



# Phuket Gazette

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## Out of harm's way

### Tourists still choosing Phuket, despite travel warnings

**D**ESPITE 13 countries strongly advising their citizens to avoid traveling to Thailand, Phuket hotel occupancy is up by as much as a fifth on last year – and the mood among tourists is defiant.

Last week the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advised against all but essential travel to all parts of Thailand.

The US followed suit, changing its own advice to recommend against all non-essential travel to the country.

Gino, a British 22-year-old holidaying in Phuket, displayed a sentiment typical of European holidaymakers on the island.

"Our government told us not to fly out to Bangkok, but we flew out anyway. I don't care much about the warning because life is short," he said.

"We feel very safe here," he added.

Izac, a 32-year-old American based in Vietnam, said he didn't feel in danger in Phuket at all.

"I would say it is safe to travel here as long as you don't drink too much, don't bother anybody and mind only your own business. Then you will be

fine... I have been here before so many times. Every time is a good time."

While the advisories will put off many, occupancy figures remain surprisingly healthy.

Bhuritt Maswongsa, vice president for marketing of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), said the average occupancy rate in Phuket for April 2010 was about 70 percent.

The figure represented about a 15 to 20 percent increase year-on-year, he said.

In comparing the figures it is important to remember that last April the red shirts took over the hotel scheduled to host the Asean summit in Pattaya over Songkran, he said.

Current occupancy is about 50 percent on average for the whole island, but this is normal for May, which is the start of the low season, he said.

The Australian government recently changed its travel advisory status for Thailand from "high degree of caution" to "reconsider your need to travel".

"But still Australians continue flying into Phuket non-stop," Mr Bhuritt said.

*Continued on page 3*



Tourists arriving at Phuket Airport on May 5. Photo by Elizabeth Branca.

## Crackdown on passengers without helmets

**P**HUKET City Traffic Police have been ordered to take more serious action against motorcyclists riding without helmets by fining passengers as well as drivers.

The order was issued by Phuket Police Commander Pekad Tantipong as part of a campaign that started on May 1.

In May and June, 50 officers will crack down more heavily on motorcycle drivers without helmets and issue warnings to

passengers. From July, all motorcycle passengers without helmets will face fines.

Phuket City Police Commander Pekad Tantipong said police will enforce the law day and night.

An often-ignored Thai traffic law states that both drivers and passengers without helmets can be fined up to 500 baht. A driver transporting a passenger not wearing a helmet is subject to a fine of up to 1,000 baht.

The Phuket Land Transport Office has run public service announcements on a local cable television channel in recent months warning motorbike passengers they face fines if caught without a helmet.

As part of a public awareness campaign, Phuket City Police have prepared about 3,000 safety helmets to give away free to offending drivers before the July crackdown.

According to statistics pro-

vided by the Phuket City Traffic Department, which covers parts of five tambons in Muang Phuket District, accidents and fatalities are on the rise.

There were 1,239 accidents resulting in 36 deaths in 2008, while 2009 saw 1,733 accidents with 48 deaths.

Many deaths and serious injuries are the result of motorcyclists not wearing helmets.

– *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*  
See editorial, page 20.

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Senator Surachai, in black, inspects plans of the project site.

## Senators to support Wichit's illegal pitch

A SENATE committee gave tentative support to Wichit Municipality in its bid to secure proper permits for a road and football field it built illegally on mangrove forest land.

Led by Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment Chairman Surachai Liangboonlertchai, the committee members on April 27 traveled to view the encroachment, which covers five rai.

Access to the football field is via a new dirt road that runs almost half a kilometer along Klong Mudong estuary from Mudong Market.

Mayor Kreetta accepted that the municipality hired a private firm to build the football field and access road without the ap-

proval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

Work on the project began in September last year.

The MNRE inspected the area late last year and filed a complaint with Phuket City Police.

Mayor Kreetta said that construction was on land designated as protected mangrove forest, but that the area was mostly mud flats with little vegetation.

Mr Surachai said the committee noted that the construction, while illegal, appeared to have been done for the benefit of the public.

Work at the site has been suspended pending the committee's report.

— *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

# Murder suspect: 'he abused me'

A YOUNG man arrested in Phuket for the murder of Pirasak Pongchoo has confessed to slashing the man's throat after enduring a month of sexual abuse.

The badly decomposing body of the 43-year-old was found at his rented room on Wichit Songkram Road, Soi 1 on April 26.

Surat Thani Police arrested Watcharin Srinin, 22, at his uncle's home in that province on April 29. He was transferred to Phuket and made to carry out a re-enactment of the crime the next morning.

He told police he met Mr Pirasak about a year ago and moved in with him after losing his job a few months ago.

The older man forced him to have sex and verbally abused him when he refused, he claimed.

At about 10pm on the night of April 22, Mr Pirasak once again demanded sex. Mr Watcharin refused and went out to see friends to avoid further abuse, he said.

When he returned at about 3am, the deceased reportedly told him he had sex with another person and yelled at him.

The ensuing stream of ver-



ACCUSED AND ABUSED? Watcharin Srinin, 22.

bal abuse infuriated the younger man, so he picked up a heavy wooden rod and hit Mr Pirasak on the head. The blow knocked Mr Pirasak off his mattress.

Mr Watcharin told police he slit Mr Pirasak's throat before dragging the body near the bathroom door and covering it with a blanket. He then fled with his

victim's wallet, using the money to pay for his trip to his uncle's home.

Recovered as evidence during the arrest was a mobile phone registered to the deceased, police said at a re-enactment of the crime this morning.

Mr Watcharin will be charged with murder, police said.

— *Pimwara Choksakulpan*

## Fires wreck Patong businesses

FIRES caused serious damage to two Patong businesses last week. An electrical fault is suspected as the cause of one, but police suspect the second was an arson attack.

Around 10:30am on April 30 a fire broke out in the kitchen of the Fundue House restaurant on Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla.

It caused damage that owner Jesper Henriksen estimated could run to one million baht.

An electrical short combined with a high concentration of gas in the extractor fan might have been the cause, he said.

Meanwhile, police are investigating a fire that destroyed a roadside tour counter and mo-

torbike on May 2 on Soi Chaiwat, off Phra Barami Road.

Kathu Police Duty Officer Jongserm Preecha said he suspected arson caused the fire at the Krisda Travel Service.

It was reported by the counter's 17-year-old owner Krisda Maneechan around 4:30am.

His mother, Wanphen 'May' Leuengerger, said she thought the attack was related to teenage gang violence.

The cost of the damage was about 200,000 baht, she said.

— *Gazette reporters*

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HAZARDOUS: Parts of the Patong-Karon road are warped and potholed.

# Treacherous road a constant threat

**T**HE STATE of the Patong-Karon road has gotten worse over the years and accidents are now an everyday occurrence, local residents say.

The name of Route 4233 changes from Sirirat Road on the Patong side to Patak Road after passing into tambon Karon near Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

Three sections are particularly hazardous due to poor road conditions that include potholes, warping and folding.

The first is a 50-meter stretch near the Secret Cliff Resort, about one kilometer south of Le Meridien, where several large patches of asphalt have become dangerously uneven and create a traffic hazard, particularly at night.

Further south are two more treacherous sections, one near the Baan Karon Hill Resort and Spa and another near the Karon Cliff Boutique Bungalows.

A staff member at the Baan Karon Hill Resort said, "I have

been working here less than a year, but I have seen many accidents – as many as two a day in the rainy season when the road gets slippery. Most of them are foreigners who aren't familiar with the roads. I haven't seen anyone die yet, but I have seen many sent to hospital for broken bones," he said.

A tuk-tuk driver who plies the route between Patong and Kata-Karon said efforts to repair the danger spots haven't solved the problem in the long term.

"We always call the governor's complaint number asking for the Highway Department to come out and make repairs. Sometimes we have to wait up to 10 days. When they do come, they just cover the problem spots with asphalt, so before long the problems re-emerge. It just goes on like this over and over again," he said.

Phuket Highway Department chief Arun Sa-nae admitted the road was in a sorry state, but said in the end all road users have

to assess road conditions and be responsible for their own safety.

"Bad driving and failure to maintain motorbikes properly are also part of the problem. It's not just about whether the road is good or bad. Accidents will always happen if drivers are careless. Accidents occur not only because of the condition of the road surface, but also because the road is curvy and narrow," he said.

Roads in hilly, coastal areas are notoriously difficult to build and maintain and the problems in Phuket are exacerbated by rainy season erosion and poorly regulated roadside development, he said.

Budgeting is also a problem, he admitted.

The cost of sending out a team to do temporary repairs can run as high as 100,000 baht per job, but this is still far less expensive than rebuilding the entire road.

As the department can't afford to fix the entire road, they have to focus on the problem spots, he said.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*

## Bid to save endangered mollusk

**I**N a bid to increase depleted stocks, fisheries workers on May 3 released 12,000 cultured dog conch shells into the sea off Pa Khlok.

The operation was conducted jointly by the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Center 5 in Phuket and the Phang Nga Coastal Fishery Research and Development Center, where the dog conches were cultured.

The dog conch (*L. Strombus canarium*) has become increasingly popular in seafood restaurants in Phuket in recent years.

Unfortunately, the mollusk has fallen victim to its own popularity and fishermen are now finding it hard to find large specimens, which fetch up to 100 baht per kilo.

On May 2 the shellfish were released along the seagrass line off the coast, in the same area where 10,000 'effective microorganism' balls were dropped into the sea in December last year.

Marine biologists involved in the project said the decrease in dog conch stocks was nearing crisis level due to high demand from seafood restaurants in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

The two-month-old snails released last week were two to three centimeters across. They are expected to reach a size of about 30 shells per kilo in four months' time.

Thipaporn Traithong of the Phang Nga Coastal Fishery Research and Development Center said the dog conch first became



DOG CONCH: Increasingly popular.

popular with diners in Krabi, then spread to Phuket and Phang Nga.

"Ten years ago large specimens were abundant in the sea along the Andaman Sea, but now only small ones remain so we have to increase their numbers and encourage fishermen not to take small ones," he said.

– *Pimwara Choksakulpan*

## Warnings ignored

*Continued from page one*

Jack, a 47-year-old Australian in Phuket, said, "I know about the government's warning, but I can say it isn't that bad, it's not what you think. In Phuket, there's no protest, no problem... I feel pretty safe here."

Blowy, 45, agreed. "For tourists considering coming here, I would say: 'Come. If you're not in the middle of the protest, you have nothing to fear'."

The tourists who spoke to the *Gazette* generally agreed governments had a responsibility to keep their citizens informed – but wanted to make their own decisions.

Jenny, a 28-year-old from Australia who has visited Thailand several times, said, "I think

it's something the government has to do to protect us. It is just a safety precaution to let us know, but it is up to me."

The Bangkok protests have had a more pronounced effect on arrivals from Asian markets, which are generally more sensitive to political unrest than Western ones.

"Some governments, like China, stopped sending people from some parts of the country, but there are still a few regular charter flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou to Phuket," Mr Bhuritt said. "Daily flights by Dragonair from Hong Kong have been suspended 'until further advice'."

In the face of much negative publicity in the international media, the PTA is "trying to paint the picture that life is the same as usual in Phuket," he said.

– *Gazette reporters*

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# Patong split over new tunnel

**P**ATONG residents are divided into two camps over the controversial plan to bore a road tunnel under Patong Hill, a recent public hearing revealed.

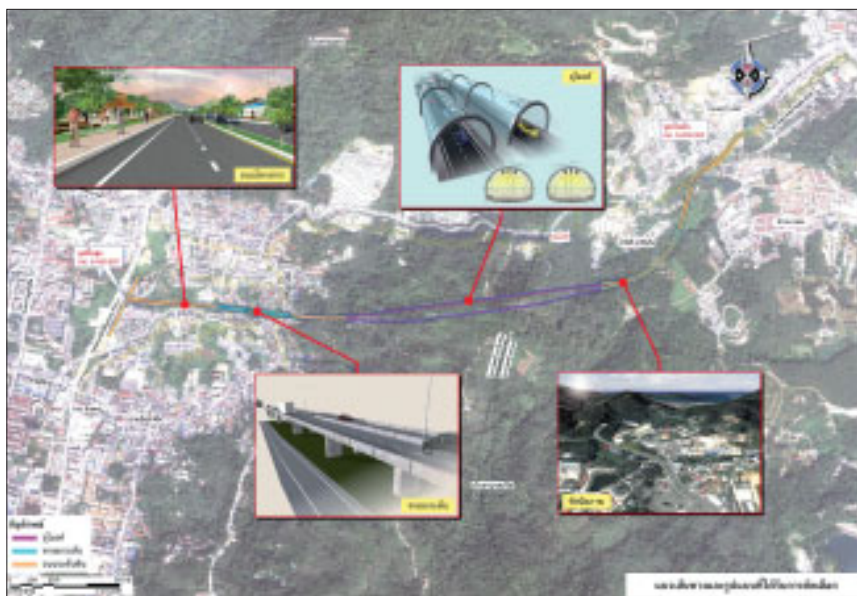
Around 700 residents, municipal officers from Patong and Kathu, the project development team and other stakeholders attended the meeting on April 27 at the Phuket Graceland resort.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, who chaired the hearing, said the tunnel was needed for both infrastructure and safety reasons.

Phuket International Airport will expand to accommodate 12 million tourist arrivals annually and the government is moving forward with plans to build a 2.6-billion-baht convention center in Mai Khao, he said.

The tunnel is a "necessary facility to welcome tourists" that will improve traffic flow between tambons Kathu and Patong and prevent up to 500 road accidents a year, he said.

Governor Wichai instructed Patong Municipality to pay a great deal of attention to the effects the construction would have



**THE PLAN:** Thai-language graphic presented at the meeting showing the route of the proposed tunnel, including insets (clockwise from top left): a new road on the Kathu side of the tunnel; a schematic image of the waterproof tunnel lining; a 3D graphic of the entire project area; and a four-lane, elevated section of road that would pass over the Baan Mon community.

on local residents, if approved.

As part of the proceedings, locals residents listened to development plans presented by a project study team made up of members from Epsilon Co Ltd, PlanPro Corp Ltd, and the Energy and Environmental Engineering Center (EEEC).

The team presented a progress report on their feasibility study of six possible routes for the tunnel. Criteria included funding and engineering factors, as

well as projected effects on the local economy, traffic flow and environment. Social factors and the level of public participation were also taken into account.

The team's recommendation as the best possible route: two 1.17-kilometer tunnels with elevated roads at both ends.

One tunnel would accommodate two lanes of westbound traffic, while the other would carry two lanes eastbound.

Approaching Patong Hill

from the Kathu side, traffic would divert near the Go Kart Speedway on Phra Barami Road (Route 4029) onto an elevated road leading up to the tunnel.

Traffic would emerge on the Patong side of the tunnel onto a 204-meter-long elevated road that would pass over Phisit Gorani Road in Baan Mon and connect to Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, near the APK apartment complex.

The audience was split over the proposed route.

Around 300 people, mostly business operators, rallied around a cloth banner that read: "We support the tunnel project."

Patong Entertainment Business Association President Weerawit Kurasombut said the tunnel would support Patong's growth, reduce the number of traffic accidents and improve traffic flow.

Opposed to the proposal were a similar number of Baan Mon residents sporting t-shirts with "The Baan Mon community doesn't want the tunnel" printed on the back.

The tunnel would adversely affect the community, with some families having to give up their land for construction of the elevated roadway that would pass over parts of their village, they said.

"We have lived here for a long time. Our ancestors lived here, stretching back ages. Why should we have to move off this land because of this tunnel?" one Baan Mon representative said.

"Though we would get money for selling the land, it would not be enough to buy a new place somewhere else in

Phuket. Everyone knows how expensive Phuket land is. It is not worth changing our lifestyle."

Another bone of contention is the proposed path of the elevated road over the Ratchapathanusorn (the National Memorial of His Majesty The King's Footprint) on Phisit Gorani Road.

The site commemorates HM The King's visit to Patong on March 11, 1959.

Weera Sombat, a Baan Mon representative, said, "This place is important to all Patong residents, especially Baan Mon villagers. There should not be any construction over this site, which we adore and have revered for over 50 years."

Villagers are also concerned about the amount users would have to pay in tolls to cover the construction costs estimated to exceed one billion baht.

"Please cancel plans for this route," Mr Weera pleaded. "Choose another way that has a lesser effect on the lives of the Patong community. We are local residents and Patong is our home. Our situation should be more important than tourists who just visit here for a short time," he said.

Also attending the hearing was Democrat party-list MP Chalermklak Kebsup, who said she would like the project study team to consider alternative routes.

"This route is the best choice in terms of its length, but adding in land acquisition costs the total may be higher than other, longer routes that would have less effect on local residents. Please, pay much more attention to these villagers," she said.

Assistant project manager Siriprapha Ratiwat said that disagreements will be noted in the report.

However the team will continue to study the proposed route and report factual data, she said.

The next step would be to examine possible effects on the local community and hold meetings with villagers, she said.

"In November we will conclude our study and submit our report to Patong Municipality. Then it's up to the people of Patong to decide whether or not they want this project," she said.

— **Pimwara Choksakulpan**



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**LESS THAN CIVIL:** A red shirt anti-government protester sits next to a poster inside the demonstrators' fortified camp in Silom in downtown Bangkok on May 3. The cabinet held an emergency meeting on May 2 after a warning that its long-running standoff with the red shirts in Bangkok could deteriorate into an "undeclared civil war." AFP PHOTO / Hoang Dinh Nam

## Farm worker uncovers 'blast from the past'

SONGKHLA: A local worker driving a tractor accidentally uncovered a water tank full of communist-era explosives at a rubber plantation in Sadao District on April 29.

Chaithat Thongmee was preparing to drag rubber tree logs out of a plantation when his tractor ran over a zinc tank with wires and what appeared to be explosives sticking out.

After taking a closer look at the explosives, Mr Chaithat called the police, who brought in a specialist bomb disposal squad from

Border Patrol Police stationed in Haad Yai.

The officers found 88 small bombs packed in the 20-liter tank together with fuse wires and detonators.

Police said they believe the explosives were around 30 years old and likely to have belonged to guerrillas from the Communist Party of Malaya, who were active in the area until the end of the 1980s. Police said the explosives were still in good working order and would be destroyed.

Source: Khao Sod

# Gold shop heist a family affair

SONGKHLA: Police have arrested a fellow police officer and his two sons for allegedly robbing a gold shop on April 29. A former police officer was also arrested for the heist.

The four men allegedly stole 600,000 baht's worth of gold jewelry from a shop in Padang Besar, a market town near the Malaysian border.

