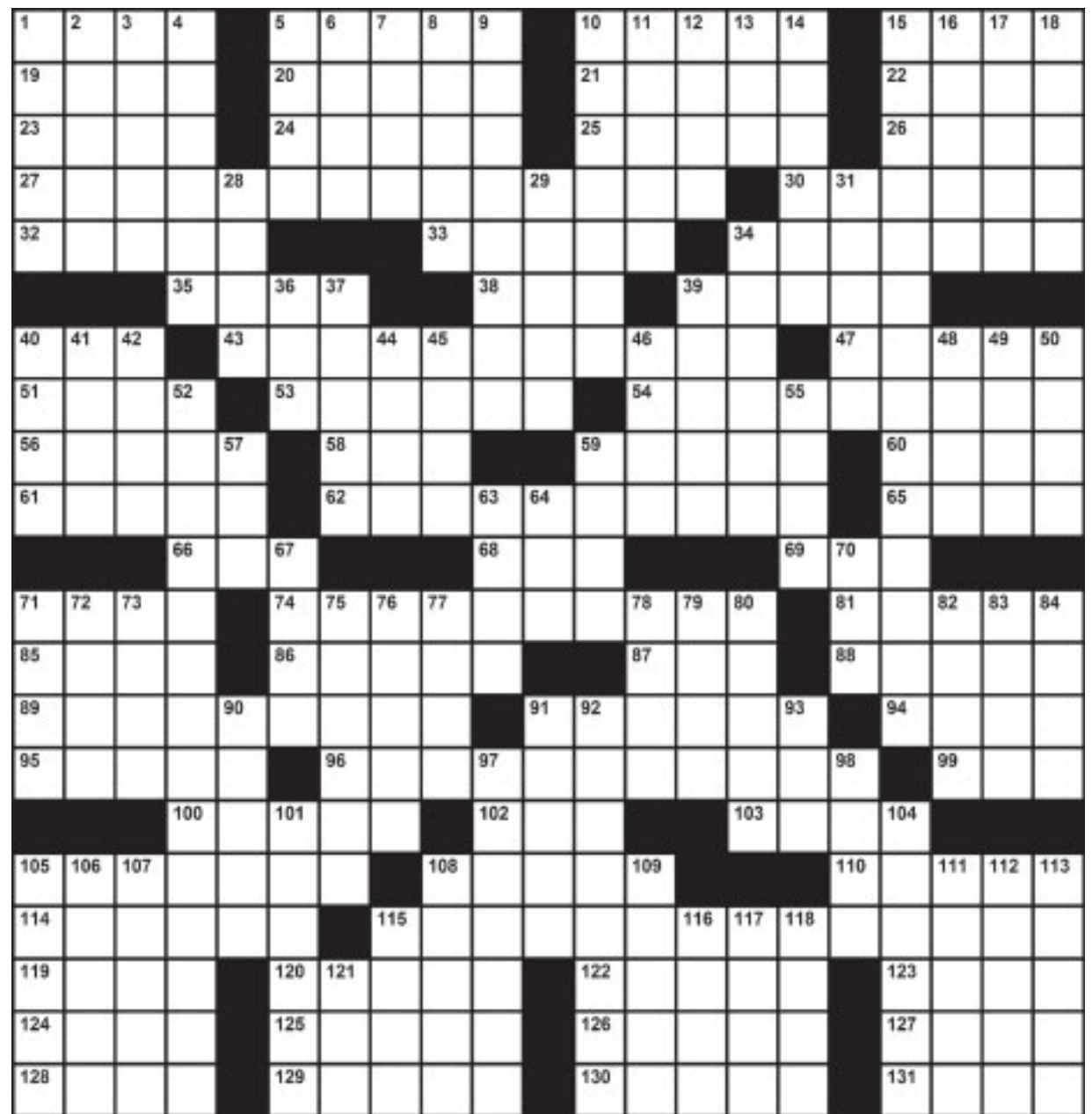
Solution: 7 letters

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

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9/17

Animal, Bred, Brush, Care, Claws, Close, Comb, Companion, David, Ears, Eating, Energy, Felicia, Female, Friend, Gray, Hearing, House, Indoors, Jump, Lazy, Linda, Litter, Loveable, Mackerel, Meow, Mood, Movement, Naps, Needs, Paws, Scratching, Shed, Size, Sleep, Smell, Sophie, Sound, Space, Stretch, Tabby, Tail, Teeth, Veterinarian, Vibrissae, Vision, Water



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5 Aquarium beauty  
10 Charley horse, e.g.  
15 Fannie, Ginnie and Sallie  
19 Bone by the radius  
20 An earth tone  
21 Case for a dermatologist  
22 "\_\_\_ Wonderful Life"  
23 Baked custard  
24 "Over" or "under" attachment  
25 "... sure plays \_\_\_ pinball"  
26 Small, reddish monkey  
27 Bug that bugs?  
30 "The \_\_\_ Cometh"  
32 Like a stamp pad  
33 Aerial railway cars  
34 Serene to the max  
35 Civil rights activist  
38 Group of attys.  
39 Fireside drink  
40 "Madama Butterfly" accessory  
43 Explosive sort  
47 Arbitrary proclamation  
51 Notch made by a saw  
53 University in Philadelphia  
54 Slips, crashes and such  
56 "Within the \_\_\_ of possibility"  
58 \_\_\_ chi (exercise method)  
59 "\_\_\_ Man" (Village People hit)  
60 Emergency-room directive  
61 Temporary suspension of breathing  
62 Hero's foe  
65 Confederate soldiers, briefly  
66 "And now, with-out further \_\_\_"

- 68 Mauna \_\_\_ (Hawaii's highest peak)  
69 "Float like a butterfly" boxer  
71 Chunk of bacon  
74 Some pipe installers  
81 Subtly illuminated  
85 1/6 inch type  
86 "\_\_\_ Frome" (Edith Wharton novel)  
87 Square of butter  
88 "E.T. \_\_\_ home!"  
89 Full of pep  
91 Tie you don't have to tie  
94 "Bag" or "board" beginner  
95 Welsh \_\_\_ (dog breed)  
96 Exchange of ideas  
99 Do the floors  
100 Agassi of tennis  
102 Game played with counters  
103 Chesapeake Bay catch  
105 Wrongful property retention  
108 Bio 101 subject (Var.)  
110 Streak of color  
114 Hume of "Cocoon"  
115 Have a bug cook?  
119 "What more \_\_\_ say?"  
120 Happy, rhythmic tunes  
122 Tree byproduct  
123 Castro's country  
124 Big-elephant link  
125 Two-toned cookies  
126 Quitter's throw-in  
127 "Andy Capp" quaffs  
128 Brussels is its cap.  
129 San Diego pro athlete  
130 Dada collagist  
131 Ancient city of Phoenicia

## DOWN

- 1 Civilian garb

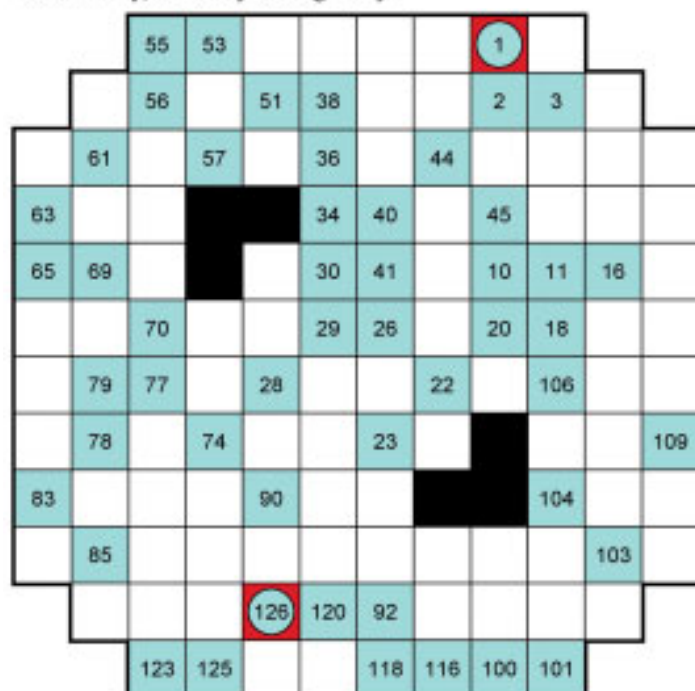
- 2 "\_\_\_ the Family" (classic sitcom)  
3 One may tide you over  
4 Crave (with "for")  
5 Revelers paint it red  
6 Sound rebounded  
7 "And \_\_\_ what happened?"  
8 Change tenants  
9 Battle for weapons superiority  
10 1984 Jeff Bridges film  
11 Arizona Indians  
12 From square one  
13 What "My Bonnie lies over," in a song  
14 "Flashdance" hit  
15 Bug's political belief?  
16 Grisham's "\_\_\_ to Kill"  
17 "Como \_\_\_?"  
18 Matthew, Mark, Luke or John  
28 "American \_\_\_" (TV show)  
29 Bunch of schemers  
31 Cirrus or cumulus  
34 Spiral shells  
36 Square of lawn  
37 The left ventricle feeds it  
39 Spherical bacteria  
40 Cajun cooking pod  
41 Answering-machine signal  
42 Where Khomeini ruled  
44 Son of John and Yoko  
45 Escape route  
46 Bread from a tandoor  
48 Money to play with  
49 Blind guess  
50 Body shop guesses, briefly  
52 Bug's courtroom maneuvering?  
55 Fourth Greek vowel

- 57 Demented  
59 Castle defense  
63 From the same mold  
64 Take revenge on  
67 S-shaped molding  
70 Baby's perch  
71 Work-order detail  
72 Prefix with "type"  
73 Computer brand  
75 Apparel  
76 Bootblack's verb or noun  
77 Almanac statement  
78 "Gone With the Wind," e.g.  
79 Deeply engrossed  
80 Unwilling to yield  
82 Appear on the horizon  
83 "Hold \_\_\_ your hat!"  
84 More than just tear up  
90 J.K. Rowling's Weasley girl  
91 Announcer of yore  
92 Attack verbally  
93 "... neither fish \_\_\_ fowl"  
97 All at once  
98 Cathedral congregation's area  
101 Uniroyal rival  
104 Lion or tiger, e.g.  
105 1983 comedy starring Mr. T  
106 Remove marginalia, e.g.  
107 Relating to musical pitch  
108 Directed person  
109 Dislike intensely  
111 Word preceding some signatures  
112 Potato or yam, e.g.  
113 Belittle  
115 Arctic transport, at times  
116 Already cut, as lumber  
117 Lyric poems  
118 Cheesy lunch order  
121 Investor's option, for short

## HIDATO

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 126 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



www.hidato.com

Difficulty ★★★★★

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www.whatzit.com

August 17, 2009

# WHATZIT?

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

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RUMMAG E

HANG

2ND2ND2ND2ND2ND2ND2ND2ND2ND2ND  
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UP

## Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. What nationality was the man who played Oddjob in James Bond movies?
2. What is a Knout?
3. Which language has the largest number of words?
4. Which film star used to be a circus acrobat?
5. The common bacterial genus bacillus causes which disease?
6. Which country invented Venetian Blinds?
7. What is a quadriga?
8. What natural phenomenon is a brick fielder?
9. Pupik means belly button in which language?
10. What is the main ingredient in Borsch?
11. What was the name of Dr Dolittle's Parrot friend?
12. What was the name of William Tell's son (the apple head boy)?
13. Laika was the first ever dog to do what?
14. Where could you spend a Markka?
15. On what would you find a bick, throat, half swage, and punching hole?
16. The *Fagus* is the Latin name of what type of tree?
17. If you have the form of anemia called Chlorosis, what colour does the skin turn?
18. The French say Bis. What words do the English use?
19. Karakul, Texel, Romney and Marsh are types of what?
20. What is biltong?