The shop's CCTV system showed one man pointing a gun at the staff while two others ransacked display cabinets. The men then fled on a motorcycle to a pickup truck allegedly driven by the fourth suspect.

Early the next morning police arrested Sen Sgt Maj Wichien Ratanachot, 47, and Kiatphong Thongkop, 22, as they sat in a pick-up truck hidden in a rubber plantation around 8km from the crime scene. Police found a gold earring on the floor of the truck.

Sgt Maj Cham Thongkop, 49, and his 19-year-old son Suthinai Thongkop were arrested shortly after in a village about 500m from where the truck was found. Police seized a .38 pistol from Sgt Maj Cham. They also found gold jewelry strapped to Mr Suthinai's thigh under his jeans.

Police said Sgt Maj Cham

confessed to robbing the gold shop with his two sons and his former colleague.

He held the staff at gunpoint while his sons grabbed the gold and Sen Sgt Maj Wichien acted as getaway driver, he said.

After hearing that roadblocks had been set up, the four hid their truck in a rubber plantation and tried to hitch a lift out of the area, police said.

Padang Besar Police Chief Inspector Athip Sangwanloi said officers caught the robbers quickly using CCTV footage from the gold shop and other shops in the area.

Source: Khao Sod

## Queer News

## Bad hair day for beauty salon

SAMUT PRAKAN: A woman in Samut Prakan is suing a beauty salon for 100,000 baht in damages over a bad haircut.

On April 24, Naphason Angkuramaethisak, 49, went to the salon to have her long hair cut into a more fashionable short style she saw in a magazine.

When 29-year-old Narathip Thaiphath finished the cut, Ms Naphason was shocked at how short her hair had been cropped. She demanded the young hairdresser fix the problem, but nothing could be done.

Ms Naphason complained to the owner of the salon but was unsatisfied with the amount of compensation offered.

A few days later, Ms

Naphason reported the 'crime' to Samut Prakan Police.

Although Ms Naphason's case might appear frivolous, the fact that her partner is a high-ranking officer at the Royal Thai Police Headquarters was not lost on officers at the station.

They duly placed a phone call to the unfortunate hairdresser, 29-year-old Narathip Thaiphath, in an effort to resolve the dispute.

Miss Narathip told police that she had warned Ms Naphason that the style she had chosen was not suitable for her.

The model in the picture, a Caucasian woman, had wavy hair. Ms Naphason's hair, being straight, needed to be cut shorter, she explained.

Ms Naphason refused to listen to her advice and demanded her hair be cut to look just like that of the model in the picture, Miss Narathip said.

Miss Narathip said she gave 6,000 baht in compensation, but Ms Naphason demanded 100,000 baht, claiming she needed treatment at a specialist clinic to repair the damage.

Miss Narathip said she had no way of getting the money.

Unable to straighten out the tangle, the police made a record of the incident in the daily log.

Ms Naphason said she would lodge a lawsuit against the hairdresser in the civil court system.

Sources: Daily News/Matichon

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# Kayakers' 14,000-mile paddle plans refloated

**I**N A TURN of fortune, two kayakers who plan to paddle 14,000 miles from Phuket to San Francisco have found the sponsorship money they need to make their voyage possible – a whopping US\$25,000 from a local backer.

American Ryan Doran, 26, and Piya 'Mr X' Sukunthai, 28, originally planned to leave the island on March 10 in a 20-foot wooden kayak, but due to "financial constraints", the trip was put on hold indefinitely.

The duo's 20-month trans-Pacific voyage is back on.

Under a new name, The Five Elements Pacific Rim Team, the pair plan to leave Phuket in October, arriving in Ryan's hometown of San Francisco in June 2012. But not before kayaking through territorial waters of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan and Russia and then braving a 217-mile leg to Alaska across the Bering Sea, one of the world's most treacherous expanses of ocean.

While some sea kayakers have paddled sections of Ryan

and Mr X's planned voyage, no one has ever gone the whole way. Today the pair can be found most days in a Nai Harn workshop overseeing the construction of their new vessel, scheduled to be finished by August.

"We are building a 22-foot catamaran. We have joined two Chesapeake kayaks and added a Hobie Cat sail rigging system. We now intend to be sailing and paddling. We are also using kites to help power the boat," Ryan said.

Working with boat-builder Suphan Changsak, an 18-year Phuket sailing veteran, Ryan said the new vessel would be much safer, more durable and have a very comfortable trampoline net for sleeping.

"We are also bringing a tent that we can pitch on the trampoline in cold conditions," he added.

While the pair have been branded overambitious, impractical and downright crazy by some members of the Phuket community, Ryan said people have also shown great support for the trip.

"Our sponsors believe in us and we believe we can make this

trip. We have assessed all risks involved," he said.

In coming months the pair plan to buy two GPS and marine radios and finalize the visas needed for countries they plan to stop in along the way.

Ryan said the pair have drawn inspiration from two Australian kayakers who made headlines around the world last month.

James Castrission, 25, and Justin Jones, 24, spent 62 days crossing 1,864 miles of the Tasman Sea in their custom-built fiberglass kayak, landing in New Zealand, where thousands turned out to recognize their record breaking paddle.

During the trip, strong ocean flows forced the Australians to make huge circular detours to avoid being carried far off course. Ryan and Mr X will have to contend with similar conditions, but say "if anyone can do it, it's us."

Five Elements Thailand, John Harris from Chesapeake Light Craft (CLC) Boats and Bennet Bar from the NRS Kayaking Team are official sponsors.

– Fraser Morton



**CRAFTING A NEW VESSEL :** American Ryan Doran and Piya 'Mr X' Sukunthai with one of two kayaks they plan to join together to make a catamaran to paddle from Phuket to San Francisco later this year.

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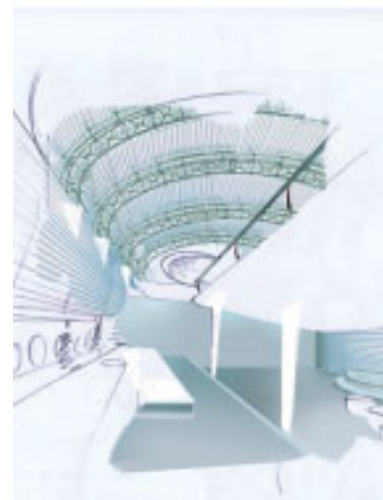
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FROM LEFT: Zach Underwood works on the design; Sommart Chamarot (left), Zach and Nutty Klaimak discuss plans for their brainchild; Sommart (left), RungRat Yueangyongpisit and Nutty. RIGHT: A design of the new center. Photos by Hannah Pearce

## Generation Underwood to reinvent art scene

THE children of well-known Phuket artist, architect and designer John Underwood are following in their father's footsteps by establishing an art and culture center for the island's creative community.

In little under three months, Underwood's daughter Sommart Chamarot, 33, and her two best friends Nutty Klaimak, 29, and RungRat Yueangyongpisit, 37, will open the doors of their new center, dubbed 'The Three Sisters'.

The venue, being designed by John's 19-year-old son Zach, will be a work of art in its own right.

In keeping with the family's love of recycling, team Underwood have taken one of their father's projects, Hung Fat's restaurant in Kalim, and are stripping it bare to create a chic bar and eatery that doubles as a

platform to showcase work by local and international artists.

At present, the split-level restaurant is an empty carcass, having closed for business about three months ago.

Zach's design for the new center will include custom-made sofa beds, a bar made from stacks of magazines and a suspended glass catwalk.

Sommart said the family wanted the new center to host a variety of modern visual and performing arts, including fashion, music and film events.

"We want to exhibit at least one special art event every month, be it a fashion show, product launch, film screening or DJ," she said.

The team believe that incorporating people with art is a niche yet to be tapped on the island and plan to exhibit a range of interactive pieces for patrons

to experiment with.

Sommart said art lovers in Phuket are starving for an establishment that isn't too expensive but bursts with the island's creative talent.

With a white, turquoise and

bronze color scheme, the art center will ooze a contemporary and relaxed beach-side ambiance, the family said.

When asked what he thought of his children's Three Sisters project, John

Underwood said: "It's a fantastic idea as it gives a living space for all local artists, photographers, dancers and filmmakers to show what they do."

— Nicky Vermeulen

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**K**HAO Sok National Park, located in Surat Thani Province, offers diverse natural beauty with an element of adventure. Only three hours' drive north of Phuket, the 738-square-kilometer park is Southern Thailand's largest virgin forest, predating the Amazon. Home to 48 species of mammals and 311 species of birds, including endangered White-handed Gibbon and Malayan Tapir, the old growth rainforest is a naturalist's paradise.

Khao Sok has many tour options, but exploring the extensive cave system that dots the region's landscape is a unique way to view the park. In the wake of recent park policy changes, local outfitters are making it easier and safer to explore Khao Sok's caverns.

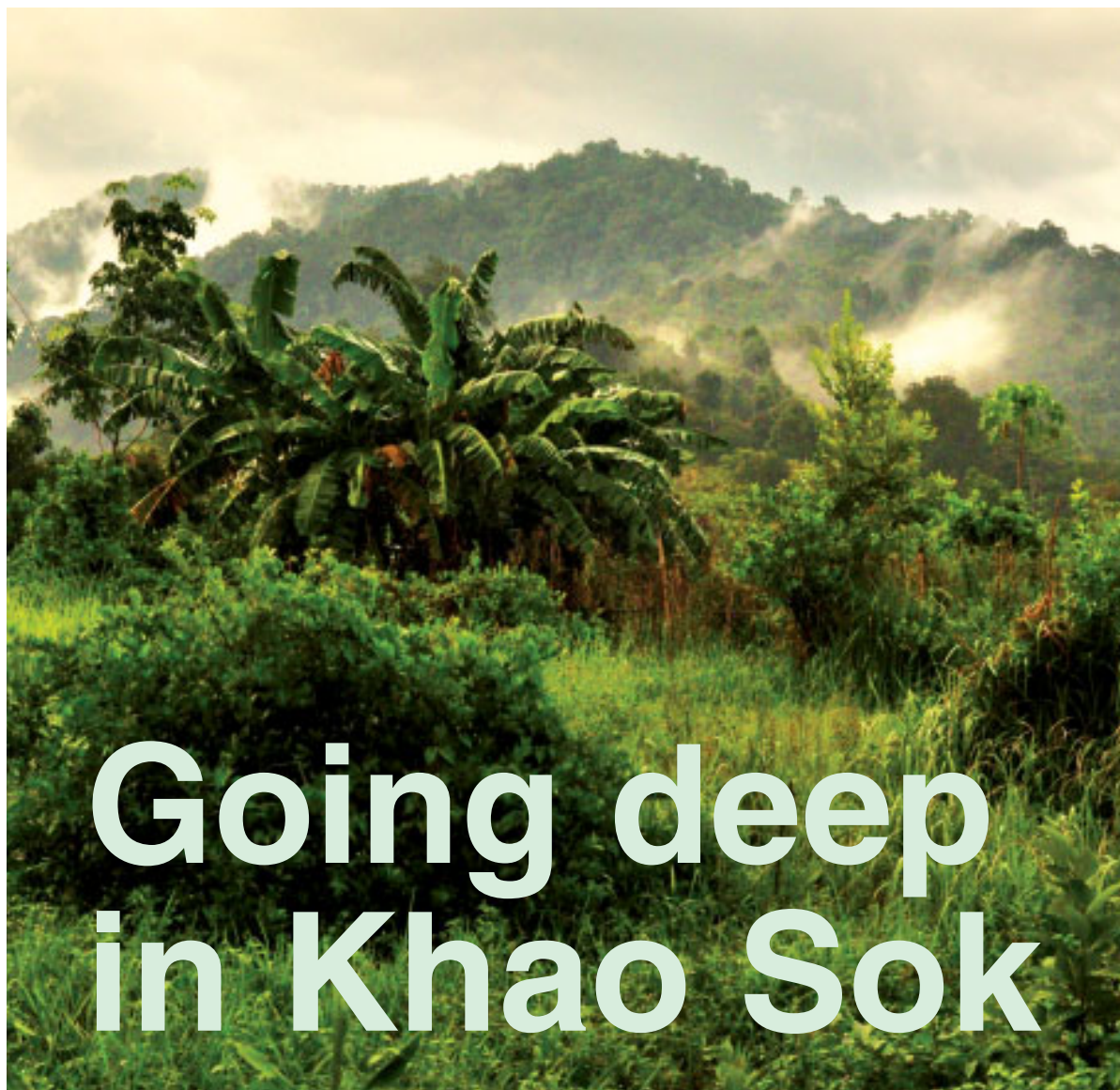
Whether eco-adventurer, cave sport enthusiast or amateur spelunker, it is now Thai law that a guide must be used to navigate the pitches and squeezes in Khao Sok's stone labyrinths.

As reported by international media, eight tourists perished during a flash flood in the park's Namtaloo cave in 2007. Subsequently Khao Sok and five other parks were temporarily closed. Outcry after such a high-profile accident prompted Thai authorities and local businesses to make tourist safety a priority.

Using the most experienced local guides, general manager of Our Jungle House Resort, Eric Limbos, takes cave exploration tours in Khao Sok to a new level. As a master diver and dedicated conservationist, Limbos puts together expedition packages for his guests with safety as priority.

After the new national park cave tour regulations were implemented, Limbos petitioned the Khao Sok authorities for permission to allow regulated cave diving tours. In July 2009, Limbos and Our Jungle House Resort became one of four tour operators to conduct cave diving trips in the park.

Offering cave tours by land and water is a progressive tourism niche, Limbos explains. "Cave tours can be tailored to just about every guest. My guides know this area and



(Above) Mist rises from the jungle-clad hills of Khao Sok National Park. (Below, left) Caves that look little more than crevices from the outside can open into huge cathedral-like halls inside. (Below, right) Light plays off a stalactite, creating a rainbow of colors dancing off the cave formations. Photos by Elizabeth Branca



offer trips from beginner to advanced level," he says.

Limbos, who organizes all tours for Our Jungle House Resort, including new cave div-

ing packages, requires participants to be in good physical condition and at least open water PADI certified.

"Cave diving can be dan-

gerous, so you must know what you are doing. We provide all the equipment and know which caves to safely explore," he adds.

With the help of aquatic lamps and flashlights, underwater crags and canyons are illuminated in spectacular color and form. However, "Do not expect to see colorful fish or reefs. Divers enjoy the rock figures and maybe a few catfish. It's a technical dive," explains Limbos.

After a pandemic in 1944 wiped out 80 percent of the three small Khao Sok villages, few locals remained when the valley was flooded in 1982 to create the Cheow Lan Lake. With most original residents gone, discovering Khao Sok's local knowledge and lore is like finding lost treasure. Recently, about 50 meters under the lake's surface, remnants of Khao Sok village were discovered by divers. Limbos with a few other master divers have made the trip to the bottom of Cheow Lan Lake to view the town's submerged temple and other structures. This unique dive trip can be arranged by Limbos, though for master divers only.

One of Limbos' lead jungle guides, 'Tuk', was raised in Khao Sok, and has mapped the area's caves with expert precision for decades. Formerly a game poacher, Tuk employs his skills as a tracker to trek tourists through the park's jungle and subterranean system.

For many, cave tours might not have a big appeal when given the choice between Phuket's pristine beaches or Khao Sok's jungle caverns, but think again.

Once inside, the cave formations and colors are striking and varied. As veteran guide Tuk explains, cave expeditions can include small cliff-side grottoes that open into cathedral-like halls whirling with bats, or deep tunnels dotted with fragile stalagmites and crystallized spires.

Kangkow, Namtaloo and Seerow caves are the park's most popular, though guided hikes along Highway 401 and the Sok River offer jungle trekking through wild elephant territory and dozens of exploration opportunities.

— Elizabeth Branca

For more information on cave expeditions contact Eric Limbos at Our Jungle House Resort. T: 081-417 0546 or E: ourjunglehouse 1985@gmail.com

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# Striking beauty out of the blue



## Beneath the WAVES

By Dan Ogunshakin

**M**ANY people find it easy to believe that first-hand experiences with large sea creatures such as whale sharks, manta rays and turtles can leave you speechless and with memories to last a lifetime, but have a hard time believing that macro life, creatures that can be as small as your thumb, can elicit the same sense of awe.

"How can something so small be as exciting as a nine-meter whale shark cruising past your face, no more than 10cm away?," they ask. Yet, one of my fondest underwater memories – and I have more than a few – is the day I first saw a blue-ringed octopus.

About the size of a golf ball with blue rings on its body and legs that flash electric blue when hunting or threatened, it is one of the rarest animals to come across when diving – and one of the most deadly. One sting from this tiny creature can result in an excruciatingly painful death.

I was diving off Borneo, home to a trove of underwater gems, approaching 1,500 dives and had seen nearly all that I had wanted to see, but the blue-ringed octopus was a glaring omission, albeit one I wasn't sure I would encounter.

Nearing the end of the dive, my buddy and I finned towards the shallows to search the dead corals and rubble, the most likely environment for catching a glimpse of this lethal creature.

After 10 minutes of painstakingly slow searching, I was about to signal the end of the dive when my buddy went berserk, banging his tank and screaming through his regulator.

Cruising over, I came face to face with a tiny octopus, no more than four or five centimeters in length, slowly moving across the coral, its blue rings flashing brilliantly whenever we came too close.

The two of us hovered qui-



The blue-ringed octopus is about the size of a golf ball and has enough venom to kill 26 adult humans. Open Source photo: Drow Male/Wikimedia

etly, entranced by this tiny octopus as it hunted for food. The only time our mesmerized gaze was broken was when a diver wanted to show how small the octopus was by placing her finger near its poisonous beak.

Cue much frantic arm waving and general alarm from all concerned.

Once our pulses had returned to normal levels after our buddy's dice with death and we had returned to our boat, we all marveled at this tiny creature and smiled all the way back to the dive shop.

A close relative of the blue-ringed octopus is the aptly named flamboyant cuttlefish. Like its cousin, it is highly poisonous but differs greatly in terms of appearance.

Growing up to eight centimeters long, the body of a flamboyant cuttlefish is usually a mix of white and dark chocolate brown when at rest or when hunting. These colors, however, are not fixed, as the brown may spread down the body when the cuttlefish is at its most sedate.

When a flamboyant cuttlefish is threatened, however, is when its majestic colors truly come to life. Florescent pink and yellow flares brightly across the cuttlefish to warn off predators. When something is bright and

colorful beneath the waves, it is a warning to anything that might consider eating it that it is poisonous and likely to kill them.

If there were ever a marine creature that resembled an alien from another planet, aside from those that exist in the deep, dark

waters beyond the range of scuba divers, it is the cuttlefish, with the flamboyant as the most spectacular of them all.