Answers below

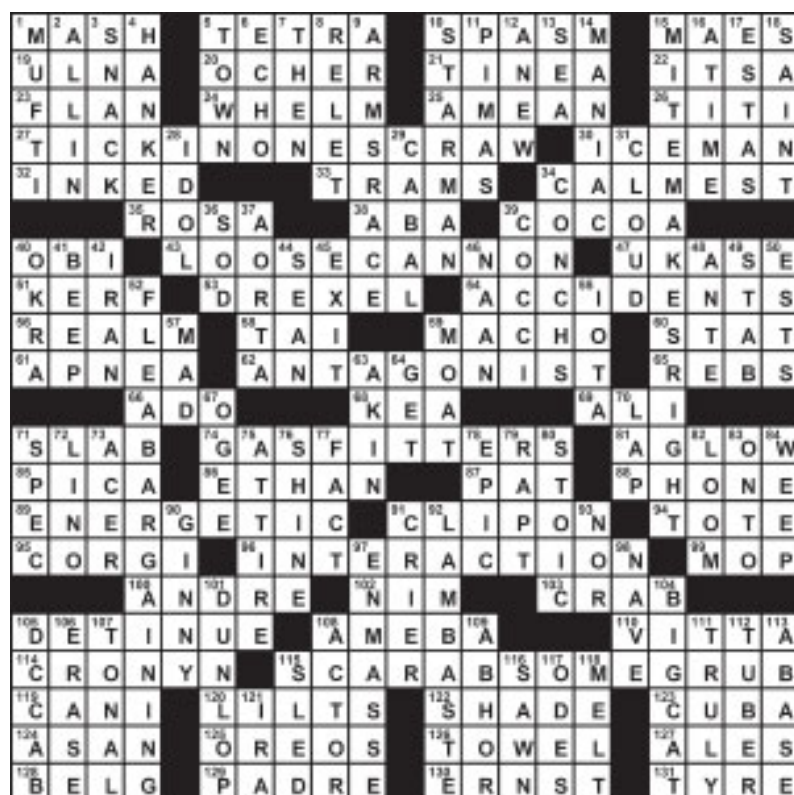


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# Puzzle Solutions

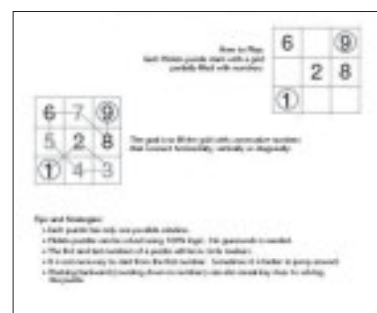
**Wonderword Solution: Assistance**  
**Solution to this week's crossword:**



## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Korean
2. Russian flogging whip
3. English
4. Burt Lancaster
5. Cholera
6. Japan
7. Roman 4-horse chariot
8. Hot SE Aussie wind
9. Yiddish
10. Beetroot
11. Polynesia
12. Walter
13. Go into space
14. Finland
15. On an anvil
16. Beech
17. Green
18. Encore
19. Sheep
20. Dried meat

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

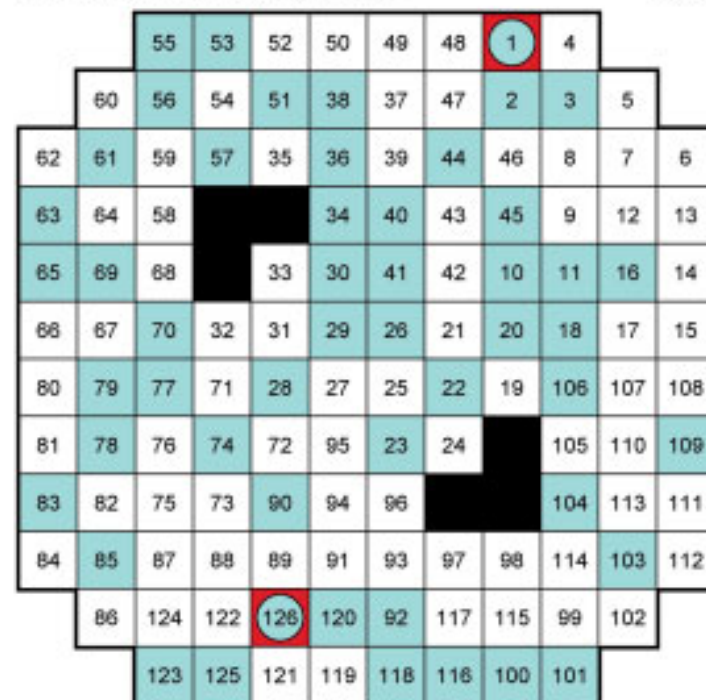


## WHATZIT? solutions

1. Search party.
2. Hang on a minute.
3. Upside-down.

## Hidato Puzzle Solution

3/22



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By S. TSOW

As a young GI in the 1960s, I was stationed in Taiwan. It was nicknamed the Bao Dao, the Precious Island. It was my first introduction to Asia and a fine place for a young man to sow his wild oats, and I retain an enduring affection for it.

Time changes everything, and nowadays Taiwan has morphed from a poor, rural, agrarian society into an affluent, urban, high-tech one. In the old days, pedicabs plied the streets of Taipei, which were abounded with little sidewalk restaurants. Water buffaloes and rice fields ruled the suburbs.

When I returned this past October, there were no more pedicabs, sidewalk restaurants,

water buffaloes, or rice fields. Indeed, I was told that Taiwan doesn't grow rice anymore. The rice is imported from Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

So are the servants. In the old days, the Soon-Send Amah Agency provided Taiwanese maids and houseboys for rich foreigners. Now the Soon-Send Amah Agency is no more, the foreigners are no longer rich, and the servants are imported from Southeast Asia for rich Taiwanese businessmen.

Some random notes:

Breakfast wars: In the old Taipei, you could get breakfast out on the streets, where stalls served hot soya milk and rice soup. Nowadays, forget it. I had to search long and hard to find a soya milk shop, and I never saw rice soup sold anywhere.

This is a gastronomical catastrophe to be lamented. Thais should be grateful that they can still get such amenities on the sidewalks in the morning, not to mention jok, the king of break-

fasts. In the new Taipei, my breakfast was usually a cold bagel, purchased the night before from a 7-Eleven.

Taxi wars: Taipei has often been a bellwether for things to come in Bangkok. Many years ago, the Bangkok taxis didn't have meters. You had to negotiate the fare with the driver.

In those days, Taipei's taxis had meters, with the fare starting at NT\$35. (The New Taiwan dollar is roughly equivalent to the baht.) This was a great improvement over the meterless taxis of Bangkok.

Shortly after I returned to Bangkok, metered taxis began to appear. And guess what? The starting fare was Bt35. The anonymous and unsung bureaucrat who instituted this innovation should have received a knighthood.

Now the bad news: When I returned to Taipei this time I found that the starting fare had doubled, to NT\$70. Don't tell the Bangkok taxi drivers.

Price wars: The cost of liv-

ing in Taipei is at least double that of Bangkok, and sometimes more. The meal that costs Bt40 in Bangkok costs NT\$80 in Taipei. It's almost impossible to find a hotel room for under NT\$1200, and it took me some hard digging to find a room in a hostel for NT\$500.

As in Bangkok, though, what you pay depends on where you buy. A chicken curry that costs NT\$80 at a street-side canteen costs NT\$390 in the restaurant of the posh Grand Hotel.

Toilet-paper wars: Most products in Taiwan are labeled only in Chinese. This can be a problem for foreigners. Toilet paper comes in colored square plastic packages, so I could never be sure what I was getting. It might be napkins, Kleenex, pampers, or tampons. Usually I had to ask a salesgirl. I would have had fun trying to wipe my bottom with a tampon.

Toothpaste wars: Many years ago, in both Thailand and Taiwan, there was a toothpaste

called Darkie. Its logo was a black song-and-dance man in a top hat and bow tie, with bulging banjo eyes and a huge grin. It was only a matter of time before the racist implications of the logo and the name would be brought to the attention of the manufacturers.

In due course the logo was changed to a racially neutral entertainer in a top hat and bow tie, with normal eyes and a smaller grin. The name changed from Darkie to Darlie, and it's a popular brand in both Thailand and Taiwan even today.

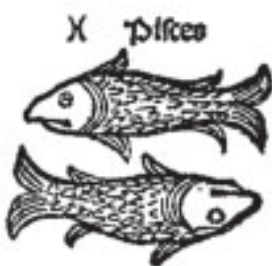
But in Taiwan there is now a new toothpaste called 'Whitemen'. There's no logo, but the motto is 'Guardian of Tooth'. I look forward to the advent of Whitemen toothpaste in Thailand. I also hope it will guard more than one tooth.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@ymail.com, except when he's out campaigning for Thailand to import Whitemen toothpaste.*

## Horoscopes



Isla Star



**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): A blow is softened for many Pisceans early this week. Less than welcome news may have dampened your spirit recently, but you will learn of some kind of compensation. The stars forecast an easier time during the last week of February, with emphasis on monetary gain from overseas. Those with a birthday in the days ahead will enjoy more freedom in the coming year. The number eight can bring good fortune on Wednesday.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Your outlook is mostly sunny this week. Those born under the sign of Aries who have been waiting for closure to a work-related issue should breathe a sigh of relief midweek. If a romantic affair has been causing you doubt, Taurus has some worthwhile advice this weekend. Financial transactions should be double-checked on Monday and Tuesday as mistakes are highlighted to occur. Wear the color cinnamon brown to encourage an optimistic outlook.



**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Taur-eans trying to wriggle out of an agreement that

turned sour should find a way to do so this week. The stars suggest that a tactful fire sign will offer a useful suggestion. A Piscean's old-fashioned approach to romance makes a strong impression on those looking for love. If you are already committed, your partner's recent plan to change employment begins to look more attractive. Number nine can be lucky in the upcoming weekend.



**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Many Geminis will be disappointed to discover that a business deal is not up to scratch this week. Monday is the best day to schedule a meeting, but you should approach a water sign colleague with caution. The stars suggest that final agreements should be delayed until the beginning of March. Your chances of romance with Libra improve when this person finally has more free time. The scent of jasmine will help encourage a lighter mood.



**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Cancerians who have been living in cloud cuckoo land will have a more realistic outlook this week. A tedious task that you have been delaying turns out to be less stressful than you imagined. Where romance is concerned, you will be cheered to learn that Capricorn is nuts about you. Turning a platonic relationship with Libra into something more is out of the question. The number one can bring some good luck on Thursday.



**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Leos are likely to be dismayed when an earth sign friend's copycat tendencies are revealed. The stars advise that you should keep new business ideas to yourself while you are still working out how to put them into practice. The arrival of visitors should be enough encouragement to take a much-needed break from work this week. Your lucky day for romance is Sunday. Money comes your way on Tuesday.



**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): February continues to be a powerful month for Virgoans, with emphasis on financial gain this week. Plans for travel can now be made concrete and you may start to think of extending this trip. A more confident approach to romance will lead to a happy outcome with Pisces. An earth sign friend has dramatic news this weekend – this could lead to a new direction in your working life.



**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Librans' light-hearted mood allows them to coast through the last week of February. Scorpio could try to bring you down to their pessimistic level this weekend, but your refusal to join them will send a clear message. A family reunion is particularly enjoyable when you learn that a favourite relative is thinking of moving closer to you. Wednesday is the most auspicious day to plan bureaucratic meetings and Thursday is lucky for romance.



**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): The last week of February is forecast to bring challenges for those born under the sign of Scorpio. One of these will be connected to an ongoing financial dispute. You are advised to spend time this weekend organizing your personal administration as this will enable you to put a valid case forward. Monday is an auspicious day to schedule appointments for – the stars will back your efforts to achieve a fair outcome.



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Last-minute, work-related decisions that you made earlier this month may turn out to have been the wrong ones. Some Sagittarians can expect this week to be frustrating, but help from a Capricorn colleague will be worth its weight in gold. In the realm of romance, an air sign's interest makes your day on Sunday. Building a relationship with this person is predicted to bring happiness. Wear a piece of rose quartz to encourage some much needed relaxation.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns are forecast for a profitable week ahead. Most gain will be related to personal achievement, but the stars suggest that your bank balance will be healthier than expected by the end of February. Those who have been tiring of another earth sign's despondent mood find the right words to say this weekend.

Your luck in love is strongest on Monday and Tuesday. Wear the color aquamarine to encourage creative energy to flow.



**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Those Aquarians who are not sure which business direction to head in receive a clear green light early next week. Romantic sparks are forecast to fly on a blind date with a water sign this weekend, but mixed signals from Taurus lead to confusion. The stars suggest that certain technologies can become troublesome midweek – make sure that you are backing up your important work and confirming appointments. The number seven can make your day next Thursday.

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**The Phuket Gazette**

- Since 1994 -

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## Bag charge needed soon

The delay of an initiative by 24 island retailers to begin charging for plastic bags comes as a disappointment, especially given all the publicity and fanfare that went into organizing the three-day 'Phuket Green Island' event intended to kick off the project last weekend (See page 3).

According to Phuket Energy Office Chief Jirasuk Tummawetch, the initiative has been put on hold indefinitely while the organizers continue to lobby holdouts 7-Eleven, Tesco-Lotus and Carrefour into signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Organizers hope the scheme will create an 'all for one and one for all' mentality among retailers and consumers, raising public awareness about the need to reduce the ever-growing volume of solid waste produced on the island.

Critics of the initiative say that charging just one or two baht for plastic bags won't be enough to change consumer behavior. Others say it will benefit the retailers at the expense of consumers. Still others point out that plastic bags comprise only a small fraction of the solid waste stream.

All of these objections considered, the *Gazette* feels the initiative really needs to go forward – for public awareness reasons as much as anything else.

Phuket is just one tiny microcosm of the earth's population of 6.7 billion people, almost all consumers of an immense array of petroleum-based products. These include not only the obvious things like plastic bags and gasoline, but also the petroleum-based fertilizers we grow our food in and the synthetic textiles we wear. The list is practically endless. Even car tires, which can be made from natural rubber, are now largely made from petroleum-based synthetic rubber.

As a species we are at a real crossroads as we near the end of the fossil-fueled second industrial revolution. The fate of future generations will depend on our ability to radically change the way we produce and use energy, ending our unsustainable dependence on petrochemicals and developing new, more efficient and renewable technologies.

Some hope may lie in increasing global interconnectedness and new technical innovations that might eventually allow us to create and share energy more efficiently, in much the same way we already share files over the internet.

The almost instantaneous global outpouring of aid to Haiti, including from here in Phuket, hints at the type of global civilization we are going to have to build if we want to pass on a sustainable planet to future generations. We need to start somewhere and we need to start soon, and the plastic bag initiative is a good first step in the right direction.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

In association with **The Nation** Multimedia Group PCL

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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.

### The changing faces at Phuket's markets

I have spent many holidays in Phuket over the last 25 years and seen sweeping changes on this beautiful island. I am writing to point out an unpleasant trend that I have noted over the past couple of years. This change is detrimental to the tourism industry, though thankfully it is reversible.

I have always enjoyed a walk around Phuket's markets, and still pick up a pair of shorts or a trinket now and again. But the faces behind the stalls have changed. Now they're staffed by foreigners, and they are consistently very rude. If you don't buy from them they shout abuse after you. They make visiting the market an unpleasant experience.

The presence of these foreigners shows there must be some 'fat cat' who owns the stalls, not a local small trader. By hiring these unpleasant foreigners the fat cat is cheating a Thai out of the chance to earn an honest living.

I for one spend much less time – and therefore money – in the markets now. I assume other tourists find the experience similarly unpleasant and spend less time in the markets, reducing the amount of money they spend.

On top of this, these foreigners are sending their salaries out of the country, further damaging the economy. And worse than that, many Western tourists will not be able to differentiate between these foreigners and Thais and will think it is the Thai people who are rude and crude.

I hope the Tourist Authority of Thailand and other relevant authorities can stem the tide of foul-mouthed and ill-mannered

foreigners before they hurt the economy too much.

**Rod Anders**  
Singapore

### Governor Wichai needs more time

Please organize a petition to keep Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop in Phuket so he can finish the projects he started, especially the tuk-tuk meters. This is our last chance to save the tourist trade here.

I have been involved in tourism in Phuket for nearly 20 years and he is the only one who can make anything happen, but the directive for him to stay has to come from the government in Bangkok. Please try.

We are also lobbying the Thai newspapers through our Thai partners. They also care about this and realize the negative publicity about Phuket's tuk-tuks is doing much harm to the island.

**John Devenport**  
Chalong

### Shanty shamed

I am writing with concern about the growing migrant workers' camp on my soi. In recent months I have seen the semi-permanent cluster of corrugated tin and wood shacks multiply from five to 20, each shanty housing about a half-dozen bodies.

I understand this is a complicated situation for Thailand, dealing with a refugee population in the hundreds of thousands, but the time has come to manage the situation.

These shacks have no running water and no toilets, and the squatters' camp residents are using my lawn for a bathroom.

The shanty is piled with garbage, tools, makeshift clotheslines and human waste.

The camp is not fit for human habitation, and is blighting what would otherwise be a pleasant neighborhood.

It is a sad and shameful situation, and one that needs to be addressed.

**Ann Miller**  
Chalong

### Trash and burn

We are extremely concerned about an illegal rubbish dump which has appeared near the British International School.

We have read with interest your recent articles concerning toxic gases released into the atmosphere by the burning of plastic and other repellent rubbish in Patong and at the Saphan Hin incinerator.

The trash at the illegal dump mentioned is regularly burned, giving off foul smelling toxic fumes and smoke. It is continually replenished by illegal dumping by vans and trucks.

This concerns us deeply. It is not only harmful to the school children exercising in the school grounds, but also to the residents of Village 4, Soi Han Farang and the neighboring areas.

Unbelievably, a new Thai housing development is also being constructed opposite this site.

We are writing this letter in order to bring this grave pollution problem to a wider audience, and in the hope that something is done to resolve this matter.

Let us hope your involvement will bring this to the attention of the local authority concerned.

**Residents**  
**Koh Kaew, Village 4**

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).



# Building a better future for Phuket



## FIRST PERSON

Tossaporn Thepabutr has served as one of Phuket's two constituency Members of Parliament for the past two years. He is also Honorary Consul for the Republic of Korea. Born in Phuket in 1962, Mr Tossaporn grew up on the island. He studied in the United States at Western Kentucky University and completed a Master's Degree at Rajabhat Suan Dusit University in Bangkok. As deputy chairman of Parliament's Standing Committee on Tourism and Sport, improving the tourism industry in Thailand in general and Phuket in particular is Mr Tossaporn's primary focus. Here he discusses the state of the island's infrastructure and the tourism industry for *Phuket Gazette* readers.

I've been involved in politics for many years. I'm happy with my work, and that I'm able to put money into Phuket.

When I was born, the island was a very quiet, very peaceful place to live. Now the island is busy, with a lot of traffic, a lot of people, and is more dangerous than before. Wherever you live things have to change, but things in Phuket have changed very quickly indeed.