Another "must see" on the long list of amazing macro creatures is the harlequin shrimp. Most people associate shrimps

with food, but the harlequin shrimp is too beautiful to think about eating. White with patches of blue scattered over their bodies, harlequin shrimp grow to no more than five centimeters and are incredibly difficult to find, even in areas of the world where they are known to be common.

Their front legs are unusual and feature paddles, giving the harlequin shrimp the impression that it comes with its own armor plating and should you threaten to take away its favorite food – starfish – then it is ready to rumble and will come forward to warn you off, regardless of your size.

These are just three of the thousands of different macro species found beneath the waves. There are many more: seahorses, nudibranches, frogfish, rhinopia, sea moths, crabs and lobsters, to name but a few, many of which can be found in the waters around Thailand.

They are not easy to find and certainly are not common in many areas of the world, but when a chance encounter does come your way, be sure to have your camera ready, because they are something to behold and a sight to be cherished.

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# Surf saviors

**S**OUTH African surfer, teacher and musician Luisa Scarpa (right) carves up a wave at Nai Harn Beach on May 1, while a lifeguard carries a rescue board, ready to dive into the surf to help any swimmers who are caught in rip tides.

A total of 83 new lifeguards were deployed on Phuket's beaches on April 26 after a 10-million-baht contract was signed with the provincial government. Surfers in the south, like Luisa, say they are still rescuing many swimmers who continue to venture out to sea in heavy conditions.

Luisa surfs Nai Harn most days. She says that while it is refreshing to see a new team of lifeguards patrolling the beach, she still sees swimmers ignoring red flags, entering the surf and getting into trouble in the water.

"My boyfriend and I have pulled out countless swimmers from the water in the past week alone," she says.

The 32-year-old, who lives in Kata, says the new guards should work on preventative methods of lifesaving, and patrol the beach at the water's edge.

"When the red flags are out,



Photos by Jim Welch

it should be the lifeguards' responsibility to not allow swimmers to enter the water," she adds.

Volunteer lifeguard, and beach vendor, Song 'Dui' Saingthong says there are now six lifeguards on Nai Harn Beach and also two now stationed on nearby Ya Nui Beach.

"I've seen at least 10

people saved by the new lifeguards so far. Most of those were on the Labor Day public holiday, when a lot of Thai families came to the beach," he recalls.

He adds that local surfers are still helping swimmers to safety at Nai Harn Beach.

"They're like a second team of lifeguards," he says.

— Fraser Morton

# Steve Aoki in the house

**E**VERYONE who is anyone came out to play on May 4, when American electro house DJ Steve Aoki, aka "Kid Millionaire", played at the grand opening of Indochine, in Kalim.

Aoki, now 33, kicked off his Asian Tour on April 28 playing at select nightclubs and bars across the continent, including an epic show in Malaysia, where he reportedly burned up the dance floor crammed with more than 2,000 raging fans before crowd surfing in a rubber dingy.

The Kid Millionaire hails from Los Angeles and is one of the hottest DJs on the dance circuit, with his latest single *I'm in the house*, featuring Zuper Blahq, the alter ego of Black Eyed Peas' singer Will.I.Am, getting regular airplay on MTV.

Aoki has also worked on remixes of songs for a host of superstars, including the late Michael Jackson, Chris Cornell, The Killers, The All American Rejects, Good Charlotte and Lenny Kravitz to name a few.

Collaborations and featuring artists Aoki has worked with include Armand Van Helden, Lady Gaga, The Bloody Beetroots, Bloc Party and Snoop Dogg.

In addition to working with high-profile musicians from around the world, Aoki also owns his own record label, Dim Mak, which has expanded into an empire under which he also has his Dim Mak Collection clothing line, designed by Aoki and his equally-famous model sister Devon Aoki.

Although better known for his outstanding talent in music, Aoki is also an accomplished painter, and currently hosts a life drawing class committed to replicating the works of late American artist Georgia O'Keefe.

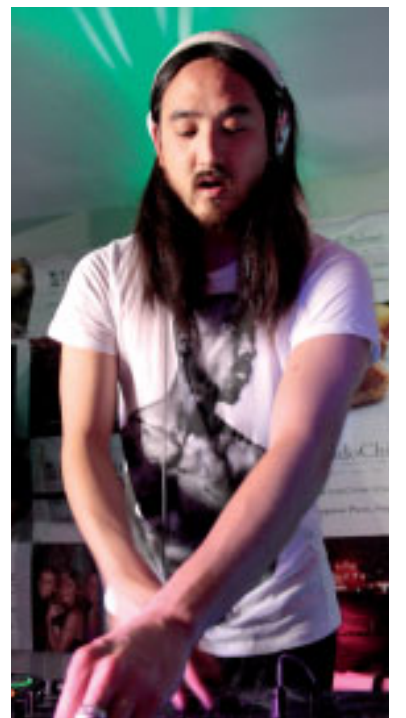
Actor and former professional skateboarder Jason Lee, famed for his lead role in the hit TV series *My Name is Earl*, reportedly has been to every class at Aoki's San Pedro warehouse, referring to them as "erotically surreal".

An Aoki-Lee collaboration sold at the AntiSocial gallery in Vancouver, Canada, for CAN\$48,001 (more than 1.5 million baht), with the proceeds being donated to the Vancouver Aquarium's habitat for new manatees.

Having played three shows



American DJ Steve Aoki is currently on his Asian tour and stopped over in Phuket for three days.



in three countries in under a week, Aoki welcomed a two-day break in Phuket for some rest and relaxation with his fiancée Tiernan Cowling before playing a new set especially for his Phuket audience.

Aoki flew out of Phuket the next morning to Jakarta to continue the last few legs of his Asian tour.

— Nicky Vermeulen



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## EXPAT GALLERY

## Kathy Roche

**K**ATHY Roche has been living and dancing in Phuket for almost 20 years. She founded Katherine's Dance Studio at Land and Houses Park in 1997 and has been in charge of the dance program at British International School since 1999, where she produces two annual dance concerts. She also trains young future dancers at Kajonkiet Suksa School.

"I teach dance every day of the week. I love it. I am a trained classical ballet dancer, but I also offer hip-hop and jazz classes, mostly to young dancers. Dance is important as it gives young people a balance to the stresses of academic and social life. It also provides a sense of community and demonstrates the importance of teamwork and personal responsibility."

Kathy grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the United States. She started her ballet training at 18, quite late for a dancer. She enrolled in the pre-nursing program at Temple University but switched to the dance program and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. To support herself through school, she taught dance in performing arts schools around Philadelphia.

"Once you find your passion and purpose, then life is easy. I've always believed that people can evolve and be happy once

they step out of the box of other people's expectations and self-imposed limitations and honor their true talents."

After university, Kathy joined the Philadelphia Dance Company. Much of her training centered on the Martha Graham technique. Her role models in the dance world were Mikhail Baryshnikov and Cyd Charisse. She traveled to nearby New York to attend dance concerts and, occasionally, to perform.

In the 1980s, she formed her own business, Fitness Works, a program where she trained other dancers to give fitness workouts in corporate offices around Philadelphia. It was the peak of the aerobics craze and Kathy knew that there would be a large market for business people who were too busy to attend classes, but who could find the time to exercise at their office.

She also implemented the fitness programs at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University.

In 1985, she went to the Bahamas for a holiday and fell in love with the island. Within a short time, she finished her life in Philadelphia and moved to work as a dancer and showgirl at the Bahamas Princess Casino.

"I had no problems with moving to a new place. I always

knew I could take my passion for dance anywhere I would go and find interesting work. I really loved working with Jerry Jackson choreography, one of the top choreographers known in the business, especially in Las Vegas."

She spent the next few years traveling to a number of destinations to develop her career. While living in California, she danced with the San Francisco Ballet and managed a Gold's Gym where she taught men how to build muscular bodies. She then moved to Guangzhou, China, and taught ballet to young students.

"I was amazed at the strength and flexibility of those little Chinese bodies. I attempted to put together a dance company but had difficulties as a foreigner. After the Tiananmen Square tragedy, I decided to leave China and moved to Bangkok for a year before coming to Phuket."

Kathy has been living at Nai Harn Villas since the early 1990s and has spent a number of those years as the manager there. She worked at Le Meridien Phuket in the early 90s with Charles Brown and his team of dancers.

After opening her dance studio she began to raise awareness of dance within the local community through performance, demonstrations and interactive classes at the local schools and the regional vocational college.

"I'm very happy living and working on Phuket. My life is here," she says.

— Bruce Stanley



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

## ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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

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**FUNDRAISING FOR THE KIDS:** The Phuket Has Been Good To Us (PHBGU) foundation held its "One Night in May" ball in the Andaman Ballroom of the Sheraton Grande Laguna Hotel on May 1. Pictured from left are Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels Michael Ayling; Director of Administration of the Dewa Resort Phuket Mark Phillips and his wife Jacqueline Phillips; Joyce Christandl and her husband, General Manager of Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket Klaus Christandl.



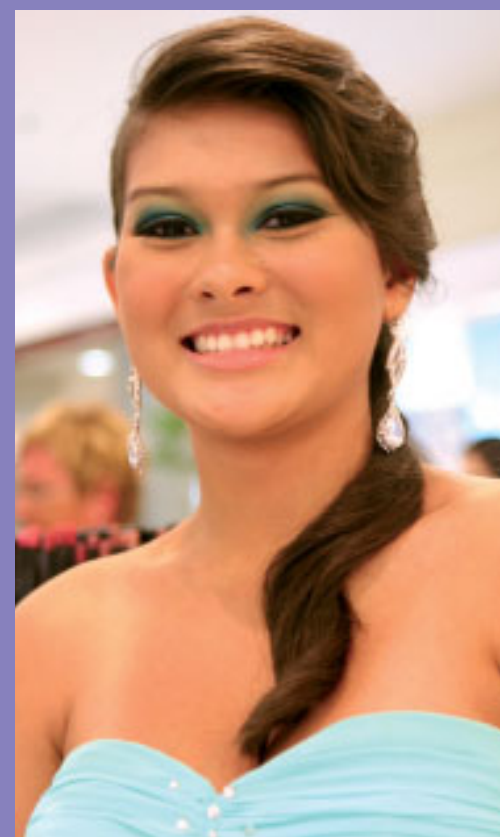
**POSTHUMOUS HUMANITARIAN:** A Michael Jackson impersonator 'started something' of a dance movement when he took to floor of the Andaman Ballroom at the PHBGU fundraiser. Over 200 local and international guests raised over 2.2 million baht on the night with all proceeds going to Thai children cared for by the foundation.



**THE WRITE STUFF:** Mom Tri's Boathouse hosted their Writer's Night on April 29. Writer and speaker Bjorn Turmann (black shirt, center) spoke about his experience writing novels and screenplays and handed out copies of his latest book.



**CENTRAL CATWALK:** Sweden's leading make-up brand, The Make Up Store, launched their 'Splash' collection at Central Department Store in Phuket Town on May 3. Models (pictured above and below), make-up artists and company founder Mika Liias were on hand as crowds turned out to enjoy a day of beauty, product giveaways, make-up tips and a fashion show.





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TAPPING AMERICA: The iPad won't be sold outside the US until at least June.

## iPads on Phuket

**D**ON'T get too excited. You can't go to your favorite Phuket Apple store and buy an iPad – at least, not yet. iPads are available only in the US as of this writing and Apple recently announced that it will not begin selling them outside of the US until May, or maybe June.

Even when Apple starts selling them outside of the US, Thailand will be near the end of a very, very long food chain. Why? Among other things, with a few minor exceptions (which I'll talk about in future computer columns), "3G" isn't available in Thailand.

The early-release iPads are Wi-Fi only, with the 3G versions to ship later. The iPads to come will be able to use fast "3G" Internet connections, one of the gizmo's biggest features, but Thailand is still in the Telecom Dark Ages, mired by politics, vested interests and dueling gazillionaires.

That said, Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa in Mai Khao has just announced that it has iPads available for guests, using a check-out system: you can check out an iPad just like borrowing a book from the resort's library.

Although the resort's iPads originated in the US, they can be used with the Anantara wireless network, so you can get connected and put the iPad through its paces. Yes, you can experience the multitouch feel right here, right now, if you're lucky enough to get to the front of the queue at Anantara.

I had a chance to try the iPad for a couple of hours, and

although I didn't run away claiming I'd been converted by St Peter and all his angels, I was duly impressed with the machine.

Multitouch – the ability to use a couple of fingers to slice, dice, rotate and zoom anything on the screen – is starting to grow on me. The iPad's interface will remind you of the iPod Touch, just eight times bigger, and supremely... cool, for lack of a better word.

Apple's been rightfully criticized for a host of shortcomings: getting stuff into the iPad is difficult (I'd rather sit through another Bangla rendition of Stairway to Heaven than use iTunes again); a separate dock is needed to give the iPad a USB port; you can't expand the memory or use a memory card; there's no Flash; the book format is Apple proprietary.

Also, there's no camera. Audio comes in mono only. No Adobe Flash player. Reading a book is much easier on a Kindle.

But for Apple fans, iPhone junkies, iPod pods and Steve Jobs acolytes, it's a slam-dunk winner. You only need to play with it for a few minutes to see why: there's a whole new breed of computers coming, with the iPad as a worthy harbinger.

More technical details are in the 12-page Ars Technica review at [tinyurl.com/yfapexm](http://tinyurl.com/yfapexm). For a real life-imitating-art experience, head out to the Anantara, fire up an iPad and use Safari to read the Ars Technica review of the iPad. Whoa.

– Woody Leonhard

# VIP jets taking care of Phuket business

**I**N MAY 2009, Hong Kong-based ASA Group announced plans to develop Thailand's first VIP terminal for private jets at Phuket International Airport (PIA).

While the VIP terminal has yet to emerge, it is timely to quote ASA Chief Executive Simon Wagstaff at the time of the announcement: "We handle so many private flights into Bangkok and Phuket, so the time is right to cater to our growing client base of VIP visitors who have nowhere in the airport to go once they disembark."

The Airports Authority of Thailand (AOT) supports the idea due to the growing number of businessmen and VIPs flying to Phuket aboard private jets. However, it will not proceed until the extension plan for PIA is complete, which makes sense.

There are signs, particularly in the US, that the chartering of business jets is accelerating again after the recession, although this same surge of interest has yet to be realized in Asia-Pacific.



Plans for a VIP terminal at PIA were first announced last year.

The reality is that some companies come to this region overestimating the demand and underestimating the challenges. The reality is, also, that the market is still very small. The Asian charter market is estimated at five percent of the US market. Aircraft are not as readily available for charter in Asia.

That said, there are compelling reasons why VIP jets make sense in Asia-Pacific, such as the distances required to travel to locations where no

practical alternatives may exist; the modern Asia-Pacific businessman's need for privacy, quick access to destinations and the ability to freely use new technologies now available, such as cell phones and the Internet in flight.

Time is money and the business jet offers many opportunities to maximize the valuable time of such people.

And there is room for growth.

– Alastair Carthew

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# Festival draws international A-list

**A**FTER a one-year hiatus, the much anticipated Phuket Film Festival returns from June 4-13, bringing together an array of over 30 feature and short films from 11 different countries.

The 10-day event has spurred a lot of international industry buzz and is hoped to lay the groundwork for a sustainable annual event during the low-season, anchoring Phuket on the international film festival circuit.

Celebrities, movie buffs, filmmakers, glitterati and South-east Asia's entertainment industry are expected to converge on the island for the event, bringing tinsel-town caché to Phuket and a boost for the local economy.

The Coliseum Cineplex situated beside Ocean Shopping Mall on Tilok Uthit Road near Robinson department store in Phuket Town, will be the main screening venue for the festival, though three "Meet the Director" screenings and rec-reptions will be held at the exclusive Cape Yamu in an beachfront pavilion.

Confirmed to appear in the Meet the Director series are Hollywood heavy hitters Gus Van Sant, the Academy Award nominated American director of *Milk* and *Good Will Hunting*, and Darnell Martin, the Golden Globe nominated American director of *Cadillac Records*.

In keeping with the festival's celebration of diverse art and culture, an "Alternative Lifestyle" series of films will form part of the festival's line-up on June 10, with Van Sant as guest of honor.

Offering a wide variety of genres, the festival will show most films in their native language with English subtitles.

Closing night is certain to draw a big crowd with the world premier of acclaimed Thai director Yuthlert Sippapak's



*Friday Killer*. The first in a trilogy, the film marks the return to the hitman genre for Sippapak.

The festival will also highlight international films made in Thailand.

The Thailand Film Office recently held a reception in Hollywood to celebrate being named one of the top three movie production and location spots in the world.

Positioning the festival to become a worldwide film industry event, Phuket Film Festival Managing Director Scott Rosenberg told the *Gazette*, "Phuket is already an inter-national tourist destination, and the glamour is already present... it is ripe for an international film festival."

While Rosenberg said Cannes, Venice and Phuket are all beautiful waterside venues for five-star guests, he is not promoting the film festival as "stuffy" or "glitzy", with all tickets reasonably priced.

"We want film stars to enjoy the island and the event to have a relaxed vibe. It's about fellow film lovers interacting and having 'sanook' [fun]," he said.

Sponsored in-part by the Thai Ministry of Culture, Vittit Resort Phuket, Two Villas, Bon Cafe, Phuket Beer, Siam Winery and the Global i Care card, the festival offers something for everyone.

A full film schedule will be announced mid-May and tickets will go on sale at Phuket Town's Coliseum Cineplex on May 16.



**CELEBRATING CINEMA:** (Top) Acclaimed director Yuthlert Sippapak will debut his movie *Friday Killer* at the film festival. Sippapak's cast and crew will be at the premiere.



(Left) Indian director Paresch Mokashi will arrive in Phuket to debut his film *Harishchandrachi Factory* at the film festival.

Regular movie tickets will cost 120 baht each, except for reception events. A full festival pass, including all activities except invitation-only events, will cost 3,800 baht.

Tickets for the Meet the Director series, including reception, will be priced at 150 baht.

Tickets are available now online at [W:phuketfilmfestival.asia](http://W:phuketfilmfestival.asia). For more information, up-

to-date movie schedules, and the full festival program, visit [W:phuketfilmfestival.asia](http://W:phuketfilmfestival.asia) or after May 16 call the Festival HOT Line 081-722 4461.

— Elizabeth Branca

## Dogs have their day at film fest

**T**HE documentary film *Soi Dogs* will make its Thai premier during the Phuket Film Festival at the Coliseum Cineplex in Phuket Town on June 5.