I agree with Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop's idea to fit taxi meters to the island's tuk-tuks. This will make things fair for everyone, especially passengers. But the governor needs to control the rates charged for journeys. It won't be easy to push the changes through, but I totally agree with this great idea.

Another one of Gov Wichai's ideas that I support is the creation of an entertainment zone. The governor is trying to set up an entertainment zone to support tourists who want to enjoy nightlife, like they do in Las Vegas.

But the most pressing problem in Phuket, the big issue right now, is that the governor's

budget is determined by the size of the island's registered population. But the official size of the population and the actual population are different because Phuket has so many people coming to live and work here without registering themselves. They just migrate here and start making a living. This means we don't have enough budget to spend for the actual number of people living on the island.

Another big issue for the island is the International Convention Center and Exhibition Hall project in Mai Khao. Even designing the center is going to cost more than 100 million baht. I'm aware there are some rumors about how the design budget is being spent. They are just rumors. The money for the design hasn't even been paid out yet.

When the project is finished we will have to appoint a committee to administer the project, and also to link it with the Welcome Gate, a project which belongs to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization. We have to try and use the Welcome Gate to support the Convention Center.

Building new roads isn't easy. We can see this from the



'Gov Wichai's plan to introduce tuk-tuk meters will make things fair for everyone, especially passengers.'

Phuket governor's road projects, especially the proposed 600-meter stretch of road through mangrove forest from Sakdidee Road Soi 7 to Saphan Hin. And the road from Patong to Chalong. The Environmental Impact Assessments for those projects haven't been approved yet, so they need more time to work on them. We haven't dropped these projects yet

and we're all working hard to make them happen.

I also want to push for a flyover at the Darasamuth School junction. I'm going to try my best to move this project forward. We're waiting for the design now.

Phuket will continue to change. I think everyone knows that Phuket International Airport estimates that within six years the

number of tourists coming through the gates there will double from 6 million to 12 million in coming years. There will be a lot of work to do, and we need more roads and hospitals. We also have to manage the local people, so we need to be prepared and try to make everyone happy.

Be patient for a better Phuket future.

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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## Is my Aussie driving license valid here?

I hold an Australian car and heavy vehicle license. Can I drive a car in Phuket with that license?

Gill  
Brisbane

An officer at Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office replies:

We do not allow you to drive a heavy vehicle in Thailand, but it's possible to drive a car. Please bring your Australian driver's license to our office. We will tell you whether you can use that license to drive in Phuket or not.

If not, you will have to apply for a Thai driver's license. Please come to the office before 9:30am on a working day. You will need to bring us the following documents:

1. Passport and work permit with one photocopy of each;
2. Australian driver's license;
3. Medical certificates.

For more information contact Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office, 42/4 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road, T. Talad Neua, Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211019, 076-220792, 076-214930, 076-214929. E: [info@phuketlandtransport.th.org](mailto:info@phuketlandtransport.th.org)

## How can I stop them from stealing birds?

Every day we see people catching birds in front of our house, in a private village in Chalong. We called Chalong Police, who came to our house and said it wasn't their job to stop it. In a few weeks all the birds will have disappeared. What can we do? Who is responsible for bird protection in Phuket?

Michel Wagnieres  
Switzerland

Mr Boonrit, an officer at Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (TAO), replies:

We do not have bird protection services here in Phuket, but please call us and give us your address and phone number. Or come to our office at the address below on a business day to fill out a complaint form.

We will come to your home with officers from the Public Health and Environment section of the TAO to investigate. Processing time will depend on the situation.

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# Scoreless opener for Phuket FC

## Phuket 0, Phattalung 0

Phuket FC have a new squad, a new nickname and a new kit, but it was the same old story at Surakul Stadium yesterday, when they played to a scoreless draw against Phattalung.

The match was the first of the season in Division Two (Southern Section) play in the Football Association of Thailand.

Hopes were high for Phuket FC to record their first-ever home win against Phattalung, who finished dead last in the division last year, but when the final whistle blew, neither side had found the back of the net.

Of three foreign signings, only one made the starting line-up: Nana Nenebi from the Ivory Coast was a commanding presence at the back and a constant danger from set pieces.

Midfielder Diarra Ali, also from the Ivory Coast, injured himself training in the days before the match.

Striker Robert Odametton from Ghana, who looked extremely promising in pre-season



New signee Nana Nenebi in action for Phuket FC at Surakul Stadium on Sunday. Despite a recent overhaul of the team, Phuket FC walked away from a scoreless match, the first of a new FAT season.

training, disappointingly failed to agree to terms with the club.

There were very few goal-scoring opportunities throughout the match and the Surakul surface, which appeared to have been partially re-laid, looked in

poor condition and was not conducive to good play.

Last season's outstanding player, midfielder Japan, was a surprising omission from the starting line up, but new manager Arjhan Songgamsub wasted little

time in introducing him soon after half time in place of the disappointing Anurak, who missed on his one good scoring opportunity.

Phuket FC manager Arjhan asked the press to reserve judgment on the current crop of play-

ers until they have a few more matches under their belts.

"It's too early to judge. We won't really know how good this team is until they have played more games together.

"I don't know if I will make changes to the side or not, but we will have to take a few days to analyze this performance first," he said.

The state of the pitch was unsatisfactory, he added.

Officials said the newly laid sections of the pitch should be fine by the time Phuket hosts Nakhon Sri Thammarat in the next home fixture on February 28.

Before that, on February 20, they have a road game against Phang Nga FC.

Robert Odametton's disappointing departure has left a vacancy for an accomplished striker, a hole that FC Phuket will need to fill if they are to be competitive this year.

Off the field, the level of organization has improved dramatically. There is even a club shop selling Phuket FC merchandise inside the stadium.

On the field there remains much work to be done.

— James Goyder

## Sawasdee Cricket League weekly roundup

Team	# of games played	# of wins	# of losses	Total Points
1) Kingfisher Island Cricket Club	3	3	0	55
2) Patong Cricket Club	2	2	0	43
3) Laguna Cricket Club	2	2	0	38
4) Liquid Lounge Lizards	3	1	2	32
5) Village Cricket Team	3	0	3	16
6) Phuket Cricket Development Club	3	0	3	10

The Village Cricket Team took on the Liquid Lounge Lizards at Cherg Talay School on February 14. The Village Cricket Team were all out for 180 runs against the runner up team from last season's Island Furniture League.

Captain Kevin Quilty fired up his troops for the bowling insult to come, but while the Village fielders chased down every ball, it was all in vain as the Liquid Lounge Lizards' captain and opening batsmen scored 41 runs not out. Dave Kelleway did the most damage, scoring an impressive 94 not out to ensure the Liquid Lounge Lizards won by nine wickets.

Cricket fans should note the final of the Sawadee Cricket competition has been postponed and is now tentatively scheduled for March 6 at BIS.

## Phuket gets new youth pitch



The opening of Phuket's new youth football pitch at Headstart International School brought out some healthy competition between parents and children.

Adults and children marked the grand opening of a new 5-a-side football pitch at Headstart International School with two days of matches. February 12 saw parents and children gathered at Headstart to celebrate the opening of the pitch, which will be used regularly by children at the school and the local community.

The day started as children first got their chance to test out the new playing surface. Parents

followed shortly after, and despite the pitch being narrow and more suitable for small-sided games, that didn't stop the 18 adults from attempting to play at the same time.

Football carnage subsequently ensued, although a good time was had by all.

The following day Karl Ward, a local footballer who has been instrumental in the building of the new pitch, organized a tournament for local footballers. 25 players, mainly from Phuket Town, gathered and were divided into four teams of six for a mini tournament.

Finding a suitable surface to play football on in Phuket Town has long been a problem and the large contingent of farang footballers in the area have been constantly frustrated in their quest to find a playing venue in recent years. Ward, however, believes that this pitch (situated opposite

Macro) might provide a convenient solution.

"I hope we can use the football pitch as much as possible, but it all depends on whether it can be maintained properly. We would easily play up to three times a week, although I think twice is more realistic since many of us are also playing football at PIA at the moment.

"I think footballers around Phuket/Central will enjoy the fact that we now have our own quality pitch for regular practice sessions. It's a good location for everyone, and we don't have to worry about pitch availability and frequently changing times. Also, I think it will be a social thing, with frequent gatherings," he said.

For information about practicing on the pitch at Headstart or to register an interest in football in Phuket, visit [www.phuketfootball.com](http://www.phuketfootball.com).

— James Goyder



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# Martial arts medalist hosts judo seminar

More than 20 adults and children gathered at the Phuket International Academy last Saturday for a Judo seminar by Olympic veteran Sophie Cox. Sophie, a teacher at PIA, represented Great Britain at the 2004 Olympic Games and has won five European medals.

Sophie gave everyone a brief introduction to Judo, focusing mainly on the self defense aspects. She is planning to set up an extra curricular Judo school at PIA to give students more in depth knowledge of the sport.

However, she might have to put teaching Judo on hold for the next few months in order to get some lessons herself, because

she is making a competitive comeback. Sophie's last competition was in 2005 but she will be returning to action in April to take part in the Thailand Open.

"I just want to see if I can compete again. I think the level of Judo in Thailand is probably slightly lower than in the UK, because it is not as popular here, but there might be people coming from Japan or Korea to compete," she said.

Sophie will be traveling to Bangkok as part of a Phuket team led by Phuket native Chone Changkol, who has represented Thailand at Judo. He now teaches in Phuket Town and one of his students recently won a Southern Thailand championship.

Sophie will be training with Chone at Phuket Witthayalai School in Phuket Town.

He is delighted at the new addition to his Phuket team. "We have been training together for about two weeks. She still has a lot of ability but she needs strength and fitness if she is to return to competition. I am very happy to have her on the team her experience is valuable to our kids, because she has been in so many international competitions.

"The Thai champion at her weight is very strong so it will be difficult for Sophie to win but Sophie does have a lot more experience, which will be an advantage," he said.

— James Goyder



Olympic veteran Sophie Cox gives Chone Changkol a first-person demonstration of a proper Judo throw at a Judo seminar at PIA.

## Rugby players hit the road for charity



Three local rugby players (from left) Bob Pearson, Jeff Klentzi, and Pete Burgess, will bag the ball and pick up their bikes to cycle from Bangkok to Phuket to raise money for charity.

Three rugby players plan to cycle from Bangkok to Phuket to raise money for the Asia Centre Foundation, an organization helping disadvantaged children and children at risk by providing care, training and education.

Bob Pearson, Jeff Klentzi and Pete Burges are hoping to raise 300,000 baht in order to help the foundation.

The cyclists all play for the Bangkok Bangers, a rugby team that participates in the Phuket Rugby 10s every year and have a fierce rivalry with the Phuket Vagabonds rugby team.

Jeff Klentzi was inspired to make the 957-km journey after playing in the Rugby 10s.

"Every year during the International Rugby 10s, our club — the Old Bangkok Bangers — helps to sponsor the scholarships of a few Asia Centre Foundation children. Unfortunately, despite all this effort, there is never enough, so we have decided to try to do a little bit more this year.

"None of us have ever cycled this far before. Although Pete is a proper cyclist, Bob and myself are not, and when you

compare his body to ours, you will see what I mean! We are hoping to do it in six days, which means cycling an average of 160 kilometers per day. It will be very difficult but hopefully a strong fresh breeze from the north and the psychological support from all the donors will help us," he said.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the trio should contact Pat Cotter by email at: phuketrugby@gmail.com.

— James Goyder

## F1 season surges to high gear

The 2010 Grand Prix season promises to be one of the most interesting and exciting Formula 1 racing contests in years. Seven-time champion Michael Schumacher comes out of retirement to join the re-branded Brawn outfit; Fernando Alonso is at the helm for Ferrari; and reigning champion Jenson Button joins 2008 title holder Lewis Hamilton at McLaren.

It is the first time four champions will be on the grid in more than two decades.

Refueling is prohibited this season, although tire changes will still be allowed. This means that the cars will start a Grand Prix with anything up to 200 liters of gas on board and drivers will have to conserve their tires until the first pitstop.

This will play into the hands of smooth drivers like Button and Alonso. Hamilton, by comparison, has a more aggressive style and may destroy his tires in the early stages of the race.

One other minor tweak has been added in order to improve the 'show': the top 10 drivers in qualifyin have to start the race on the same tires as they used in the final qualifying session.

There are also four new teams. Virgin Racing comes in



with Timo Glock and Lucas di Grassi; US F1, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the first American team for many years; Campos Meta from Spain will run Bruno Senna; and a revamped Lotus team will be led by Air Asia boss Tony Fernandes. All the newcomers will be powered

by a Cosworth V8 engine.

The 2010 season gets underway in Bahrain on March 14, followed by Melbourne two weeks later. It is too early to predict a winner — or indeed a champion — but it promises to be a fascinating year.

— Jeff Heselwood

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# Krabi steps into the luxury echelon

by Leslie Chittayanon

The click-clack of well-heeled travellers is a rare sound on the streets of Krabi. Many visitors only catch a glimpse of the modest little town through the tinted windows of their transfer vehicle, en route to some swanky beach resort.

In the past, Krabi never aspired to being anything more than a sleepy backpacker stopover; it was comfortable shuffling along in the same old familiar flip flops. But lately, the town has taken baby steps towards a more comprehensive tourist infrastructure.

Without selling out to crude commercialism, Krabi is confidently carving a niche in the high-end market.

Using facets of leisure, art, culture and health to attract new interest, the town is gaining credibility and becoming a more appealing destination to affluent travellers.

The 46-berth marina, set to open at the end of March 2010, could bring a new wave of tourism with it.

The marina is located close to the Krabi's centre, and will provide a convenient gateway for luxury travellers. With this sturdy rung on the ladder, Krabi has the opportunity to climb to new levels of popularity and profitability.

As local hotels struggle to keep afloat during turbulent financial tides, luxury pool villas are becoming an increasingly popular choice of accommodation.

These managed homes not only feature all the lavish trimmings of a high-end resort for a cheaper rate, but are unparalleled in terms of privacy.

Pierre-Yves Loiers, the creative force behind Krabi Villa, describes the advantages a private pool villa has over a resort suite. "You can play music



**Clockwise: Krabi Villa offers five premier vacation homes with opulent amenities including a private pool. Takola Restaurant features Thai-fusion menu options made with the freshest ingredients from their on-site farm. Wat Gaew Korawaram is currently under construction in Krabi and will house one of the largest collections of Buddhist literature.**



and drink champagne in the jacuzzi until 3am, without causing any disturbance, enjoy a private butler service, and you tell Villa staff what time you want the cleaners to arrive."

Krabi Villa provides guests with a mobile phone with speed dials for massage, free transport to the beach, and the in-villa butler service. Every service can be tailored to suit guests' individual needs, ensuring the ultimate relaxing experience.

Many luxury travellers are switching to this style of accommodation due to the maximized space, privacy and relaxation, not to mention considerable savings.

Krabi's dining scene may lack the variety found in Phuket; however, it makes up for it with authenticity. Ruen Mai is Krabi's longest-standing restaurant, and is well known beyond provincial borders, for its exceptional food and incredible ambience.

The restaurant is located in a concealed leafy oasis just

outside the town centre. Lush nature paints the perfect backdrop for al fresco dining and Buddhist art pieces add an almost temple-like aura. The array of classic Thai dishes, such as mango and cashew nut salad and *tom yam kung* (a hot and sour broth with shrimp), are always sensationally flavoursome.

This blend of delicious food, rustic décor and jungle ambience, ensures the restaurant remains a favourite among locals and international visitors.

Across town, Takola Restaurant is a newer addition to Krabi's dining scene, and also offers the winning combo of exotic setting and consistently good food. Takola trades tradition for trend; with brilliant white columns, waxy foliage and subdued lighting creating a modern tropical accent.

Takola prides itself on its range of healthy dishes, which are accompanied by a bed of mixed leaves, freshly picked from the on-site hydroponic farm.

The chef adds a dash of elegance to everyday dishes by incorporating high quality ingredients. Diners can choose red curry with imported beef, or enjoy spring rolls stuffed with fresh river prawns; the restaurant excels at putting a classy spin on everyday fare.

The wine list features a number of new world wines, which complement the



restaurant's spicy cuisine.

Luxury spa treatments are a necessary indulgence on any visit to Asia, and Kantawan Spa, in Krabi, offers a tranquil setting for some star-rated pampering. The traditional Lanna-style teak house overlooks a lotus pond, and the interior is designed using natural materials and subdued lighting to promote relaxation.

Asian massage, deep-

cleansing facials and invigorating body scrubs are performed by professional therapists using nature's finest ingredients; customers can also enjoy private use of the sauna and Jacuzzi after their skin treatment or massage.

A stylish new yoga studio has recently opened in Krabi, and offers bilingual instruction in various styles of yoga. Soul of Yoga offers three classes each day, including hot yoga and children's yoga.

Other noteworthy sites for the discerning traveller include Krabi Contemporary Art Gallery and Wat Gaew Korawaram. Works of national and international artists are exhibited in the new art gallery, many of which depict local landmarks and scenery. The new temple, which is still under construction, will house the South's largest library of Buddhist literature.

In Krabi, visitors can immerse themselves in the rich local culture and enjoy a truly authentic experience, while still enjoying all the essential elements of a luxury holiday.

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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.

The recent launch of Cambodia's first private island resort, the luxurious Song Saa, turned heads in the local property industry when more than half of its villas were sold in the first two weeks of the property's international marketing campaign. The resort, developed by Rory Hunter and marketed by CBRE, comprises 14 villas; five two-bedroom and nine one-bedroom units, which are being marketed as 'lifestyle' investment and resort yields, rather than straight residential real estate.

Villa owners who put their units in the rental program are allowed 30 days free usage of their

villas per year and pay electricity charges only. For the initial three years, a 10 percent guaranteed return is in place. Once that term ends, the revenue is split, with 50 percent going to unit owners and 10 percent for capital refurbishment. The remaining 40 percent is retained by management for operating expenses and fees.

Mr Hunter said the management arm Song Saa Resorts is looking for other idyllic and remote locations in Laos and Myanmar for further expansion.

Song Saa is set to open in the second quarter of 2011 with rack rates (daily room rates) forecast at US\$400 for one-bedroom villas and US\$650 for the two-bedroom villas. However, getting there is no easy feat. Barring swimming, most travelers arrive via Sihanoukville and then take a 30-minute boat trip to the island. A small pontoon Cessna transfer service is also in the works for those who prefer to fly in. Mr Hunter expects many adventure and cultural tourists who are already visiting Siem Reap and Phnom Penh to add the destination to their itinerary.

Foreign ownership of property is not allowed in Cambodia but there have been revisions which allow for 99-year lease terms (versus a 30 year lease in



This Cambodian island is home to one of the country's first luxury villa resorts. INSET: One of Song Saa Resort's 14 villas, half of which were sold within the first two weeks of the property's launch on the market.

Thailand, plus options). However, the word is that the Thai government is expected to liberalize freehold ownership of apartments in the next year or so.

According to Mr Hunter, land development costs in Cambodia, including in Phnom Penh, range from 15,000 baht to 35,000 baht per square meter. However, beach land in Sihanoukville, near the new airport, ranges from Bt5 million to Bt13 million per rai.

CBRE's David Simister is currently working on master

planning in Koh Rong. He envisions smaller development plots being sold by larger land owners in order to get the development market moving and critical mass infrastructure in place.

Most of Asia's tropical island destinations were first discovered by backpackers. Much is being written about the evolution of the budget backpacker to today's urban 'flashpacker' (affluent backpacker).

'Flashpacking' is a term that also reflects a growing demo-

graphic of travelers who are forsaking traditional organized travel and venturing to destinations once the reserved of more adventurous backpackers, but they still want their home comforts and access to their modern gadgets.

In summary, it looks as though Cambodia's healthy supply of beach-front property, low development costs and growing access through regional low-cost carriers will put the country on a fast track into the island-resort market.



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# H-2-Uh-O!

The inside scoop behind what's contaminating the world's water supply

Once I learned about a lesser-known chemical called 'Bisphenol-A' (BPA) – commonly present in the plastic bottles used for drinking water – and the the potential health problems it poses to humans, I dug much deeper into the subject of drinking water. After my research, I want to share the real truth about the water situation in the world.

Both community and private sources of drinking water are susceptible to a myriad of chemical contaminants – biological pollutants that may vary depending on source conditions, treatment procedures and other factors. Some of the more common chemical pollutants include pesticides, fertilizers, petroleum products, and industrial solvents. Some problem organisms, including viruses, bacteria, protozoa and algae, cause problems with taste and odor, while others are potential pathogens.