*Soi Dogs*, produced by Ella Todd of Environment Films UK, said the film captures the tragedy, compassion, humor, excitement and triumph of the dogs rescued by Phuket's Soi Dog Foundation.

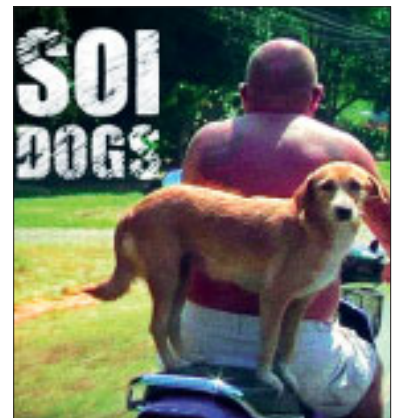
A not-for-profit organization, the foundation helps homeless, and abused dogs and cats.

The 66-minute documentary originally premiered at Riverside Studios in Hammersmith, London, where it received a standing ovation from the audience.

John Dalley, Soi Dog Foundation's vice-president, explained, "It's a film the family can watch together. Unlike many animal organization films, *Soi Dogs* is not designed for shock value."

Mr Dalley, who with his wife Gill has run the foundation for the past six years, said the film was like looking in a mirror for his rescue volunteers.

"The day-to-day challenges facing us are beautifully told, as are the many facets of dealing with these loving and wonderful dogs. I commend Ella Todd for her vision, energy and compassion in committing herself to produce a brilliant documentary," he said.



The documentary film *Soi Dogs* will make its Thai premiere at the Phuket Film Festival on June 5.

Following the film, the foundation will host a reception at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel in Phuket Town.

Tickets are priced at 500 baht, which includes the movie screening, a buffet dinner and entertainment from the Phuket Dance Academy. Audience members are expected to arrive at the theater at 1:45pm.

The film will start promptly at 2pm.

For more information about the Soi Dog Foundation and their documentary film, please visit their website at [soidog.org](http://soidog.org).

To book a reservation for the Phuket Film Festival movie premiere and reception, please contact Alan Archer. E: [alan@soidog.org](mailto:alan@soidog.org). T: 081-087 5903.

— Elizabeth Branca

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

## Phuket Fun Fly May 21 - 23



Phuket Fun Fly 2010, Phuket's first paragliding competition, will take place at Nai Harn Beach. The colorful and exciting event is sponsored by Phuket Province, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Canon, the *Phuket Gazette* and other local businesses. Watch spot-landing and gate-passing contests, fun flights and, for the first time, fancy dress flying. Join sponsored activities including a photo contest, 'Phuket Fun Fly by CANON 2010'. More than 30 pilots have registered and at least 150 flights will take place from 8am to 6pm during the three-day event. Join us to support paragliding and Phuket Fun Fly. For further information contact Peter. T: 089-474 5253 E: peter@bmsevent.com W: phuketparagliding.com

### May 13. Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day - Public Holiday

The annual Royal Ploughing Ceremony usually takes place in May at Sanam Luang, near the Grand Palace in Bangkok. The ceremony has been performed since ancient times and is held to herald an auspicious beginning for the new planting season, amid hopes for an abundant harvest.

### May 16. Phuket Yacht Club Fun Day

Come and support the club and join us for a fun-filled day of sailing, kayaking, swimming, cold beers and a beach barbecue. Many boats available for rent, from single-

handed to two up and multihull. Come for a sail, join in the morning races or just relax and enjoy the barbecue. From 9am to 3pm at Phuket Yacht Club, Ao Yon Bay. For further information contact Donna. T: 086-120 0752. E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com W: phuket yachtclub.info

### May 19. Pre-K Open House and Registration

QSI International School of Phuket was the first international school on Phuket. On May 19, the school will host an all-day open house to present the Pre-K Program. There will be tours of the campus, information packets and a special presentation by early childhood education specialist Dr Maynard Yutzy at 5:30pm. During the all-day event you will see the friendly and supportive environment that has characterized the school since 1994. Call 076-524064 or the number below for details and directions to the campus, or to make an appointment to visit on another day. From 9:30am to 6pm at QSI International School of Phuket.

For further information contact Alan Siporin. T: 084-850 4631. E: alan-siporin@qsi.org W: qsi.org

### May 20. Phuket International Women's Club Lunch

Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at The Watermark, Boat Lagoon. All are welcome, prior registration is essential. 450 baht for members, 600 for guests and non-members. From 11:30am to 2pm at The Watermark, Boat Lagoon.

For further information contact Carole Dux. T: 076-316711. E: mummydux@hotmail.com W: phuketiwc.com

### May 28. Visakha Bucha Day - Public Holiday

This holiday is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month of the Buddhist calendar, and usually falls in either May or early June. It commemorates the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha, which all occurred on the same date.

### June 4 - 13. Phuket Film Festival 2010

After a successful inaugural event in October 2007, the second Phuket Film Festival will lay the groundwork for a sustainable arts and entertainment event. The festival aims not only to help raise awareness of Phuket as a quality tourist destination, but to bring the arts into the island and draw tourism during the low season. For further information contact Chaiwat Ahantharik. T: 02-982 4525. E: info@phuketfilmfestival.asia W: phuketfilmfestival.asia

### June 13. Laguna Phuket International Marathon

Join the largest and fastest-growing destination marathon in Southeast Asia. Race day will feature a marathon, half-marathon, 10.5km run, 2km kids' run and 5km walk, all passing through Phuket rainforests, rubber plantations and local villages.

For further information contact the organizers. T: 02-236 2931. W: phuketmarathon.com

### June 18 - 20. PIA Mind Centre Four Immeasurables Weekend Retreat

Phuket International Academy Mind Centre (PIAMC) is holding an exclusive meditation retreat titled the Four Immeasurables, hosted by Dr B Alan Wallace. Presently accepting bookings, this weekend retreat will consist of teachings, guided meditations and discussions.

Regardless of a participant's religious beliefs, these practices can benefit any person seeking to explore their own capacity to experience unconditional love and compassion. Registration starts at 1,800 baht per person per day for those not requiring onsite accommodation. Onsite accommodation is also available. More information and accommodation options can be found from 9am to 9pm at PIA Mind Centre. For further information contact T: 076-376000. E: mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

### July 5 - 9 and July 12 - 16. PIA Sports & Leisure Club Brazilian Soccer Camp

Brazilian Soccer Schools will hold their fourth soccer camp of the year with more fun and skills to be learned. Daily training at the camps will include unique FDS moves, turning, balances and traps, passing, ball to air, juggling, core skills, one-on-one and two-on-two training, game play and daily three-a-side World Cup games. Points and medals will be awarded. Every day finishes with a five-a-side friendly match with points awarded for sportsmanship, games, quizzes and a chance to take home the Most Valuable Player trophy. Starts from 4,000 baht per week. Contact PIASLC for more info. From 9am to 5pm at PIA Sports & Leisure Club. For further information contact Khun Mik. T: 076-376000.

E: activities@phuketinternationalacademy.com W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

### July 26. Asarnha Bucha Day - Public Holiday

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

## Free Computer Clinics

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Want to know about the best Internet connections in Phuket? Need help finding a repair shop or a dealer that knows what they're doing? Join For Dummies author and local Windows guru Woody Leonhard in his FREE weekly seminars. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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June 6 Patong  
June 13 Laguna  
June 20, 27 Chalong

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# Strength in the face of adversity

While the capital is gripped by political turmoil, the Thai baht remains strong

## MONEY TALKS



**By Richard G. Watson**  
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**M**ANY people are asking why the Thai baht is maintaining its value and even strengthening in the face of current political turmoil. Answering that question requires a look at the fundamentals of the currency.

The Thai economy has moved out of recession (Thailand only moved into recession as a result of the global financial crisis) and is poised to show good economic growth in 2010. Thailand's foreign exchange reserves are in the region of US\$140 billion and rising. The current account is in surplus, and government debt is well within the 60 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recommended to countries by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The private sector banking industry is in a healthy state. Thailand's banks did not participate in the reckless lending practices that resulted in the financial crisis in the West.

Thailand, with the rest of South East Asia, learned some valuable lessons after the Asian

financial crisis of 1997 and 1998. Thailand is similar to a company making a profit and its trajectory, certain negative political outcomes notwithstanding, is excellent. The country is in a very different position to, say, Greece, which had been living beyond its means for years and should never have been allowed to adopt the euro. It now seems, after deeper examination by the IMF, that Greece's financial position is even worse than previously believed.

The country's problems were caused by successive national governments spending more than they earned in taxation. This gap has now reached a level of around 120 percent of GDP – twice the IMF's recommended maximum. The Greeks are effectively up to their necks in debt and, tied to the euro, there is no easy escape route.

European politicians, led by Germany, are starting to look at the costs of a Greek bailout – early estimates are at least EUR200 billion by 2015. At that level it may be cheaper to give Greece some cash and ask it to revert to its original currency. How Greece is supposed to escape a debt trap by adding even more debt is anyone's guess.

Now let's look at another currency: pound sterling. The UK is running massive deficits and moving over the 60 percent government-debt-to-GDP ratio.

The economy is out of recession, just, though certainly not at the speed of Thailand's recovery or even close. The UK's political outlook is clouded until after the election. The economy is burdened by high consumer and government debt and large parts of the banking system are still in government hands.

It will be some time before



**NATIONS IN CHAINS OF PROTESTS:** Both Greece and Thailand are in the midst's of anti-government protests. Greece's central bank warned the country's wilting economy was in danger of shrivelling even more than expected. In Thailand, the baht remains strong despite events in the capital. AFP PHOTO / Aris Messinis

the Bank of England can raise interest rates from their historic low of half a percent. The Bank of England is still concerned by inflation, but most of that has been caused by sterling's depreciation over the past two to three years. As a result of all this, many British expats are finding the combination of a weak pound and strong baht very unpleasant. They remember the days when a pound was worth more than 70

baht, not less than 50 as has been the case recently. The Bank of Thailand has a declared policy of keeping the baht broadly in line with other regional currencies. Unless the political situation deteriorates sharply or the impasse continues for a long time, the Thai baht will remain strong.

Thailand has a broad economy, and benefits greatly from automobile manufacturing, substantial exports and a large

agricultural industry. Tourism is important to Thailand but accounts for less than 7 percent of the country's GDP. The Stock Exchange of Thailand composite has been a victim of the recent political turmoil, although losses or gains have not been significant. There is, however, that old stock market adage that states: "The best time to buy is when there is blood in the streets".

## Phuket car sales on the rise

**A**CCORDING to car dealerships around the island, first quarter sales are up this year about 40 percent from the same period last year.

Buyer preference is shifting to cars instead of pick-ups and SUVs due to traffic and

congested parking areas in Phuket, dealerships report.

Among dealerships the *Gazette* spoke to, most said increased sales to foreigners helped boost overall sales.

Toyota Pearl's Sales Manager Eakaphob Boon-

prasarn said his dealership had the highest sales rate in Southern Thailand with foreigners accounting for about 40 percent of sales.

"We have found that the car to pick-up selling ratio is at about 60:40 in the favor of cars, the most popular of which is the Vios model," Mr Eakaphob said.

Similar sales figures were reported from Isuzu in Koh Keaw, where representatives said about 10 to 20 percent of their first quarter sales were from foreigners, an improvement on last year.

Charnchai Mahantakhun General Manager at BMW Barcelona Auto Phuket said the sales ratio between Thai and foreigners was "almost equal" and that his dealership has also experienced a hike in sales in this year's first quarter.

– Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

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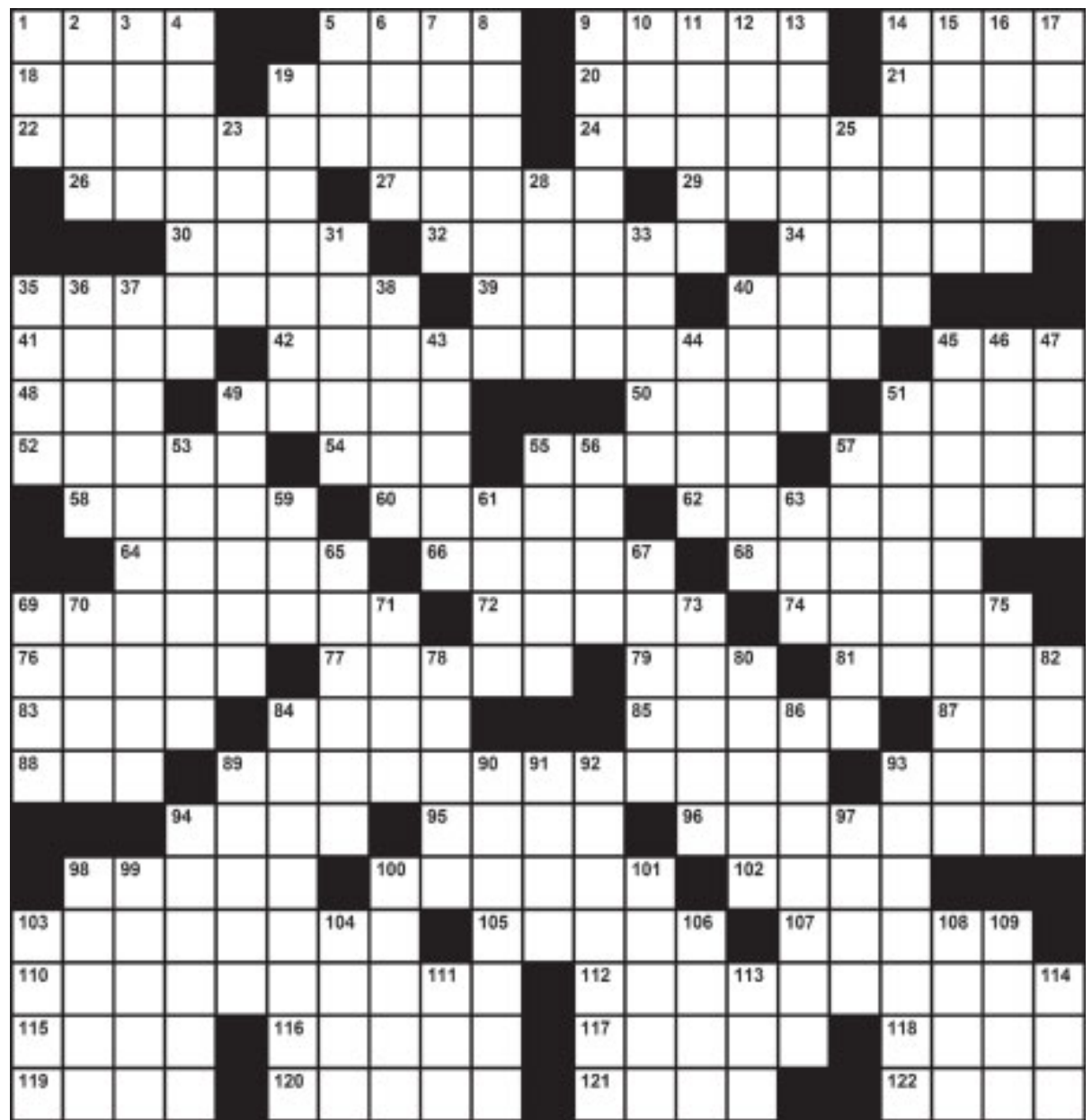
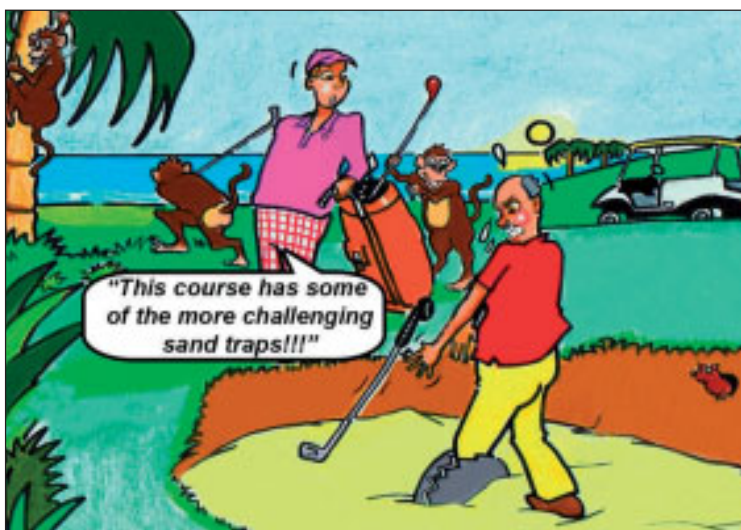


# PUZZLES

## Spot the Difference



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



### ACROSS

- 1 Desktop accessory
- 5 Battery buys
- 9 Ricochet shot
- 14 Hanging 2000 election concern
- 18 Feeling for the apathetic
- 19 Bush or Elfman
- 20 Beethoven's "Fidelio" is one
- 21 Dome light?
- 22 Like many river bank deposits
- 24 Think about changing
- 26 Ferber and Purviance
- 27 Former Dallas Cowboys receiver Michael
- 29 London tourist venue
- 30 "What \_\_\_ could go wrong?"
- 32 Team's good luck charm
- 34 "Something to Talk About" singer Bonnie
- 35 South \_\_\_ Island (Calif.)
- 39 Unappetizing chow
- 40 "Aw, gee!"
- 41 Priests' garments
- 42 Work time-outs
- 45 \_\_\_ in xylophone
- 48 John of Liverpool?
- 49 New Haven collegian
- 50 "Judith" composer Thomas
- 51 Tennis coach's topic
- 52 Alternative to a parry
- 54 Exhibited things
- 55 Alternatives to Twinkies
- 57 "The Devil Wears \_\_\_"
- 58 Rid of vermin, Pied Piper-style
- 60 Conger catcher
- 62 These may get a

- 64 Delhi wraps
- 66 Fathers on a farm
- 68 Rockefeller Plaza network letters
- 69 Early shows
- 72 Celebrations
- 74 Roll of yarn
- 76 Half of all integers
- 77 Marks caused by a lashing
- 79 Tic-tac-toe win
- 81 Borden
- 83 Black and Baltic
- 84 "G'day \_\_\_"
- 85 Moved a rowboat
- 87 Place to stay the night
- 88 Couples' cruise ship?
- 89 Assistant
- 93 \_\_\_ the line (behaved)
- 94 Bring down the house in Soho
- 95 Skye on film
- 96 From one perspective
- 98 Sober and sedate
- 100 Sought absolution
- 102 Suffix with "deduct"
- 103 Get ready to blow, as a volcano
- 105 Complete makeovers
- 107 Minstrels' instruments
- 110 One way to vote
- 112 Company stationery
- 115 1953 Leslie Caron classic
- 116 \_\_\_-dally
- 117 Anglo-Saxon laborers
- 118 Women's magazine
- 119 Big requests to photo developers (Abbr.)
- 120 Eyelid inflammations
- 121 Bratty talk
- 122 Slow leak's