Threats to drinking water quality originate in livestock and plant products, industrial wastes and activities from our businesses, residences, recreational areas and transportation systems. The drinking water from our taps is unsafe to drink because it contains pharmaceutical residues.

People who drink tap water are drinking second-hand drug residue. The basic problem is that after a drug is swallowed much of the compound is excreted in urine and will end up contaminating drinking water. So when you turn on your tap you get bits of old contraceptive pills, antibiotics and tranquillizers in your nice sparkling glass of apparently clean drinking water.

You can't see the drug residues, of course, and the water companies can't get them out. From time to time newspapers and magazines around the world discover new research showing that fish are changing sexes from male to female in drug polluted rivers (it is, of course, the female hormones from contraceptive pills and hormone replacement therapy which cause this phenomenon).

I raise the question of whether or not public drinking water supplies could be



**SOURCE FOR CONCERN:** More and more of the world's water sources are becoming contaminated with the wastes from commercial chemicals, especially pharmaceuticals. Among the most prevalent chemicals that find their way into drinking water are estrogen, tranquilizers, steroids, and chemotherapy drugs.

polluted with female hormone residues, which could affect the development of male babies.

A report published in 1999 by the UK Environmental Agency reports that 57% of the fish in a studied river have experienced a sex change. Chemicals in treated sewage and factory waste are blamed for upsetting natural fish hormones. The researchers found that fish were more likely to be affected when they spent time close to a sewage outlet. They also found that fish who lived upstream (away from the sewage outlet) were much less likely to be affected.

The chemicals in sewage which are most likely to affect fish are female hormones, such as estrogen. Strangely, some scientists still seem puzzled about the

source of the female hormones. While they were studying lake water for pesticide contamination, a group of Swiss chemists were surprised to find that the lake was also polluted with

clofibric acid; a drug which is used to lower blood cholesterol levels. The possibility that this could have been caused by industrial spillage was ruled out when it was established that clofibric acid is not manufactured in Switzerland.

When the chemists checked other lakes and rivers they found low concentrations of the drug were extremely common. When researchers in Germany started looking for clofibric acid, they found the drug in all sorts of water supplies - including tap water. Intrigued, the researchers looked harder and they found several other drug residues, including lipid-lowering drugs, analgesics (including diclofenac and ibuprofen), beta blockers, heart drugs, antibiotics, chemotherapy drugs and hormones. They found these drugs in both natural bodies of water and in drinking water – and they found that the concentrations were highest in heavily populated areas.

Once they had ruled out industrial spillage the researchers realized that the drugs had come from human body wastes. Further surveys between 2006 and 2007 of the drinking water for more than 28 million Americans detected the widespread but low-level presence of pharmaceuticals and hormonally active chemicals.

The long term effect of all this is difficult to estimate.

There is not yet any evidence showing a clear link between water pollution and problems (such as fertility) affecting human beings. But the absence of any such evidence may possibly be a result of the fact that, as far as I know, no one has yet done any research into this issue. The research would be extremely simple to do and wouldn't cost very much.

Scientists would simply count the number of people with fertility problems (or some other specific disorder) who had drunk re-circulated water, and then compare that figure with the incidence of fertility problems among people who had drunk fresh spring or borehole water. But who would want to do such research? Certainly not the water companies.

How are the drugs in your drinking water affecting your health? Is your daily cocktail of tranquillizers, antibiotics, hormones, steroids, chemotherapy drugs, heart drugs, painkillers and so on making you ill? How do all these drugs interact? Are they likely to be at least partly responsible for the way the increasing rate of cancer diagnoses? No one knows, and the authorities don't seem to want to know. Maybe they are frightened of discovering what's really in our water.

While the US government regulates the levels of pathogen's in US drinking water, there are no rules restricting the disposal of pharmaceuticals and other compounds, apart from one: the herbicide atrazine. It seems that as we continue to populate and aggregate, our wastes will certainly accumulate where we live. Therefore, we must accept that there will be a certain degree of contamination.

Meanwhile, politicians around the world now drink spring water, at taxpayers' expense, which is bottled at source before it has a much chance of becoming contaminated. What you will drink tomorrow?

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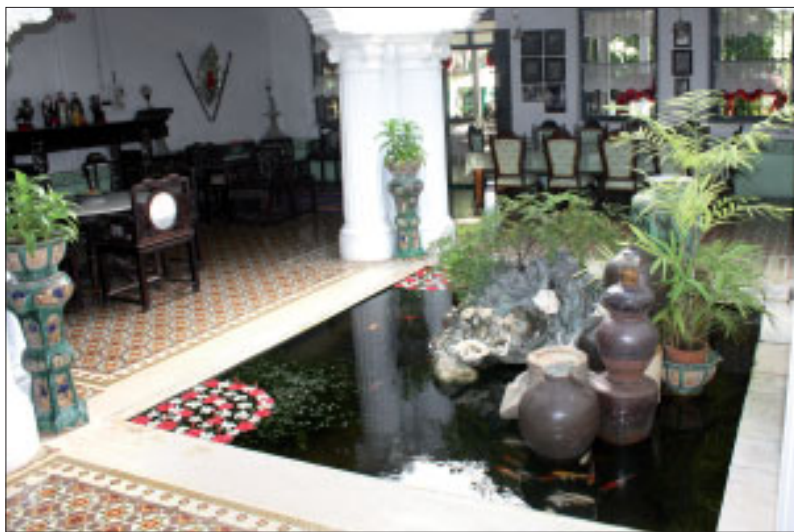
# Phuketian splendor



Most tourists who dust the sand off their feet and venture into Phuket's Old Town are charmed by the Sino-Portuguese architecture they find there. The sheltered walkways, classical pillars and stucco flourishes of Thalang Road and its siblings are fine relics of the island's tin-mining heritage.

But the town offers much grander examples of the Sino-Portuguese style than the shophouses that line its central streets. Scattered here and there are the stately mansions of the island's prominent tin-mining dynasties. And what some might not know is that at least one is open to the public.

Tucked away off Krabi Road, Chinpracha House was built in 1903 while King Chulalongkorn was still on the throne. The man who built it, Prapitak Chinpracha, or Tan Ma Siang in Hokkien Chinese, was just 20 years old at the time. His father, Tan Niaw Yee, was a Fujianese soldier who had moved to Phuket in 1854 and made a fortune in the burgeoning tin mining business. Their descendants, the Tantawanits, still own the house.

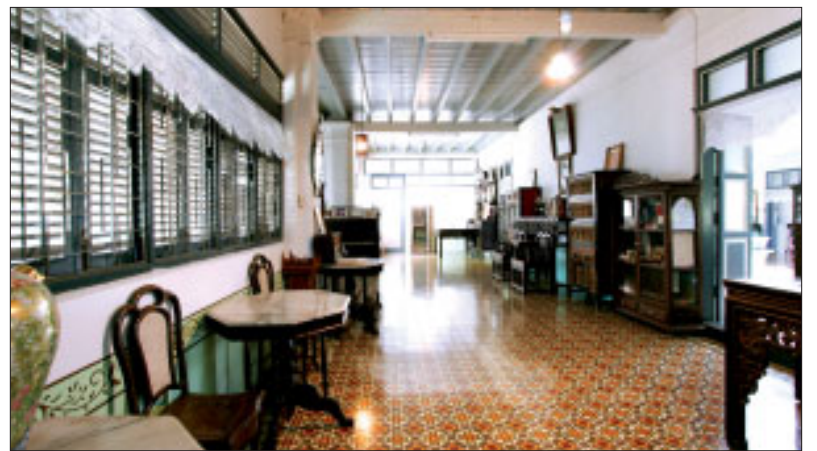
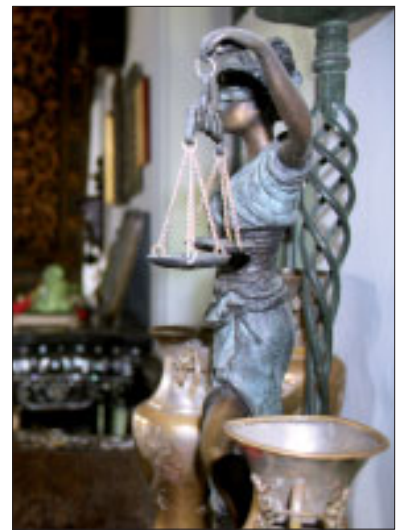


Two showy Chinese characters emblazon the entrance to Chinpracha House: 'Lian Bee', meaning 'Beautiful Lotus' in Hokkien. This was the name of the company through which the family traded in their three bases: Fujian, Phuket and Penang in Malaysia. Now known by Phuket expats more for its visa extensions than anything else, Penang was coupled tightly with Phuket by the tin trade. What was mined on this island was shipped to Penang, and onwards to the world.

Stepping inside the mansion, the most striking feature is a kind

of indoor courtyard enclosing a pond. Light streams from the vaulted ceiling, koi carp laze beneath the lilies. Though it may look like a pretty though pointless curiosity, this *chim jae*, as it is known, is an old fashioned air conditioning unit. The water cools the air around it, generating air currents inside the building; the koi eat the mosquitoes that would otherwise make the water their home too.

Striking too is the ornate mother-of-pearl furniture that Prapitak Chinpracha imported from Fujianese palaces for the



mansion. In accordance with Chinese custom, many of the items are paired; an imposing cabinet, ten-feet high, winks across the hall to its identical twin.

While much of what can be seen at Chinpracha House came from China, much else was shipped at huge expense from the West: the geometric floor tiles from Italy; a grand dining table from England; the walls enclosing the grounds from Amsterdam. Other items were collected by the house's late resident, Pracha Tantawanit, who had a fondness for antiques: an old typewriter sits on a table; a decrepit telephone, bug-eyed with bells, hangs from a wall.

Last year a local businessman built two rows of shophouses on what had been Chinpracha House's front lawn; parts of the beautiful old perimeter fence were destroyed. The land had been sold off by members of the Tantawanit family. While the Phuketian splendor of the mansion remains open to the public, who knows if it will remain so. See it while you can.

– Dan Waites

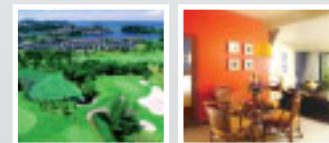
For more information contact: Old Phuket Tour, 245/45 Srisoonthorn Road, Thalang, Phuket. T: 076-3520712. M: 081-9702605.