### DOWN

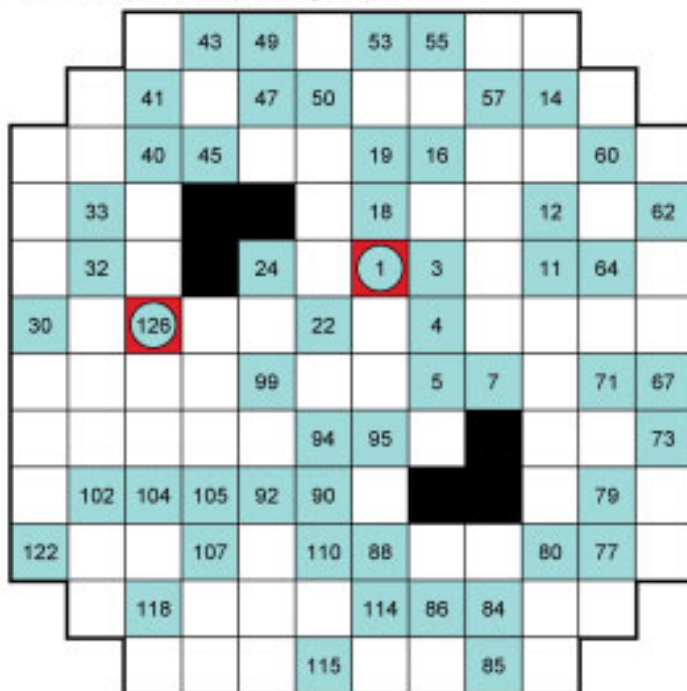
- 1 Oodles of ozs.
- 2 Away from the weather
- 3 Gp. with sober-minded members?
- 4 The P of P.T. Barnum
- 5 Initials of Mad magazine's nebbish
- 6 Support withholder
- 7 Cost \_\_\_ and a leg
- 8 Save from ruin
- 9 Core of an ear
- 10 Chest-beating creature
- 11 Right, in Germany
- 12 \_\_\_ plata, Montana motto
- 13 Comic strip magician
- 14 Contribute
- 15 Went after aggressively
- 16 Standing at the ready
- 17 Dweeb
- 19 Singing Simpson
- 23 Suburban gathering place
- 25 An anchor for 23-Down
- 28 "Robinson Crusoe" setting
- 31 Bomber \_\_\_ Gay
- 33 "Beloved" actress Winfrey
- 35 Lead a square dance
- 36 A way to think
- 37 Certain beef cut
- 38 Needing to be doused
- 40 Ted of "Becker"
- 43 Honors with a party
- 44 "The Aeneid" god
- 45 Certain superpower
- 46 White House intern, e.g.
- 47 Health retreats

- 49 Is filled with desire
- 51 Hansel's sister
- 53 Sand bits
- 55 "\_\_\_ Johnny!"
- 56 Metal containers?
- 57 Emulated a chicken
- 59 Word with "rack" or "tack"
- 61 Raise up
- 63 Ball carriers, briefly
- 65 Bad-smelling flower?
- 67 Abdicated a seat
- 69 Arizona elevation
- 70 Assert positively
- 71 A son of Adam
- 73 Phrase of agreement
- 75 "Go Fish" request
- 78 "\_\_\_ ride" (gambler's phrase)
- 80 Algerian port native
- 82 "The Neverending Story" author Michael
- 84 Crimes, e.g.
- 86 Empowers
- 89 Marsh birds
- 90 Cries of jubilation
- 91 Windsor princess
- 92 Pine tree droppings
- 93 Acquires choppers
- 94 Some marriage officiants
- 97 "Dirty dog," for one
- 98 "I've got the \_\_\_ the morning ..."
- 99 Activity for young swingers?
- 100 As is fitting
- 101 \_\_\_ favor (helps)
- 103 Rotten temper
- 104 Complex division?
- 106 Amtrak stops (Abbr.)
- 108 Aquatic zappers
- 109 Maglie and Mineo
- 111 "Tact" add-on
- 113 Your, in France
- 114 \_\_\_ Plaines, Ill.

## HIDATO®

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



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Solutions on next page



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

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THORN

SIX  
THOUSAND  
FIFTY  
SEVEN  
TEN  
TWENTY

“abracadabra”

**Get your brain in gear with the****MONSTER QUIZ**

1. What is the rubella virus commonly known as?
2. What famous American document begins with: “when in the course of human events...”?
3. What was the colorful nickname given to the bubonic plague pandemic of the 14th-century?
4. Sleeping sickness can be caused by the bite of which insect?
5. What casino game was created by 17th-century French mathematician Blaise Pascal?
6. Who was the last president of the Soviet Union?
7. What name is Roman Emperor Charles the Great more commonly known?
8. Which deadly virus is named after a river in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where it was first recognized in 1976?
9. What is the common name for a viral disease characterized by a painful skin rash?
10. By what name was the 11th-century Spanish military leader Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar better known as?
11. What was signed at Runnymede meadow in England on June 15, 1215?
12. What 20th-century conflict was dubbed the “forgotten war” despite 54,246 U.S. deaths?
13. Who was the UK Prime Minister when Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne?
14. What name did the Romans give to modern-day Scotland?
15. Which dynasty ruled China from 1368 to 1644?
16. What is the name of the three-stringed bow shaped musical instrument played in medieval times?
17. Which empire captured the capital of Constantinople in 1453?
18. What name was given to the hoop in wide spreading skirts in the 15th and 16th centuries?
19. Which war was ended by the Treaty of Portsmouth?
20. Name the three children of Henry VIII who went on to rule England?

*Answers below***Southern Wholesale****ORDER ONLINE!**web: [www.swmeat.com](http://www.swmeat.com) • email: [info@swmeat.com](mailto:info@swmeat.com) • Tel: (John) 089 650 3940Beef • Pork • Lamb • Chicken • Sausages • Burgers • Pies & Pasties  
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# Puzzle Solutions

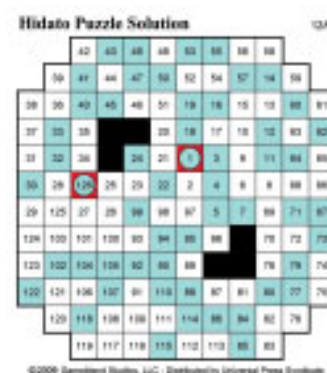
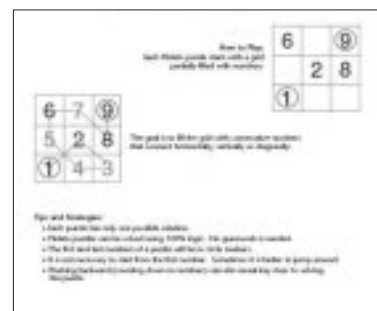
**WHATZIT? solutions**

1. A thorn in the side
2. Safety in numbers
3. Say the magic word

**Solution to this week's Spot the Difference**

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. German measles
2. The Declaration of Independence
3. The Black Death
4. Tsetse Fly
5. Roulette
6. Mikhail Gorbachev
7. Charlemagne
8. Ebola
9. Shingles
10. El Cid
11. Magna Carta
12. The Korean War
13. Winston Churchill
14. Caledonia
15. The Ming Dynasty
16. Rebek
17. The Ottoman Empire
18. A farthingale
19. The Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905
20. Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I.

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



IN the 1960s, "Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll" was the motto in America, so it is strange that so little has been written from the perspective of a fictional rock musician. Jonathan Lethem has remedied that with *You Don't Love Me Yet* (Faber & Faber, New York, 2009, 224pp).

Born in 1964, Lethem was raised in Brooklyn and spent 12 years in California before returning home. He wrote several books of science fiction before returning to Brooklyn for the scene of his novels *Motherless Brooklyn*, a twisted detective story, and *Fortress of Solitude*, his bildungsroman of growing up as the son of hipster parents in a mostly black neighborhood.

In *You Don't Love Me Yet*, he goes back to his years in Los Angeles as a budding rock singer. The as-yet-unnamed band consists of Matthew the lead singer, Denise the drummer, Bedwin the lead guitarist and songwriter, and Lucinda the bass player.

The story, told mostly from Lucinda's point of view, opens with her and Matthew breaking up their romance but determined to keep the band together. Just playing in the band has a sexual element for Lucinda.

"Lucinda adored thumping the fat strings of her instrument, constructing with the stretched notes a physical bridge between Denise's peppery beat and

# Into the heart of rock

Bedwin's chords, a bridge across which Matthew's voice could scurry or shamble or cavort... She wasn't the fastest, but she'd been assured by better players that she possessed all anyone needed: She swung. She had feel. Lucinda took solace in these notions without comprehending

them fully. Bass players were a secret guild, each abiding with the ungainly, disrespected instrument for the thankless benefit of music itself. Lucinda has read somewhere of the argument as to who derived the most pleasure from the sexual act, the male or the female. She felt certain the musical reply would be: the bass player."

Lucinda has quit her job as a barista in a coffee shop

to take part in a performance art act at the gallery of a former boyfriend. People are invited to call in to voice their complaints about life. Thus Lucinda comes to know "the complainer", whose strange erotic tales she jots down and incorporates as lyrics into the band's growing song list.

She finally meets her mystery caller, a large, slovenly, white-haired genius of a wordsmith named Carl Vogelstock. They embark on an epic night-and-day bout of sex and drinking, which culminates for



Lucinda with her band's first gig where their song *Monster Eyes* (originating with Carl) blows the audience away. This scene is a tour de force of what it feels like to play in the band and be in the audience.

"The song is 'Monster Eyes,' and it comes set to make an impression. For band and audience alike, the evening finds its watershed, dividing Before from After.

In the audience's case, the watershed divides the perfectly agreeable songs they can no longer quite remember from the one they'll go out humming... For the band, this first public rendition of what's instantly become their hit song is the moment when time stops its hectic flow and earth's atmosphere expands, just a little, to make room for something new, embodied by themselves. It's the moment when they realize that rather than being as good as they'd always hoped, or even better than they'd hoped, they're simply as good as they are, no hope required."

The band is suddenly besieged by promoters, record producers and a legendary disc jockey named Fancher Autumnbreast. Lucinda is on a glorious high both musically and sexually. "The band has discovered itself onstage like Helen Keller, connecting at last the idea or name for a thing to the thing itself. At the same time another world had uncovered itself to Lucinda when she made herself drunk and uncovered for the complainer. Now they weren't two worlds, but one."

There is a side plot involving Matthew and a sick kangaroo and the domineering zoo director who will become the band's manager. This is too contrived to be convincing. But the main story of how Lucinda gains and loses and regains the world is a triumph.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

## Horoscopes



Isla Star



**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Holiday plans are likely to change at the last minute. Taureans relying on friends for accommodation may need to make other arrangements. An unpredictable atmosphere could affect business plans. Air signs are forecast to be difficult to deal with this week. If your birthday is this week, look forward to luck in romance in the coming year.



**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): The stars support your efforts in making radical changes in working lives this week. Take advantage by revealing your talents to those with influence and do not sell yourself short. Finances may be subject to mistakes midweek, so double check all transactions to be safe. Your romantic luck increases towards mid-month and Sagittarius is ready to return your interest.



**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Your best laid plans may not be as water-proof as you imagine. Cancerians who have forgotten to include important information could be caught short this week. This

weekend, go over fine details before committing to something impossible to wriggle out of. Your romantic outlook is sunny, with promise of another encounter with an elusive Aquarian this weekend. The number 5 is lucky next Thursday.



**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Family relationships fall under disturbed astral conditions this week. Take a back seat and allow others to sort their problems out. On a brighter note, you may have the perfect opportunity to back down gracefully from a financial commitment on Sunday. Giving romance another try with Aries may be tempting, but you will soon see that the old issues have not been resolved.



**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): The social scene remains satisfying. New friends have intriguing ideas for leisure activities, but think twice before committing to something that demands regular payment. The stars suggest that your outgoings will be higher than normal at the end of this month. In romance, Leo would like to know you better and could approach you this weekend.



**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Librans continue to have good luck in business. Tuesday and Wednesday are highlighted as

days when agreements will be made in your favor. The stars indicate you may be ignoring personal responsibilities. Those with a partner could be surprised by an outburst this weekend. If you are single and seeking, a water sign could catch your attention early next week. Wear lime green to sharpen your perspective.



**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Chasing your tail becomes tiring this weekend. Scorpios who suspect they are following a red herring should receive confirmation by Monday. At work, your honesty will finally be recognized, but this could upset a fire sign. Romance moves to smoother ground and an air sign's interest will be appreciated. Money matters are sensitive midweek; check transactions carefully before accusing someone of making a mistake.



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): There will be a fine line between trying too hard and not making a clear impression this week. Those Sagittarians who are keen on changing their work situation should plan carefully before meeting prospective employers. Thursday is the best day for interviews, while Sunday and Monday are the luckiest days for romance. Virgo will react positively to your creative idea for a date. The number 8 is lucky this weekend.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Those Capricorns hoping to relocate receive welcome news this week. Plans are forecast to go swimmingly, although some family members may still need convincing this is the right move. If you have recently broken off a casual romantic relationship, there are signs that the person concerned is more upset than you thought. Thursday is best for finalizing business deals, but compromise is highlighted.



**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Aquarians' dislike of routine may cause disagreements this week. Working with earth signs will be difficult until the end of the month and the only answer will be to meet them halfway. At home, domestic harmony might be disturbed by a visitor's decision to stay longer than expected. On a more positive note, there are indications that your finances will receive a welcome boost on Tuesday or Wednesday.



**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): If your dream of a new business venture is subject to a fire sign's support, there is nothing to worry about. However, air signs will take longer to decide than promised. The stars predict that most Pisceans should be happy with the even-

tual outcome. Romance could be another matter as relationships will be subject to stormy conditions until the middle of this month. Wear saffron yellow to encourage more patience.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): The heat is on for Arians looking for a way out of financial problems. This week you should find a solution that is acceptable to everyone, but loss of pride could be a high price to pay. The stars suggest that monitoring outgoings could lead to the discovery of discrepancies. In romance, flattery will be appreciated by Taurus this weekend and a relationship is forecast to follow.

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## Crackdown on cracked heads won't be easy

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Peadar Tantipong's order for a crackdown on riding pillion on motorbikes without helmets is laudable, but won't be easy to enforce.

Under the plan, police will be responsible for ensuring compliance with an existing law that allows them to issue fines of up to 500 baht for anyone caught on a motorbike without a helmet, as well as 1,000 baht for anyone caught transporting a passenger without a helmet. [See page 1]

Thus far the law requiring motorbike passengers to wear crash helmets has been seldom enforced in Phuket, so much so that many people don't even know that the law is on the books. Compliance on the part of riders has been somewhat better, but a glance at any local roadway reveals that it isn't nearly what it should be.

A simple look at the numbers reveals the enormity of the task facing police. There are more than 300,000 motorbikes registered with the Phuket Land Transport Office and probably at least 100,000 more here registered in other provinces. These figures continue to grow daily, and most of the bikes are located in Phuket City Police district, where the crackdown will take place.

While the objective of the crackdown is good, the Gazette finds it difficult to be optimistic about the outcome. With just 50 officers, the 'net' is simply too small for the intended 'catch' and most of those who insist on riding without a helmet will continue to do so, accepting the risk of getting fined – and possibly a cracked skull – as the price of freedom.

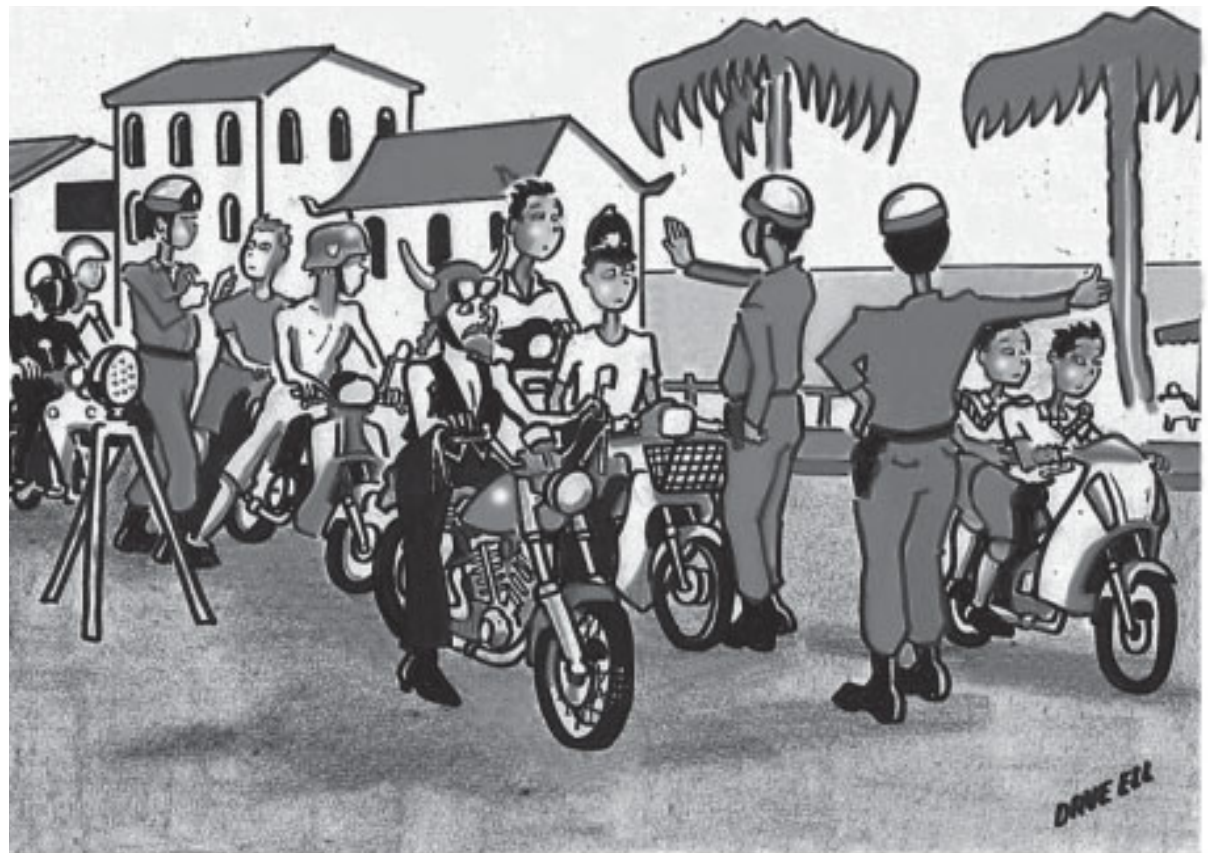
A far better strategy would be to hone in on one demographic: children. There is a strong argument that the decision to put on a helmet should rest with the individual, not the state. By the time people reach adulthood they should be capable of making rational choices and ready to accept the consequences of their actions – as dire as they may be.

Unfortunately, it seems that far too many of us have grown up in what could be considered a 'culture of carelessness' that is instilled at a very young age and then passed from generation to generation.

Time has shown that the current system of road checkpoints and random fines is not an effective way to address such a deep-seated social problem, although it may be a tidy source of revenue for police.

A better solution would be to arrest all riders caught transporting minors without helmets, thus instilling a sense of caution in our youth and preparing them for a lifetime in which wearing helmets is simply second nature.

– The Editor



## Letters

The Gazette is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, fax: 076-615240 or 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.

### Still holidaying in Phuket

We have visited Phuket six years in a row and have already booked for October this year. We recently made a gift of two weeks' holiday to a newlywed couple to use for their honeymoon and they are arriving in Phuket soon.

Their honeymoon was delayed by the ash cloud over Europe, but they are determined to enjoy their holiday in Thailand. We have assured them that they will receive the usual warm and friendly Thai hospitality and that they have nothing to fear in Phuket – except perhaps the sun. Let us hope everyone keeps safe.

**David Johnston**  
Wellesbourne, UK

### A drunk writes

I'm pleased to see the governor is trying to do something about taxi prices – because I am a drunk driver.

Everyone I know drinks. It's expat culture the world over, and particularly true here. Everyone I knew in London drank too, of course. But when I was drunk in London, I took the tube home, or failing that, the night bus.

Here, the tuk-tuks are ludicrously overpriced and taxis – except at the airport – are nowhere to be found.

So I drink, and I drive, and I've never killed anyone yet or even crashed my car. But the day I do, it won't be my fault. It will be the fault of Airports of Thailand, or the taxi companies, or the tuk-tuk mafia, or whoever it is that keeps the prices of transport in Phuket so high.

**Steve Forbes**  
Chalong

### Don't bore me

*Re: Gazette online, Patong split over tunnel plan, May 3*

There are plenty of things governments can spend money on. They prefer roads, bridges, dams, tunnels and so on as permanent monuments to themselves.

Politicians don't find it as attractive to be remembered for things like improving health care, education, poverty or the environment.

The only reasons to build tunnels are traffic flow and safety. If safety is such a concern then it would be much cheaper to pay the police to patrol the hills 24-7 and give out tickets.

How long would it take before people figured out they had to drive safely?

**Randy Hodge**  
Gazette forum

### Bore away

*Re: Gazette online, Patong split over tunnel plan, May 3*

A tunnel looks necessary. Why? Because for some stupid reason the powers that be in Kathu continue to allow landowners to build on the land adjacent to the dangerous road. There are now several lethal access ways to the road including on bends and brows of the hill.

I've seen many nasty accidents caused by these access ways. I noticed more being built yesterday to accommodate even more building. Ridiculous.

Let's take the most dangerous road in Phuket and add a few extra junctions at really stupid and dangerous places.

**Matt**  
Gazette forum

### Roll back

It would be worth paying a small tunnel toll for a safe ride to Patong and back.

About two or three years ago on Patong Hill, I was at the curve near the shooting center when an old truck in front of me suddenly started rolling backwards. Luckily nothing happened to me, except that I burned the clutch, but others were not so lucky.

It was a horrifying experience that I wouldn't wish on others.

**Godi**  
Gazette forum

### Helmet crackdown only for eggheads

Thank you, Gazette, for once again bearing news that our beloved boys in brown are going to great lengths to save our lives with yet another crackdown on motorbike drivers – and passengers – not wearing helmets. [Gazette online, Sudden Impact: Phuket helmet law crackdown starts today, May 1]

Any person who ever gets on a motorbike without wearing a helmet is an egghead. And those who think donning a helmet will make them impervious to any injury, thus thinking they can now go ahead and speed like a demon can keep these poignant words from a former motorbike circuit racer: "It won't save your legs."

As for me, I'll be wearing my helmet everywhere, every time. I won't let the memory burned into my mind of being fined 500 baht at Chalong Circle for not wearing a helmet when it was still strapped onto my head put me off. I'll be a good boy and do the right thing.

**Rob Smith**  
Phuket Town

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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).



# Fix transport, end uncertainty



## FIRST PERSON

Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa is a nephew of former Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa. Now 52, he has lived in Phuket for more than 20 years. Currently president of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC), Dr Sirichai has also served as assistant director of Vachira Phuket Hospital for almost six years. Here he tells the *Gazette* how fixing transport and taking decisive action over political turmoil in Bangkok can rescue Phuket's ailing economy. **Compiled by Kitima Pornmongkhonwat.**

Public transport in Phuket is the most expensive in the world. Limousine taxis at Phuket International Airport have to pay concession fees of about a million baht per month to Airports of Thailand (AoT). This pushes up taxi fares from the airport because their operating costs are high. Because the fare from the airport is high, the fares everywhere else are high too, even the tuk-tuks and motorcycle taxis.

The taxis use about 200-300 meters of road owned by AoT. The rest of the time they use public roads, so I don't know why AoT has to charge them so much. I believe this causes problems for tourists. They all complain about the high fares, but they don't know what to do about it.

I like the Suvarnabhumi Airport system. They only charge 50 baht extra per trip, so the taxis only charge 50 baht more and then follow the meter. It is a fair system. In Phuket I think it's quite exploitative.

I really want to see Phuket have a good public transport system. I especially like the idea of having an 'airport link' service providing access to the airport from places like Chalong and Kata-Karon. Under such a plan, all local administrative bodies like the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO), the Municipalities, the Tambon Administration Organizations as well



A PPAO pink bus serving Phuket Town. Dr Sirichai would like to see a single card providing access to all public transport in Phuket.

as the Land Transport Office would change their existing routes so they link up with the airport link.

I believe everybody would see benefits from this and be able to travel around the island conveniently.

The details still need to be worked out. We'll have to figure out how much budget we could raise, then decide how we would put it in place and what kind of ve-

hicles to use. If we have a small budget we might just use buses. If we have enough money we might try and build a light railway, as I've suggested to the province and the PPAO in the past.

My dream is to have a single card that you could buy and use to travel all over Phuket. Everyone would pay the same rate, whether local or tourist. There might be a discount for students and the elderly, however.

I would also like to say something about the political crisis surrounding the red shirt protests. Even though it seems like everything is fine in Phuket now, I'm concerned about what the future holds for us. It is still going on with no solution and soon we all might be in trouble. Bookings are being canceled and new ones aren't being made after several countries warned their nationals against travel to Thailand.

The situation in Bangkok needs to be put to rest, otherwise the economic situation is going to be tight for a long time. It doesn't matter how it ends, but it needs to end.

The problem is not just what's happening now, but also the uncertainty over the future. I don't think foreigners, tourists and especially investors are too worried about the situation, but they need to know what we are going to do about it. They need answers. Just tell them what can and can't be done and make everything clear, rather than all this vagueness.

Before, we forecast that our economy would get better by the end of 2009. But right now things are even worse and it's going to continue until the end of the year and maybe into next year.

*Have a topic you would like to speak out about? This is the forum for you. Contact: editor@phuketgazette.net.*

## CLARIFICATION

*Re: 'Second sight: avoiding an ocular ordeal' in the April 24 edition of the Phuket Gazette and in the digital Gazette online.*

The sole purpose of the above-referenced *First Person* article was to warn readers who are highly myopic that they have an elevated risk of retinal detachment and that this can very often be detected and prevented by retinal scanning and, if necessary, an out-patient laser procedure.

Unfortunately there seems to be some misunderstanding about the treatments I received at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. In brief, I was referred to the government-run Songklanakarind Hospital in Haad Yai for some procedures as my treatment costs there could be covered by my social security insurance, a point I should have made clear.

I would like to note for the record that I give full credit to Dr Captain Wiriyaluppa and his staff for their key role in not only saving my eye, but restoring normal vision. The treatments I received at Bangkok Hospital Phuket were completely professional and I would most highly recommend Dr Captain and his staff to anyone needing any of the eye exams or treatments they offer.

*Stephen Fein  
News Editor*

## Issues & ANSWERS

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

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## How can I get rid of the workers' camp?

We have a home on Soi Pak Jae in Karon. The area is supposed to be residential and there are many very nice homes here.

On the opposite side of the soi is a workers' compound which has been there for two years. There is no construction being done on the site. The area is used to hold materials for projects elsewhere and serves as a dumping ground for all sorts of debris. It is an eyesore and it needs to go.

If this is a residential area then these people are violating the law. What are my options?

**Edward Hofmeister  
Karon**

**Mr Norasak, an engineer at Karon Municipality replies:**

Please come to Karon Municipality and fill out a complaint form, stating the address of the area. After we receive the form we will check the camp within three days to a week. Then we will talk to them and try to resolve the problem.

For more information contact Karon Municipality: 1 Kata Road, T. Karon, A. Muang, Phuket 83100. T: 076-330186, F: 076-330189.

## Can we expect more sinkhole surprises?

With the rain starting again I worry about my safety every time I drive over the spot where the sinkholes opened on Phra Barami Road in Patong last year. Has any work been done to shore up this area over the dry season? What sort of inspection regimen is in place? Who is responsible?

**Phuket Sub  
Phuket Town**

**Arun Sane, head of Phuket Highways Department, replies:**

The Phuket Highways Department is responsible for Phra Barami Road. We have already repaired the hole temporarily. It's now 100% okay. I check the road every day because I drive over it. If something happens again, I'll try to get an emergency budget.

We still have to make permanent repairs. We asked for a special budget to repair it as a case of natural disaster, but many many roads have sustained such damage recently so we have to wait.

For more information contact the Phuket Highways Department Office: Narisorn Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-212179, F: 076-216353.



## AFC CUP

## Thai Port, Muang Thong through to knock-out stage



Thai Port players (in stripes) battle for possession with Tai Po. Photo by Nakarin Banjerdjin

FOR the second successive week, an AFC Cup match was moved from Bangkok to Phuket. On April 20, Muang Thong Utd's match against South China was moved to Surakul Stadium in Phuket Town.

On April 27, it was Thai Port's turn to play a "home" AFC Cup match in Phuket, this time against main rivals in their group, Tai Po from Hong Kong.

Muang Thong Utd went into their fixture with hopes of qualifying to the knock-out rounds of the competition hanging precariously in the balance.

Surakul Stadium offered little respite for the Bangkok side, who suffered a disappointing defeat to South China.

However, the Thai squad later managed to draw 2-2 away to Indonesian side Persiwa

Wamena, meaning that they lost top spot in Group G, but still secured progress to the knock-out stages of the competition courtesy of a second-place finish.

Thai Port, however, had the luxury of knowing they were already guaranteed second place in Group H. Tai Po from Hong Kong had been already eliminated from the competition, making the fixture in Phuket relatively meaningless for the Thai side.

At Surakul, Thai Port dominated the opening half and missed many chances to take the lead. Issarapong Lilakorn and Sompong Soleb were the main culprits, with the former forcing a smart save from the Tai Po goalkeeper and the latter missing a header from point blank range.

A goal finally arrived for Thai Port early in the second half when Issarapong made up for his first-half miss with a sharply taken finish.

Thai Port were starting to pile on the pressure and Jakkrit Bunkham was unfortunate to see

a shot deflected onto the bar. Then the already sedate pace of the game slowed to a virtual standstill, before the monotony was broken by Nirut Camsawat scoring the Thai team's second goal with a superbly placed volley struck from the edge of the penalty area.

As Thai Port and Muang Thong Utd have finished second in their respective groups, they will progress to the next round of the competition but will not have the home-ground advantage.

If they successfully navigate the "Round of 16", they will qualify for the quarter finals, which will be held over two legs, as will the semi-finals.

The next round of matches will take place on May 11 and 12. Assuming either team progresses and the situation in Bangkok remains volatile, Phuket may yet play host to the knock-out rounds of this prestigious competition.

For more information visit: [www.the-afc.com](http://www.the-afc.com).

— James Goyder

## Grappling for gold



SOPHIE Cox (right) grapples with an opponent at the Thai National Open Judo Championships in Bangkok, where she won a gold medal.

Cox, a teacher at Phuket International Academy, represented Great Britain at the 2004 Olympics.

Although this was her first competition in almost five years, she easily defeated all comers to win gold for the Phuket team.

After enjoying her return to action, Cox is looking to compete more regularly in Judo events. "I found it pretty nerve wracking because it felt like all eyes were on me, but it was fun as well.

"The competition itself wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. I'd like to compete again as soon as possible so I'm currently scouting for any competitions nearby," she said.

## 'The Ferret' outruns 'The Fox' in Pattaya



Phuket's Scott Duncanson (in white shirt) leads his crew on *The Ferret* to victory in the 2010 Platu Coronation Cup. Photo Duncan Worthington

PHUKET sailor Scott Duncanson and his crew on *The Ferret* left it until the last two races on the final day of racing to win the 2010 Platu Coronation Cup at the Top of the Gulf (TOTG) Regatta held off Jomtien Beach, near Pattaya, April 30 to May 4.

*The Ferret* was one point behind main rival Rolf Heemskerk's *The Fox* going into the final day of racing.

In the first of the two races on the final day, an over-eager start by *The Ferret* saw the boat called back to the start after it had jumped the gun.

However, Duncanson's crew returned to cross the start line again and then gave chase to the fleet of 12, making good headway and finishing right behind *The Fox* to claim second place in the race.

The second race of the day, and the last race of the championship, *The Ferret* showed her class and dominated the course, sailing comfortably to victory. The win secured the one vital

point necessary for Duncanson and his crew to take top honors for the cup.

Fellow Phuket sailor, Henry Kaye, who has raced in more King's Cup Regattas than any other sailor, stormed to victory in the Multihull class on his boat *Thor*. Bob Garner on *Blade Runner V* placed second in the class, while Kirati Assakul's *Sonic* placed third.

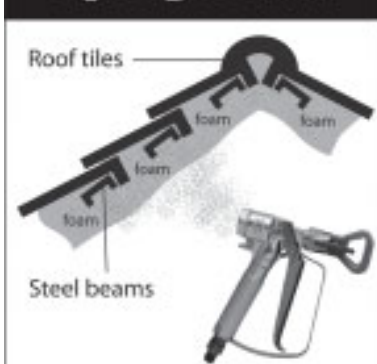
The big guns battling it out in IRC1 saw Ray Roberts and his Evolution Racing crew earn their first victory in the TOTG Regatta racing class, and only just. Team Evolution scored their top position overall in the class on corrected time in the final race of the regatta.

Second place went to Matt Allen's *Ichi Ban* with Robert van Paridon's *Tantrum* placing third.

Ray Waldron's Phuket 8 *Vino* placed second overall in the Sportsboat class, unable to outsail Kipsan Beck on *Porn Star*, which scored seven wins in a row to win the title.

— Gazette reporter

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# BIS score gold at national swim meet

**A**NDY Heinz, the 12-year-old senior team captain of the Flying Fish, the swim team of British International School (BIS), has won gold at the Thailand Swimming Nationals, held in Bangkok April 2-6.

Accompanied by coach Cyrus Crews, Andy took top honors in the 800-meter freestyle with a personal best of 9:41.09.

At the nationals, Andy's first trials and finals meet, he also recorded new personal best and top-five performances in the 200m butterfly (2:32.06) and 200m freestyle (2:15.53).

Andy's golden performance bodes well for his next big meet, the BIS Phuket Under-13 FOBISSEA Games, which is being considered a forerunner to the youngster competing in the upcoming German regional championships.

According to a statement released by BIS, "With top German rankings and a training focus rarely seen by many children at this age, Andy's results at this meet should be nothing short of excellent."

The team captain's performance may well have inspired the Flying Fish's performance at the



The Flying Fish and coach Cyrus Crews after the 14th Thai Southern Province Championships.

14th Thai Southern Province Championships, held at Saphan Hin on April 24-25.

Over the two-day event, the Flying Fish swimmers, including some first-time competitors encouraged and trained by coaches Crews and Meitri Pangestika, cheered on their teammates when they were not in the water. Their cheers were accompanied by those of a big crowd of Flying Fish parents.

Dubbed the Phuket Sprint Meet, and organized by Country

Home and the Phuket Sports Association, the championships saw the school of 34 Flying Fish place 7<sup>th</sup> overall, netting a total of five trophies as well as 23 gold, 14 silver and five bronze medals, as follows:

**Overall trophies.** Andy Heinz (Senior Team Captain): 1st overall in the 13yo boys category, 2nd overall meet ranking. Marcus Goetz (Co-senior Team Captain): 3rd overall in the 12yo boys category. Raymond Windsor: 5th

overall in the 12yo boys category. Joo Yeob Kim: 5th overall in the 10yo boys category.

**Gold medals.** 10yo boys 200m free relay: Joo Yeob, Kenny (Junior Team Captain), Ben F, Jae Min. 10yo boys 200m medley relay: Tim, Jae Min, Joo Yeob, Ben F. 13yo boys 200m free and medley relay champions: Raymond, Marcus, Andy, Sam (this relay also set the meet record in the 200m medley relay). Andy Heinz: 6 gold medals in individual events.

Marcus Goetz: 1 gold medal in an individual event.

**Silver medals.** 10yo girls freestyle and medley relay: Christina, Rebecca, Kamin, Victoria. Andy Heinz: 2 silver medals in individual events. Marcus Goetz: 2 silver medals in individual events. Raymond Windsor: 2 silver medals in individual events.

**Bronze medals.** Marcus Goetz: 2 bronze medals in individual events. Raymond Windsor: 3 bronze medals in individual events. Rebecca Preen: 1 bronze medal in the 10-year-old girl's 100m breaststroke.

Accolades also went to Flying Fish teammates Max, Isabelle, Andy, Marcus, Raymond, Sam, Joseph, Tyler, Alysa, Sabrina, Diamond, Zach, Kenny, Ben F, Jae Min, Joo Yeob, Christina, Shakira, Victoria, Kamin, Rebecca, Haruna, Alysha, Emma, Jae Won, Ben M., Robert, KaiKea, Anna, Melanie, Hikari, Maximilian.

The next major swim meet for the youngsters will be the BIS Flying Fish Invitational Meet on May 22-23.

## Layan charity golf on par for more PIWC scholarships

**T**HE second Layan International Golf Challenge, held at Laguna Phuket Golf Club on April 30 and May 1, raised enough money for another education scholarship under the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC).