## laGuna

PROPERTY RESALE

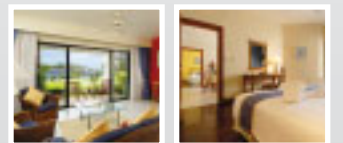
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda 1-Bedroom Suite THB 6.5 M



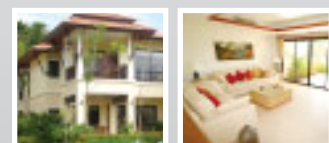
- 1 bed 1 bath fully furnished
- rental pool
- golf course view

2 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.5 M



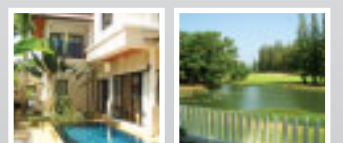
- 2 beds 2 baths fully furnished
- rental pool
- golf course view

3 Laguna Village Villa THB 14.9 M



- 2-storey Villa
- 2 beds 3 baths
- fully furnished
- mountain view

4 Laguna Townhome THB 23 M



- 2-storey Townhome
- 4 beds 4 baths
- custom kitchen • maid's quarter
- golf course view

5 Laguna Residence THB 35 M



- 2-storey Residence
- 4 beds 3 baths
- fully furnished
- golf course view

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### 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

### CONDO PATONG 58SQM

Freehold, 7 floors, furnished, 400m to the beach, car park, pool. 1.6 million baht. Call owner at Tel: 081-082 5707.

### HOUSE SALE OR RENT

7 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, swimming pool, kitchen, big hall bar, near Simon. Rent 70,000 per month or sale 19 million baht. Tel: 087-267 7281, 085-243 3878.

### NEW APARTMENT NAI HARN

Free hold, top floor, 102 sqm. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished with 42inch plasma tv., spa, gym, tennis, big swimming pool. Only minutes to beach. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 089-593 6815. Email: shmaen2006@hotmail.it

### HOT DEAL LAYAN



Land 3 plots, Chanote of 3/4 of rai each, sale by lot or full plot, road, electric, water, lake view. Start at 4,500 baht per sqm.

Land 19 rai, Chanote, lake view, road, electric. Under priced at 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-787 4383. Email: ruggdan@gmail.com

### LAND NEAR RAWAI FOR SALE

1 rai 2 ngan 97 whaa with chanot. Tel: 089-885 4517 (English & Thai), 081-908 8580. Email: ruedi.kaufmann@gmx.ch

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### LAND FOR SALE

Several plots of land for sale, excellent locations, great value. Situated in Layan, Mission Hills and Paklok. 1/4 rai to 3 rai plots. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: keving@loxinfo.co.th

### 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).

### 3B/R VILLA IN SAI YUIN RD

Lovely quiet private estate, well maintained 4 year old 3 B/Room Villa for sale for 9.5Mil THB, Neg. Western kitchen, fully furnished, 5 aircons, curtains, large common pool & sala. 24/7 security with key pass access. Contact Michael for extra pics or viewing of the house. Sale price is 9.5MIL & company already established so just change over the directors' names. Tel: +61-3-9766 3633, +61-414 4732. Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

### 3 BR, POOL, 354 SQM

Modern home w/ pool. 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, kitchen, dining, living, parking. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 085-782 6900, 085-782 6900. Email: dahammer6089@hotmail.com

### BEACH FRONT CONDO

North Patong. 2 bedrooms, freehold, great sea view. 9.7 million baht. For pics, please contact me at Tel: 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

### IDEAL FAMILY HOME



Luxury 5+1 bedroom villa conveniently located 800m from BIS and central to marinas, shopping, golf, airport and beaches. 535sqm of practical, contemporary living with indoor or outdoor entertaining, excellent bathrooms (Jaccuzi) and spacious bedrooms. Functional kitchen with open-plan dining. Safe and secure estate. Perfect for a young family. Excellent rental return for investors. Sale price 19.5 million baht. Tel: 084-442 1580. Email: ab@megazip.com.sg

### WESTERN STYLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 powder room, hot water, 4 aircon units, telephone, ADSL, cable TV, washer, dryer, western kitchen, 40" LCD TV & entertainment. 160 m2. For rent or sale. Tel: 02-860 3254, 081-400 0796, 087-895 3555. Email: popeyepsc@hotmail.com

### KATA BEACH

nice, one bedroom apartment incl furnishing, air, pool. Special price now 2.9 million baht, financing available. Tel: 081-788 8280.

### NAI YANG MODERN VILLA

Top spec villa, 600m from beach. 210sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, sala, big shade sail lookout, modern furniture. 10.2 million baht. Tel: 084-653 5863.

### RAWAI VILLA



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

### PATONG HOUSES

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

### SUPERB LOCATION IN NAI HARN

Are you looking for the perfect location in Nai Harn? Excellent plot of Land - 1 rai - with house in a safe soi. Only ten minutes walking distance from Nai Harn Beach! Call now. Tel: 081-892 1057 (English & Thai), 081-691 9679 (English & Thai). Email: service@phuket-consult.com

### FOR SALE



Patong Towers - Rare opportunity;

Patong Towers - We have several superb, upper-floor 2,3 and 4 bedroom apartments for sale with spectacular ocean and mountain views. Freehold and Leasehold. Starting at just THB 12 million.

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martin.phillips@phillips-property.com  
www.phillips-property.com

### NEW ON THE MARKET!

3 lots, approx 1 rai each. Bang Pae waterfall area, east side. Beautiful views, privated road. Must see to appreciate. 2.75 million baht per lot. Finance possible. Call Chris. Tel: 086-942 1930.

### FREEHOLD PATONG

Just finished, new apartments. Selling at good prices. Tel: 084-845 2170.

### 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

### CHALONG HOUSE



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large room wall, gated, secluded, very nice. 5.5 million baht. Possible long-term rent 18,000 baht. Tel: 081-537 1173 (Thai), USA 503-697 8528, 971-533-0654.

## MANDALA CONDOMINIUMS

### BANG TAO BEACH

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www.c9hotelworks.com

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www.baanmandala.com

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### 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@live.co.uk

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Srisuchart Grandville 3, not far from Tesco Lotus. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 1 car park and little garden. Very nice house contact to come see at 087-277 0978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

### SHOPHOUSE

12 mos old, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, kitchen, 1 aircon unit, furniture. Rent: 24,000 baht per month. 3.8 million baht, pay 3.6 million. A bargain! Tel: 080-522 3357 (English), 086-476 2093 (English & Thai). Email: kcoyle@pinn.net

### 48 RAI KHAO LAK / BANG SAK

250m from the beach. Chanote, Nor Sor 3. Only 1.7 million baht. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English), 081-397 4957 (Thai). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

### TOP SEAVIEW LOT

2 rai, Chanote, 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-473 8338. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

### 3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

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

### SURIN BEACH

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

### 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

### CHEAP LAND

4.8 rai of land between the airport and the Sarasin Bridge near Mai Khao includes access. Can be subdivided into 4 plots. 6 million baht. Tel: 080-521 5425 (English). Email: r.felton@hotmail.co.uk

### 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.

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# Property Gazette

## SEAVIEW CONDO RAWAI



freehold, 120sqm. Furnished. 8.5 million baht. Contact Adrian. Tel: 082-801 3445. Email: troyadrian@hotmail.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.

## 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.

## NEW BRAND CONDO

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

## 5-BEDROOM POOL VILLA



Rawai beach. Land and house for sale. 6.5 million baht. Credit lease 360,000 per year. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

## HOUSE IN ANUPHAS GOLF VILLA

for sale. Kathu, 3 bedrooms, maid room, aircon, small swimming pool, Chanote title. 8 million baht. Tel: 081-854 0061 (English), 087-395 7301 (English & Thai).

## 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

## LUXURY POOL VILLAS



50% finance available, ready to move in for just 9 million baht, 4km from Layan Beach, excellent location, great value. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our web site at www.baanboosa.com

## 1.7 MILLION TWIN HOUSE



for sale. Heroines' Monument. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms at 3.3 million baht. Call Jane. Tel: 089-729 8009.

## 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.

## 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: drbearshaw@gmail.com

## SHOPHOUSE - CHALONG

12 months old, 3 storey, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1 km south of Circle. Full kitchen, 1 air con, hot water, all-glass front door, office furniture, beds, very clean. Rent 28,000 per month. Valued at 3.7 million, you pay 3.6 million baht including additions. Bargain! Tel: 086-476 2093.

## 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.

## MUST SELL NOW

beautiful villa Kata Beverly Hills. 3 bedroom/bath, big pool with jacuzzi, garden, includes furnishing. From 20 million baht, now 17 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

## 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

## TWIN HOUSE WITH BUSINESS

2 houses with business. Area totals 285 sqm. 5 years. 4,950,000 baht. Tel: 076-281196, 086-045 3139. Email: finale.2001@hotmail.com

## BEST DEAL IN KATA

1 bedrooms condo, sale/rent, 100m. from beach. 2,500,000 baht or 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-025 8276. Email: prisanan@gmail.com

## VILLA FOR SALE NEAR LAGUNA



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Open-plan kitchen, living room. The villa is fully airconditioned and furnished. Built on 360sqm, 176sqm living area, with a beautiful garden. The location is only 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach and 5 minutes to Laguna. Price 5.5 million baht. Tel: 089-813 1447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com

## 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.

## 17 RAI WITH PALM TREES

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

## HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

## 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>

## SHOPHOUSE - CHALONG

12 months old, 3 storey, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1 km south of Circle. Full kitchen, 1 air con, hot water, all-glass front door, office furniture, beds, very clean. Rent 28,000 per month. Valued at 3.7 million, you pay 3.6 million baht including additions. Bargain! Tel: 086-476 2093.

## 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.

## FLAT LAND

for sale. 9,312sqm, flat land near Bang Pae waterfall on border with the main road to Mission Hill. Asking price 3.5 million baht per rai = 1,600sqm. Tel: 081-693 4075 (English & Thai). Email: kannanagarden@hotmail.com

## 4 RAI NAI HARN

Chanote. 6 million baht by rai. No agents please. Tel: 089-594 4017.

## VILLA FOR SALE

5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-895 7310. See at [www.horizonresidenceandspa.com](http://www.horizonresidenceandspa.com)

## 400SQM POOL HOUSE

Rawai seaview, 12m x 4m pool indoor area all as new for sale. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 084-843 3613.