The heat was terrific and the quality of golf varied among the 60 local golfers and overseas guests, but there were also some outstanding performances.

Teams represented 15 "flags", including team names such as Australia, England, Scotland and Singapore, and more fanciful teams such as "Never Never Land", "Jolly Roger" and, of course, the PIWC.

The prize giving took place during a function at the Baan Suan Layan Restaurant in Cherm Talay.

Team Italy (Giovanni

Palazzoli, Mirco Canonica, Terry Frost and Alistair Paton) won the coveted team prize for their 31-under-par net score of 111.

Runners up were Team Thailand (Janpen Arno-Magee, Vasana Suthanon, Natruthai Tatsaneetipagone and Saengchai Toneyon) with a net 125 (17).

Vasana was also the women's individual winner with a net 71 score. The runner-up was Sue Arnulphy of Team PIWC.

The men's winner was Alistair Paton with a net 65 and the runner-up was his fellow team member Terry Frost.

Since 1989 PIWC has provided financial assistance to almost 600 children with scholarships that enable them to further their education.

To date, the activities of the Layan golf players in the two tournaments held each year have

raised enough to provide five new scholarships to support those created by the millions of baht the PIWC has raised over the past 20 years.

This year, sponsorship was donated by the Hong Kong branch of Swiss banking group Bank Julius Baer, who have committed to funding their own scholarship under the PIWC scheme.

— Alastair Carthew



(From left) Christopher Burgess, of Bank Julius Baer, with Team Italy's Giovanni Palazzoli, Mirco Canonica, Terry Frost and Alistair Paton.

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LONESOME STRANDS: Bophut Beach, Koh Samui

Open source photo: Wikimedia

# Airlift juggernaut hits Samui tourism

Plans to develop Samui Airport could help an island with limited flight capacity

**A**FTER Phuket, Koh Samui is Thailand's second-most-visited island resort destination. As a ramped-up hotel supply reaches 16,069 rooms, the island is experiencing growing pains as part of its emerging journey into the mainstream.

One of the prevailing challenges for Samui is the lack of international flights, with 2009 seeing domestic traffic mainly routed through Bangkok representing 91 percent of all arrivals.

Unlike Phuket, where the airport is operated under the public agency Airports of Thailand (AoT), Samui Airport is privately run by Bangkok Airways. They in turn sub-lease the operation to the Siam City Asset, which operates the airport through its Siam Airport Property Fund. The airline is a major shareholder in the investment vehicle.

Although Bangkok Airways

recently announced plans to develop Samui into a "second international hub", its direct international flights to the island are currently limited to Hong Kong and Singapore.

Other direct international connections currently being offered include Malaysia's Firefly and Berjaya Air serving Samui from Kuala Lumpur.

On the domestic front, Thai Airways has been allowed to provide limited domestic services since 2008.

At the root of the demand quandary are environmental controls which limit the hours during which planes can arrive and depart, coupled with a ceiling of 36 flights a day. In simple terms, for hotels this equates to "you can't stay there, if you can't get there."

Looking into Samui's performance rear view mirror for 2009, airport arrivals in the first



## 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 within Greater Phuket.

half of the year were down 23 percent, mainly due to political-related events. The second half of the year surged, but failed to compensate for the earlier shortfall, with the final tally still falling short of 2008 levels.

Discounting room rates on

the back of a shift to regional markets was felt in similar fashion to Phuket's experience, with rate drops of 13 percent. However, results from the first quarter of this year show that room rates are on the way up.

Viewing international source markets, the list is led by the UK followed by Germany, Australia, Sweden and Russia. It's interesting that the correlation between access and emerging travel-hungry nationalities, with Indonesia topping the rising tide followed by India, Malaysia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

What is becoming increasingly apparent is that Thailand is experiencing a growing reliance on short-haul, Asian-based customers. Finding an equilibrium for this type of rate-sensitive business currently looks likely to stretch past 2010.

Regarding regional trade, many tour operators are vocal

that the profound lack of developed tourism demand generators and attractions could inhibit a shift to more of a mass tourism model. Speaking to property developers and agents on Samui, it is clear that they have suffered greater impact from the global financial crisis than Phuket, and that the number of projects currently on hold or for sale is significant. While some marquee hotel-branded projects have been for sale, the market absorption rates have been muted.

There is a reason for an upbeat outlook, though, as 541 internationally-managed rooms will open in the next 15 months, led by luxury giants W, Conrad, Banyan Tree and Starwood. It is inevitable that a high critical mass of branded properties create benefits, as could be related to, say, taking a shopping expedition to Paragon, Central World or the Emporium.

However, there also exists a danger that the market absorption of new hotels could see supply outpace demand. While talks have been going on for years about a new larger international airport, the constraints of a privatized operation that is financially focused on returning yields to investors does raise concern.

The ongoing question of how Koh Samui and Phuket will be able to cope with the at-times "runaway train" of tourism development is no easy puzzle to solve. Water, traffic, waste disposal, population explosion and crime all somehow become strange bedfellows in the cycle and unfortunately often take a back seat to economic models all geared to year-on-year growth.

Samui remains a stunningly beautiful destination. Its new hotels rival anything Phuket has to offer, and residential property is world-class. While perhaps the growth of the two islands are headed in similar directions, it will be interesting to see how the very different challenges play out in the years ahead.

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# You have the right to stay, sometimes

## Uncovering the little known “right of habitation”

OF THE various rights guaranteed, for Thais and foreigners, under the Thai Civil and Commercial Code (CCC), is the little-known “right of habitation”, which is often overlooked for sake of its far more popular counterpart, the lease.

The right of habitation can be granted to a person as a right “to occupy a building as a dwelling place for either certain period provided that such is not in excess of 30 years or for lifetime of the grantee”.

If a specific period has been granted, the grantor (such as the building’s owner) and grantee (the person wanting to live in the property) may agree on a renewal, which must not exceed 30 years.

The right of hab-

itation, as opposed to a lease, is not subject to payment, such as rent paid by a tenant to a landlord.

In addition, the right of habitation provides the grantee with a right to have his family and household possessions with him, unless of course the parties have agreed expressly that only the grantee is to live in the property.

This, together with the fact that the right of habitation can be granted without payment, makes the right of habitation an interesting alternative to a lease whenever the intention is to provide a right of use and occupation to a property without causing a financial burden on the occupant.

However, such a scenario may apply only in very limited cases, such as



**PUTTING RIGHTS IN PERSPECTIVE:** Habitation rights should be closely scrutinized before making an investment.

when it involves familial or similar relationships.

Important to understand is that the right of habitation must be registered at the local Land Department office.

Also, the right of habitation is not transferable, not even through inheritance. If the grantee dies, the right cannot be passed on to heirs and the

property must be returned to the grantor.

Further, the fact that the right of habitation can not be transferred means that it does not provide a property with a marketable title that would qualify a property for resale.

Overall, the right of habitation can be an interesting option in cases where a property owner

wants to provide a person with a secured right of use and occupation to a building without causing a financial burden on the occupant.

However, the right seems to be very limited and generally will not qualify as basis for a conventional property investment.

Any person considering using this right should consult legal advice

before entering into any agreement that aims to exercise this right of habitation.

*This article was written by the International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd. Contact Consultant Michael Greth. T: 076-222191-5. E: michael@ilo-phuket.com.*



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# Panwa gets its sexy back



Cape Panwa Hotel is undergoing a three-stage renovation in a bid to rejuvenate its image. The hotel first opened its doors 23 years ago and fast became a favorite among international celebrities. Renovation work is due to finish by October next year.



ANYONE who visited Phuket 20 years ago would hardly recognize the island if they returned today. Hotels, resorts and businesses have mushroomed, and what's left of Phuket's natural beauty leaves a lot to be desired, depending on where you look.

There are still a few hidden gems in spots well out of the tourist mainstream that still promise

visitors a taste of natural splendor. One of them is the Cape Panwa Hotel, which opened its doors 23 years ago and has since hosted superstars, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Elizabeth Taylor, Pierce Brosnan and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

As popular as the hotel has proven to be over the past two decades, times have changed and with it so have style and décor

trends. As comfortable as Cape Panwa Hotel is, traditional western décor is no match in the face of the much younger chic establishments brimming Phuket today. It was with that in mind that the design and architectural team at the seaside hideaway dusted off their drawing boards in a quest to bring the hotel a 350-million-baht revamp to rejuvenate the grand dame's sexy stature.

The renovation kicked off with its three-phase, low-season plan in May last year, and by the time high season arrived in October, Phase One was already complete.

"We took two superior rooms, knocked down the walls and turned it into a 75sqm suite," explained General Manager Claude Sauter.

He added, "We are giving a lot of attention to the choice of

materials, fabric and fittings as we want the rooms to be very comfortable and practical."

With Phase Two of the renovations currently underway, all 120 Cape Suites, 54 Junior Suites and six pool villas are expected to be complete by October next year.

"Phuket has changed a lot since 1987. However, the Panwa area has not changed much and it's still a very charming part of Phuket," said Mr Sauter.

"There comes a time where rooms need to be upgraded. Hotel rooms were much smaller 23 years ago," he added.

"Nowadays, people need more space and bigger bathrooms. We also need to keep up with the competition growing every day."

— Nicky Vermeulen

## Property & Tourism Briefs

### Banyan Tree's first spa

THE award-winning Banyan Tree group, which started out as a single resort in Phuket in 1994, is set to open its first Banyan Tree Spa in Singapore, *treatmentabroad.com* reports.

Founded by the Singaporean husband and wife team of Ho Kwon Ping and Claire Chiang, this is expected to be a fruitful homecoming for the Singapore-headquartered company. Banyan Tree will design and operate the spa and health club on the 55th floor of the spectacular Marina Bay Sands Hotel and Casino. All Banyan Tree spa therapists undergo a training program at the Banyan Tree Spa academies in Phuket, Bangkok and Lijiang, China to ensure a consistently high level of service and quality, the resort company says.

### Special 'summer' rates

OUTRIGGER Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas has announced special rates for guests staying in May or June this year.

The 68-villa Outrigger property is part of the Laguna Destination Resort Phuket at Bang Tao Beach. A two-bedroom villa is 4,000 baht per night, with the three- and four-bedroom pool villas now only 7,000 and 11,000 a night, respectively. The rates include an in-room daily breakfast. In a separate development, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas have joined the JAL "Mileage Bank" program, and are offering 1,000 miles per stay, double the normal miles awarded for stays at the applicable paid rates. The offer expires on December 21, 2010.

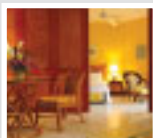
For more news briefs from around Thailand see **NEWS HOUND** at **W: phuketgazette.net**

## laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

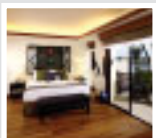
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

### 1 Allamanda Studio THB 6 M



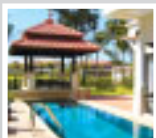
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- rental pool
- golf course view

### 2 Laguna Village Villa THB 13.5 M



- 2-storey 2 beds Villa
- rental pool
- garden view

### 3 Laguna Village Townhome II THB 19.5 M



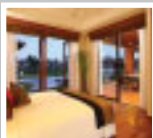
- 2-storey 3 beds Townhome
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### 4 Sheraton Island Villa-Duplex THB 19.9 M



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### 5 Laguna Village Residence I THB 33 M



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ONE of the early articles I cobbled together for this column was on the subject of foliage plants. Some of my recommendations were: Jacob's coat [*acalypha wilkesiana*], the caricature plant [*grapho-phyllum pictum*], the massive families of crotons [*cordia-um variegatum*] and ornamental dracaenas, including cordylines, and the pigeon berry [*duranta repens*]. Both the first and last take the tropical sun in their stride. The rest, true to their jungle origins, will do better in dappled shade where the soil retains some moisture.

Now that my garden, two years on, has more clearly demarcated areas of sun and shade, I can reconfirm those findings. The acalyphas are doing well, despite an initial infestation of white fly, the durantas, now clipped, form a neat yellow-green hedge, and both crotons and dracaenas, in their various manifestations add permanent color to the beds.

I could and should have added polycias [*panax*] to my recommendation. In common with *duranta*, this small shrub is used in Thailand as a hedge, or for formal, background planting. Some cultivars are variegated and have crenulated foliage. Another, the so-called "dinner-plate aralia", has large, distinctive, round green leaves.

Like *duranta*, polycias is hardy and evergreen, can take plenty of direct sun, and responds to pruning. It tends to become scandent if left to its own devices. A very useful plant to have around.

But these are by no means



Like most shade plants, aglaonemas do well in pots. Open source photo: Wikimedia

## Undercover agents

### Shady characters for your Phuket plot

the only characters for your plot. There are other plants, especially the ones nurtured under netting in garden centers, which will only thrive in understory conditions. I now have such conditions.

One of my fiddlewood trees is six meters tall, and provides protection from the sun for most of the day. In its shade, I have planted dieffenbachias [*dumb-cane*], and especially the cultivar, tropic snow, which I find more aesthetically pleasing than the mottled, dark-green variety. It has meant adding extra topsoil, since the fiddlewood is shallow-rooting and takes most of the available nutrients and water.

Like alocasias [*elephant ears*], dieffenbachias will not tolerate high levels of direct sunlight. Placed in its full glare, they will initially respond by pointing their leaves upwards in a protective, sheath-like gesture. With continuous sun the foliage will soon discolor and scorch.

Aglaonemas require similar conditions. After all, they belong to the same family [*araceae*].

Like most of these shade plants, aglaonemas do well in pots, and can even cope with indoor conditions. The most common variety, pictum, is showy enough with its bright green, silver-veined leaves, but Thai growers have been particularly successful at producing new hybrids. I have several specimens, both in shady recesses of the garden and in containers. One aglaonema

pictum is now four feet tall and is growing so fast that it already needs to be divided up. Another, also in a container, has unusual green and salmon-pink foliage.

Under their netting canopies, most good garden centers carry a range of cultivars. They are expensive, but very arresting. Not only will they grow rapidly in moist, shady conditions, but they can be readily propagated

by planting stem cuttings in compost. This brings me to the subject of books, or to be more precise, one book, called *Surath Vanno's Plant Collection*, it encompasses the dedicated work of one Bangkok horticulturist, and features a unique collection of shade-loving plants.

Although it is written in Thai, the book has excellent photographs, botanical names for each specimen, and diagrammatic information about requirements. If you are planning a shade garden, I strongly recommend this publication.

It is informative about many families of foliage plants: especially strong on philodendrons – more than forty varieties are illustrated – on anthuriums, spathiphyllums, marantas, calatheas and bromeliads.

Many of these shady characters are available as cultivars in good plant nurseries around Phuket. And if you want a dash of color, neoregelias, and guzmanias (both members of the *bromeliad clan*) will oblige. Furthermore, since they require little in the way of soil, they can, like orchids, be hung from a tree.

If you are a proud possessor of a Phuket garden that you would like to be featured in these columns, please e-mail me at pcampbell45@gmail.com.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### KAMALA NICE HOUSE



for sale. 2 bedrooms (possibility for 3rd), 2 bathrooms, jacuzzi, dining and living room, kitchen. Fully furnished, aircon, electric gate, all furniture included. 800m from beach, very quiet. 11 million baht. Tel: 086-280 7400, +33-624-483630, +33-490-255386 (nous parlons Français).

### SALE ONLY 2.5 MILLION BAHT

(50,000 EURO). ONE STORY TOWNHOUSE VILLA 3 PARK. Phuket/Chalong. Chanote, 3 bedrooms, new kitchen, 2 bathrooms. Whole new decorated. For visit call at Tel: 081-788 8280 (English), 081-791 1525 (Thai).

### 1/2 RAI CHANOTE LAND

Hill top, near Laguna. For quick sale. Price: 2.4 million baht. Tel: 086-470 5809, 080-695 9665.

### 5-STAR CONDO

for sale. The Height Phuket, ocean, pool and mountain view. Price 19.5 million baht. Best offer. Tel: 086-883 9815.

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### NICE HOUSE 88 SQ WAH



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

### PATONG LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA

Villa in Patong with stunning sea view. Ready to move in, Chanote title. Price: 23 Million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888, 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7051. Email: prim\_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.awphuket.com

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

### NEW HOUSE KHAO LAK



Near Palm Garden Resort, 3 bedrooms, 4 toilets/shower, 6 rai land. Only 12 million baht. Tel: 081-978 0907 for more info. Email: dao019780907kl@yahoo.com

### PATONG CONDOMINIUM

Top quality. 63sqm, 1 bedroom, pool side in the center of Patong. Includes nice furniture. Previously for sale at 5.2 million baht. Now 3.9 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-887 9070.

### 300M BEHIND MAIN STREET

Phisitkorane Sai Namyen Village, Patong. Quiet, natural area. 2 flr house with beautiful garden, 380sqw. Tel: 086-949 3021, 087-509 4936.

### NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

### 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

### 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: drbeamsaw@gmail.com

### PAY IN 5 YEARS NO INTEREST



In Naiham. 4 houses (1 with pool) for sale. Mod style, full chanote. Prices from 8 to 13 million baht. 20% down, rest in 5 terms, 1 a year. Email or phone. Tel: 053-180647, 089-874 4050 (English), 081-271 1082 (Thai). Fax: 053-180646. Email: joswanna@gmail.com

### CONDO FOR SALE



The newly built The Royal Place condo opposite Tesco Lotus bypass. 45 sqm. 3 Fl. at the corner with swimming pool view. 2 balconies. 1 bedrm, 1 bathrm, kitchen (microwave, washing machine, refrigerator) living room, 2 air cons, TV flatron, telephone, cable TV. Share pool, restaurant, laundry service, key card with 24 security and car park. Tel: 086-476 9612.

### 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.

### 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

### 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.

### NEW BRAND CONDO

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

### 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.

### PATONG FREEHOLD CONDO



2 bed, 1 bath unit, 105sqm. Seaview, high floor. Unfurnished. Asking 7.99 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-077-8454 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### 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

### THE ROYAL PLACE

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

### NEW DETACHED HOUSE



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

### 3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

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

### KOH YAO YAI LAND

Beautiful land set among the tropical jungle of the island. While this property is classed as inland, it is positioned a mere 500 metre walk to beautiful sandy beach (Klong Son Bay) of Phang Nga Bay. Nor Sor Sam Kor 5,033 rai of land. Ask price 9.5 MB, includes one (Dusita) Thai house. Tel: 076-289122, 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Email: kasina\_navamachiti@yahoo.com

### 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.

### 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

### LUXURY CONDO REF'B

No.4 sets D'Glazed. Sliding doors. Granite worktop kitchen. No.2 bathrooms, glass shower unit. Tel: 085-788 7352 (English & Thai).