## THE ROYAL PLACE

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

## NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

## 1.7 MILLION BAHT CONDO



Rawai beach. For sale, 54sqm, 150 meter from sea, financing 1 years. Tel: 080-078 0931. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

## VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

## BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai beach land, public road & water 80m long white sand beach, no rocks, include shop house, Beautiful view Beautiful land. Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: [ken@phuketlifestyle.com](mailto:ken@phuketlifestyle.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

## APARTMENT, KARON

3-floor apartment in Karon Plaza for sale. Fully furnished w/aircon. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms w/hot water, kitchen, and large living room. 2 balconies + terrace. The apt also has a room for renting out. Pls contact at Tel: 076-396693, 087-267 6830 (English), 087-267 5957 (English & Thai). Email: [gymworld@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:gymworld@loxinfo.co.th)

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# Property Gazette

## PROPERTY IN KATA



120sq wah (480sqm) land, 2 story. Thai building of 15 guestrooms, fully furnished, 1 reception, 2 studios. 10 min walk to Kata beach. 20 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 085-441 4999.

## 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

## HOUSE IN KATHU

for sale. Freehold, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms. 2,000,000 baht. Tel: 081-415 6415.

## FLAT LAND IN CHERNG TALAY

for sale. Over half rai. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 086-047 2463 (English), 086-161 1136 (Thai).

## LAND FOR SALE - 2 RAI

Nice land for sale in Pakhlok, near the waterfall. Great mountain and seaviews. 2 rai plot. Price 4 million baht per rai. Please contact me for more details. Tel: 081-895 3347. Email: nickfrangoudes@gmail.com

## HOUSE IN RAWAI

for sale. Single-story house, 155sqm living area, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms with bathroom, 1 living room, kitchen, aricon, safe, bathroom with washing mashine, covered car park and terrace, swimming pool 4x8m, land area 640sqm. Price for the house 5.2 million baht. Land lease for 96,000 baht per year. Long term lease contract. Tel: 076-248100.

## LAND AND HOUSE



Quick sale, 232sq wah, 25m. attached to Chaofa West Rd, near Wat Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 3 toilets, 4 aircons, 2 phones, ADSL, 1 temporary warehouse. Price 14 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 089-697 0928, 089-723 8209.

## PRIME LAND FOR SALE IN KATHU

with in 2km of 3 golf courses, 5 rai, 50sq wah with Chanote title, near Central/Tesco Lotus/Big C.

Perfect for private complex.

Only 5.5 million baht per rai.

Tel: 081-854 0061 (English), 087-395 7301 (English & Thai).

## 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.

## 400SQM POOL HOUSE

Rawai seaview, 12m x 4m pool indoor area all as new for sale. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 084-843 3613.

## SALE CHEAP CONDO PATONG

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

## 4-BEDROOM 3-BATHROOM HOUSE

Rawai. 2 floors, aircons, hill views, cul-de-sac. Tel: 081-270 6310. Email: jackiebeyers@hotmail.com

## BAAN BAI MAI



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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## MANEKRAM 161SQ WAH

Corner block to the rear of the estate. 19,000 baht per wah. Email: lowprofile@mail.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.

## 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.

## BEACH LAND KHAO LAK 5 RAI

Beautiful 5 rai, Chanote title. Hard to find better than this, next to 5-star resort. 118m of beach front, stunning property. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English). Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

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Super sea view over Patong. Ready to move in. 25 million baht, freehold. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7051. Email: prim\_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://awphuket.com>

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2 houses, furnished. Panoramic Kata. Land at Banpara Pakhlok on main road, 2,532sqm. Call for more information at Tel: 081-367 0991.

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Top spec villa, 600m from beach. 210sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, sala, big shade sail lookout, modern furniture. 10.2 million baht. Tel: 084-653 5863.

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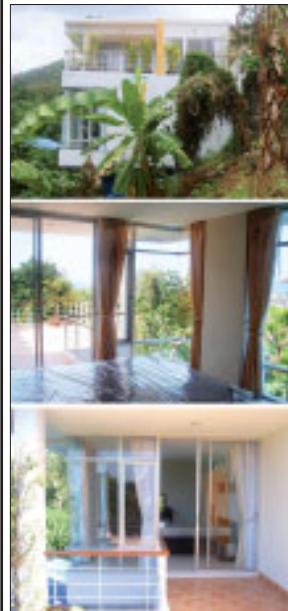
for sale or rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-677 9837, 089-646 4786. Email: sync\_koji@hotmail.com

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2 bedrooms, furnished on 50sq wah. European fit in, 5 minutes to beach, communal pool, 24 hour guard. For 3 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-271 4484, 085-889 1220. Email: supha2007@hotmail.com

## 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

## MARINA VILLA, 14 MB!

New Pool Villa in Boat Lagoon. 14 million baht. Tel: 076-238948, 081-968 9046 (English & Thai), 081-353 9730 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-273466. Email: pen@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketboatlagoon.com>

## QUICK SALE HOUSE IN CHALONG

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## BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

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Beautiful, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and extra vaulted ceiling room, fully European furnished, free form swimming pool. 5 minutes to Nai Yang beach. Must sell very urgent for 8.5 million baht o.n.o. Call for more details. Tel: 087-271 4484, 085-889 1220. Email: supha2007@hotmail.com

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Contact: Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 081 891 3237  
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28.5 feet, 2 out boat engines, 4 stroke Suzuki 45 knots, 2x225hp, new cover, 2 GPS, fishfinder out & down rigger, radio, CD, all completely for fishing Thai registered and good trailer (4 wheels). Contact Khun Lek. Tel: 080-040 8038 (English & Thai).

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New feelfree atlantis 14 cockpit cover. 25,000 baht. 9am.-5pm. Tel: 089-591 9804.

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# Island Job Mart

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- LAWYER
- ACCOUNTANT
- SECRETARY
- PARALEGAL

### Qualification

- Thai nationality
- Good command of written and spoken English

Please email application with recent photo and resume / CV to [rodriguez.l@scp-lawassistance.com](mailto:rodriguez.l@scp-lawassistance.com) or [thanongsak.m@scp-lawassistance.com](mailto:thanongsak.m@scp-lawassistance.com)  
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[www.lagunaphuket.com](http://www.lagunaphuket.com)

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions

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- Pleasant personality; self motivated; accountable
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- Experience in hotel business or service industry is an advantage
- Chinese Speaking is an advantage

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:

**Human Resources Department,**  
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co.,Ltd

390/1 Moo1, Srisoonthorn Road, Chermglalay, Talang, Phuket 83110  
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Email: [amomrat@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:amomrat@lagunaphuket.com)

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car. Knowledge of Burmese is an advantage.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to [Ann@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Ann@PhuketGazette.Net)  
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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- Thai national, Male/Female, age not over 35 y.
- Bachelor Degree and/or higher in related field.
- Ability to work under pressure and work independently
- Positive attitude, reliable, and pleasant personality.
- High computer literacy and ability to learn new operations

Please forward your CV and cover letter via e-mail to [hr@ablearchitects.com](mailto:hr@ablearchitects.com)

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### British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for the following candidates:

- Business Development & Service Officer
- Junior Secretary at office of the Headmaster
- Teacher Assistant

### Qualifications

- Thai national, male/female, aged 25-30 years old
- Bachelor degree in any field
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Good personality and service minded
- Computer literate in MS Office programmes and Internet usage

- PE Assistant

### Qualifications

- Thai national
- University degree, Physical Education Major or related fields
- Good English, positive, willing & hard working
- Knowledge of local schools or clubs to arrange fixtures
- Knowledge of local facilities & sports opportunities
- Coaching qualification to coach a team such as basketball or etc.
- Be able to be a supervisor for Military Training & Teaching Assistant
- Be able to work flexible day 1 pm. to 6 pm. all day Saturday

- HR Officer

### Qualifications

- Thai national male/ female
- Age not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Administrative, Business laws or related fields
- Should have good knowledge of day to day processes of HR department and should be proficient in using computers.
- Ability to read, speak and understand English
- Cooperative team member, maintain good staff relations and service minded person



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### MARKETING STAFF

Looking for marketing staff to work in Patong. Req: Thai Nationality, good communication in English, positive and hard working. Basic salary, high commission and 7 hour workdays. Send your CV with picture to: [gunnar@emineproperties.com](mailto:gunnar@emineproperties.com)

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Hotel in Patong wants male receptionist with good spoken and written English and ability to use basic hotel booking system. Tel: 076-296654. Email: [rbpeters@fastmail.fm](mailto:rbpeters@fastmail.fm)

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Contact Kit Email: [kit@phuket.net](mailto:kit@phuket.net)  
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- Executive Chef (Expat)
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- Steward Attendant

### SPA

- Spa Manager
- Spa Therapist

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- Front Office Manager
- Dream Maker – (Butlers Background)

### Qualifications required:

- Good command of written and spoken English
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- Experience in 5 star international hotel/resort industry is an advantage
- Previous experience of opening new hotel/resort is a priority

We offer a competitive salary, minimum guaranteed service charge 7,000.-Baht, 5-days working, 2-days off a week, 15 days of public holiday, duty meals, staff bus, uniforms with laundry service, group health insurance, multi talent trainings and development and etc. Interested people please send full resume with a recent photo and expected salary by e-mail.

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Website: [www.paresaresorts.com](http://www.paresaresorts.com)

Tel: 66 76 302 000 Fax: 66 76 302 001



### FILLINGS CAFÉ

- Café Supervisor

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## Employment Wanted

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Experienced, self motivated, creative (gastro/events). German, sms 084-630 7484.

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5 years experience in Thailand, now seeking contracts in Phuket for resorts, apartment blocks, and single houses. Tel: 086-948 6368 (Jurgen), 089-288 7294 (Alan).

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Can speak good English and understand Swedish. I worked for 4 years as a tourist guide in Phuket. Tel: 080-535 5200 (English & Thai). Or send email: [su\\_kongrit@hotmail.com](mailto:su_kongrit@hotmail.com)

**Residence Kalim Bay**

**Position: 1 Executive Secretary**  
**Education: Bachelor Degree**

**Qualifications:**

- ▶ Female, age 25 years up
- ▶ Bachelor Degree in related field
- ▶ Minimum 1 year experience as secretary
- ▶ Preferable account knowledge
- ▶ Enthusiastic and responsible person
- ▶ Good command of spoken and written English

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