### CONDO IN RESORT

Patong-Kalim, on the beach, 64sqm for 2/4 persons, freehold, luxury, good investment or rental return, all services available. Tel: 089-290 8854 (English & Thai). Email: verhaeghefranc@hotmail.com

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# Property Gazette

## HOUSE IN KAMALA



for sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peach and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.8 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

## NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



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

## LAND FOR SALE

5 rai in Kathu, plus 90 wah on Nanai road, Patong, with stunning mountain view. Tel: 087-883 1756.

## SHOWROOM / COMMERCIAL BLDG

1.5 rai, 2,800-sqm showroom on bypass rd near Thanachart Bank. For lease or sale. Tel: 081-787 2201. 081-597 8315. for more info, please e-mail phuket1988@hotmail.com

## PHUKET HOUSE & OFFICE

Living room, 5 bedrooms, 1 Office, 4 WCs with shower, 1 business room, 1 store, 1 garden house. Asking price: 13 million baht. Email: khonkaener@hotmail.ch http://www.thai-swiss.ch/Immobilien.immobilien.0.html?&L=0

## SURIN BEACH

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

## POOL VILLA URGENT SALE

350sqm villa. 4 floors in the mountain above Amari Coral Beach Resort, Patong. Garden of 800sqm with 10x5m pool. Carport, huge aquarium. Sea-view from 3rd and 4th floors. Urgent sale required. Reasonable bids will be considered. Tel: 076-292214, 081-979 3860. Email: steen8jansen@gmail.com

## SHOPHOUSE AT SURIN BEACH

3 storey shophouse on Surin beach for sale, good location. Price 17 million baht. Contact Khun Nantana at Tel: 084-261 1161.

## 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

## BAAN BAI MAI



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

## 300M BEHIND MAIN STREET

Phisitkorane Sai Namyen Village, Patong. Quiet, natural area. 2 flr house with beautiful garden, 380sqm. Tel: 086-949 3021, 087-509 4936.

## BEACH LAND KHAO LAK 5 RAI

Beautiful 5 rai of Chanote land. 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

## 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.

## HOUSE & BUSINESS RAWAI

Land and house with 2 successful businesses (Laundry and Coffee Shop) for sale. Good location between Nai Harn and Rawai in developing area. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388484, 081-891 3264 (English & Thai). Email: bergman.brittmarie@telia.com

## TWO NICE VILLAS

Two nice villas from private party. In Nai Harn: 1,600sqm. And in Chalong: 740sqm. See link to website below for details. Tel: 087-823 7371. Email: holgersaupe750@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sophia-phuket.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.

## 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.

## 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS HOUSE

or sale. Preusachart Lakeview, Land and Houses Park. Beautiful, peaceful setting on the lagoon. Fully furnished with quality new and antique pieces, 3 double bedrooms, 1 ensuite with jacuzzi. Maid room and covered washing area. Email for full details and pictures to: lowprofile@mail.com

## 2 BEDROOM HOUSE

Tel: +61-4-2917 3103, 087-269 6236 (English), +45-40-294645 (English). Email: cns7620@gmail.com For further details, please see the sales website at: http://simplesite.com/cns

## APARTMENT IN NAI HARN

for sale. Palm Beach Resort, 102sqm, private owner free hold, new top floor, 2 bedrooms, swimming pool, fitness, mini tennis club house, security in Nai Harn, minutes to beach. 5.7 million baht. Tel: 089-593 6815. Email: shmaen2006@hotmail.it

## 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.

## NEW TEAK HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 84/460sqm, terrace + pool! From 5.9 million baht. Land plot near Boat Lagoon. Construction time: 3 months! Tel: 076-325085, 086-281 1264 (English). Email: ts-teak@contexphuket.com

## POOLSIDE APT, RAWAI

Nai Harn. Big 1 bed apartment with balcony: 1.75 million baht. Or 2 beds, 2 baths in a penthouse with, roof terrace and stunning seaviews: 4.9 million baht. Finance available. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

## CHALONG PRIME INVESTMENT

30 rai flat land, 4 million baht per rai. 1km from Chalong Temple. Tel: 081-719 2984.

## KATHU LUXURY POOL VILLA



10 mins from Patong, 2 bedroom villa. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 076-321454, 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Fax: 076-323724. Email: cottages@botanvillage.com For further details please see our website at www.phuket-cottages.com

## BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

## HOUSE IN SOI SAIYUAN

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with swimming pool fully furnished 9.5 million. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

## FREEHOLD FINISHED CONDO

2 bed, 1 bath, 105sqm furnished condo. Asking 8.49 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English), 081-137 1001 (Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

## BEACHFRONT PANORAMIC



seaview. 27 rai with chanote title, 230m from beachfront. 14 rai connect with 13 rai on hill, beautiful sunset, electricity, asphalt road. 40 mins to Krabi airport Lanta Krabi. 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-892 1072. Email: farmar5@hotmail.com

## 3 RAI SEAVIEW

Beautiful seaview, land plot, near Mission Hills Golf Course, 3 rai. Sale direct from owner. 9.5 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

## QUICK SALE HOUSE IN CHALONG

94sq wah, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 car park, big garden, full furnished. Price 4.5 million baht. Tel: 087-886 4208.

## FREEHOLD FINISHED CONDO

2 bed, 1 bath, 105sqm furnished condo. Asking 8.49 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English), 081-137 1001 (Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

## 5-STAR CONDO

for sale. The Height Phuket, ocean, pool and mountain view. Price 19.5 million baht. Best offer. Tel: 086-883 9815.

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING

4 1/2 story commercial building, 3,423sqm. Phuket Town. 1 rai of freehold land. 120 million baht. Contact Robin. Tel: 081-803 7189. Email: robinbglee@gmail.com

## TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG



Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: Bt10.2mil. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: penprapa2526@gmail.com

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# Property Gazette

## LAND IN KATHU



Near the Loch Palm Golf Course. 600sqm. 2,600,000 baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-7247211 (English), 080-5224433 (Thai). Fax: 076-323724. Email: info@botanvillage.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.

## PATONG TOWER URGENT SALE

Freehold, lease hold. Start 4.7 million baht. Tel: 081-8782199. Email: orso.realestate@gmail.com

## NEW HOUSE KAMALA BEACH

Western style, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, fully furnished, aircon, phone, ADSL, quiet. Mountain view, close to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-6453546.

## 2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 076-522938, 087-6899679, 089-5885458. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

## PIECE OF LAND - RAWAI

Nice piece of land in Rawai. 5 rai. Chanote. Price: 7million baht/rai. Straight from first owner! Tel: 089-592 1869. Email: sara@futuregraphics.be

## PIECE OF LAND - RAWAI

Nice piece of land in Rawai. 1 rai. Chanote. Price: 6.5 million baht/rai. Straight from first owner! Tel: 089-592 1869. Email: sara@futuregraphics.be

## PIECE OF LAND - CHALONG

Nice piece of land with golf view in Chalong! 77 rai. Chanote. Price: 7.5 million baht/rai. Straight from first owner! Tel: 089-592 1869. Email: sara@futuregraphics.be

## 74 SQM CONDO: 1.7 MILLION BAHT

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 3 aircon units. Located in Phuket Town. Tel: 085-782 8881 (English & Thai), 081-895 6629 (English & Thai). Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

## 6-YEAR FINANCING AVAILABLE



Rawai Beach sale. 12 million baht. 648sqm. Land, bar, hotel 9 rooms. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

## BEACH FRONT VILLA

In Chalong, directly on the beach. 3 bedrooms, pool and furniture. Price only 49 million baht. Tel: 087-209 5174.

## NAI YANG GARDEN VILLA

Land 1 rai with 4 houses, 7 bedrooms and bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, 2km to beach, 5km to airport. Sale price only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-691 9346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

## CHEAP PATONG POOL

Villa 6 with sea view, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 2 kitchens. Quick sale. Price: 4 million baht only, sold before at 12 million baht. Tel: 087-053 6016.

## SELLER FINANCE RAWAI/NAIHARN

Spacious 1 bedroom apartment, separate living, private balcony, views, furnished, pool. Buy for 180,000 baht down and 15,800 per month. Tel: 086-684 5368, 086-684 5368 (English). Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

## PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

Koh Klang Lanta Krabi. 27 rai, Chanote title 2.7 million baht per rai. Electric present, asphalt road. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING

4 1/2 story commercial building, 3,423 sqm. Phuket Town. 1 rai of freehold land. 120 million baht. Contact Robin. Tel: 081-803 7189. Email: robinbglee@gmail.com

## BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrung school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

## NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



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

## RAWAI HOUSE

2-story, 3-bed, 3-bath house with self contained Bungalow on 720 sq meters of land in a quiet part of Rawai. 6.8 million baht. No agents, please. Tel: 087-628 3673 (Thai), 081-078 1112 (English). Email: islanderbar3@hotmail.com

## KATA OCEAN VIEW 4.9 MTB

Luxury, 90sqm. Click link below for more details. Tel: +1-408-627 5793. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com

## LAND AT PATONG BEACH

Cheap land for sale at North end of Patong Beach. Has access road, good water supply, and underground utilities. Very quiet, natural location, 2 mins to beach. Land plots range from 500sqm to 1,400sqm. Part of an existing small development. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 3BR, 3A/C: 20,000B RENT / SALE

fully furn & appliances. Tel: 083-299 7257 (English & Thai), 086-465 4674 (English & Thai). Email: cphotosom@hotmail.com See details, pictures & map at www.ddproperty.com/property/show/22800

## KAMALA BEACH

New apartments and houses, furnished Western style, aircon, cable, internet, quiet, security. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

## URGENT SALE

Beautiful, seaview, land plot, near Mission Hills, 3 rai. Sale direct from owner. 9.5 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

## NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



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

## TOWNHOUSE 2 STOREY



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

## SURIN APARTMENT

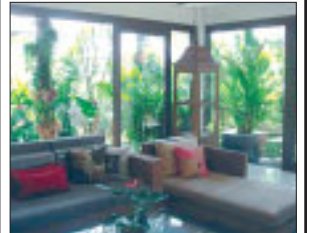
150m from the beach. 1 b/r, pool access. Great view. 4.99 million baht. Call or mail for further details. Tel: 02-076350. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

## PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

## HOME NEAR LAGUNA 3.9 MILLION BAHT



near Laguna. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Open plan kitchen, living room. The villa is fully air conditioned and furnished. 360sqm. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach and 5 minutes to Laguna. Tel: 089-813 1447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com

## PORNSAWAN CONDO

Studio condo. 1.35 million baht. 63.72sqm, 1 bedroom, 2 bathroom, living room, 2 aircons, kitchen, furniture built in. Tel: 081-6764195.

## LAND ON ISLAND

1 rai on Koh Phayam, Ranong. 300 meters from the beach, beautiful island ready for business. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 089-021 9504. For further details, please see our website at www.kkaowyalresort.com

## LAND, NANAI ROAD

for sale. Patong, high mountain views over Patong Bay. 4.5 million baht. Ideal for development. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

## 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

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# Boats & Marine

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Yacht Haven Marina Office  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
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mobile: 081 891 3237  
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Pattaya Office  
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach  
Contact: Mark Heath  
mobile: 081 787 9408  
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email: mark@leemarine.net

## SPEED BOAT 130HP IN/OUT

For sale, Bayliner 19ft/6m/2006. Only 35 hours, white, like new, include GPS, depth finder, trailer. Price: 790,000 baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

## 23M BOAT

5.5 million baht, can be used as tour boat or house boat, 6 bathrooms, 6 bedrooms, salon all aircon, etc. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 23M BOAT FOR SALE

2 x 350Hp Cummins, 2 gensets. Ideal for diving/day cruise, can also easily be converted to private yacht. Price negotiable. For more information, contact Phil. Tel: 084-017 4175. Email: admin@philkade.com For further details, please see our website at www.atitara.com

## 55-FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

6 double cabins, 105sqm sails, 2009 in composite, not finished. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

## JEANNEAU 35 (2003)

Equipped, ready to sail away. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

## 8M SAILING CATAMARAN

Open bridge, wood, epoxy-fiberglass composite. 15HP Yamaha. All 2 years old, anti-fouling new in 2010. Good condition and ready to sail. Equipped with 6 fishing rods + holders. 2 cabins and storage place. Price: 12,000 euros. Tel: 082-413 0969 (English & Thai). Email: stier@net-print.de

## SELLING YOUR BOAT?

Try www.boatshedphuket.com The "No sale, No fee" brokers. Call Alan Tel: 084-842 6146.

## FORMULA 353 FASTEC

Twin 425Hp Mercruisers 57 knots, dealer stock boat guaranteed US\$185,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

## GRP RUNABOUT (2008)

4.5m long, 30Hp Yamaha ropes, fenders, lifejackets, etc. 180,000 baht. Tel: 084-842 6146. For further details: www.boatshedphuket.com

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33' Neptunian. Recent paint/varnish, inside and outside. Many new parts. Blue water cruiser. Sailed single-handed from UK. Excellent condition. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

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Scandinavian quality yacht, full racing sails, Price US\$139,950. www.boatshedphuket.com

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Fast cruising catamaran reduced to AUS\$185,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

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1 pair, new, perfect condition. Price: 500 euros for one, or 900 euros for both. Tel: 082-413 0969. Email: stier@net-print.de

## SARINA BOATYARD

Boat storage for boats up to 12 meters long. 2km from Toyota Pearl, first U-turn, left 7-Eleven, follow the sign. Contact Ped. Tel: 086-940 3927.

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Great condition, just refitted, US\$119,950. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

## REGAL 3560 (2004)

Great condition, low hours, end of season bargain: US\$149,950. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

## SPEED BOAT 21 FEET

Fiberglass, blue book, trailer complete marine, equipment need new engine. 100,000 baht. Tel: 087-850 0722.

## PEARSON COUNTESS (1970)

reduced to only US\$89,000. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

## DUNCANSON 30 (1996)

Cruising & racing sails. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

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One-day tour 110,000+ baht. Price includes captain, crew, cook, snorkeling & fishing equipment. Tel: 076-238976, 02-814-4070 ext 156. Contact for more detail at email: sales@sunnay.com. Or visit our website at: www.sunnay.com

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No nonsense blue water steel yacht, full refit 2007. For further details, please see our website www.boatshedphuket.com

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## 6.5M FIBERGLASS BOAT 200HP

Register for 8+2 people. Boat and engine from 2002. Perfect for watersport, fishing and transport. 250,000 baht. Tel: 085-690 9902 (English). Contact for more details. Email: s.enghamre@telia.com

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# Island Job Mart



The Bell Pool Villa Resort in Kamala, Phuket is an all pool villa resort that concentrates on providing 5 star service to all its guests. Ultimate luxury combined with complete privacy are the principles that The Bell Pool Villa Resort strives to achieve every day, ensuring that each guest has a memorable experience that cannot be matched.

The Bell is currently looking for the following professionals:

#### Front Office

- Front Office Manager
- Guest Service Agent Supervisor
- Guest Service Agent
- Bell Boy & Driver

#### Kitchen

- Executive Chef
- Commis I
- Commis II
- Steward

#### Administration

- Sales
- Housekeeping
- Housekeeping Clerk
- Room Attendant

#### Butler

- Butler

Please forward your CV or contact our Human Resources Dept.  
Contact details below:

The Bell Pool Villa Resort,  
41/31 Moo 5, Baan Hua Khuan,  
Sri Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83120

Tel: + 66 (0) 76-279914 Fax: + 66 (0) 76-279412  
E-mail: hr@TheBellphuket.com  
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High end, mid-size Villa development with panoramic views of the Phuket West coast, THE VILLAS OVERLOOKING LAYAN is seeking a qualified professional to join their team.

### PROPERTY SERVICE EXECUTIVE

#### Responsibilities:

Look after all aspects of property management and related areas, customer service as well as related administrative work, reporting directly to the Managing Director.

#### Qualifications:

- Highly motivated, outgoing personality
- Good command of English language
- Strong administrative background
- Able to interact with foreign villa owners
- Accounting background an advantage
- Thai National, female

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate

Send your resume with recent photo to:

Info@thevillasoverlookinglayan.com www.thevillasoverlookinglayan.com

## CLX ASIA

Our client, CLX Group, is one of the world's leading prepress companies from Europe. The group maintains a strong international position in color management and image retouching for the prepress production of catalogs, magazines, and advertising campaigns.

With over 35 years of experience, CLX has witnessed numerous technological developments. It combines its deep knowledge of the business with cutting-edge technologies and provides organizational and technological solutions to optimize media production processes. The Phuket operations have been well established and are growing well.

With the recent expansion plan, our client would like to fill the following positions to support their Phuket operation:

### Production Supervisor (1 position)

Responsible for quality control and managing the assigned production team in Phuket to ensure projects are delivered to clients within timescales and to the quality expected.

#### Requirements:

- English and Thai language skills are a must.
- At least 3 years of experience in managing a small retouch team. Good QC experience is a must.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to provide quality control.
- Must have good interpersonal, people management and communication skills.

### Assistant Production Supervisor (5 positions)

Responsible for proofing and maintaining the quality of images and data. Work closely with the production team in Asia and Europe to ensure projects are delivered to clients within timescales and to the quality expected.

#### Requirements:

- English is a plus, but not necessary.
- At least 5 years of experience in photo retouching within the prepress industry. Good QC experience is a plus.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to provide quality control.

### Retouch Operator (15 positions)

Responsible for image retouching, color correction, or compositing on assigned projects. Duties also include production support related projects. Work with the management and production team to achieve desired results.

#### Requirements:

- English is a plus, but not necessary.
- At least 2 years of experience in photo retouching within the prepress industry.
- Strong attention to detail.

#### Requirements for all positions:

- Thai nationality only.
- Must have a solid understanding of color and image retouching and demonstrate extensive knowledge in Photoshop (Mac) and be comfortable working in a very multi-functional, hands-on role.
- Must have a proven ability to organize and manage multiple projects simultaneously.
- Highly self-motivated and willing to work towards tight deadlines.
- Proactive and assertive to work with the team. Must also fit in with the CLX Asia's culture – an energetic, fast paced, youthful and people oriented approach.

CLX Asia offers excellent benefits including highly competitive salary and a very supportive work environment. If you are enthusiastic about a prepress profession and desire a working environment where your skills can be developed and supported, please state which role you are interested in and email your CV and a covering letter to: [resumes@premediajobs.com](mailto:resumes@premediajobs.com)

For more information, please visit [www.premediajobs.com](http://www.premediajobs.com)

Premedia JOBS

We are part of an established and diversified group of companies involved in the business of hotels and resorts, travel and property development.

We seek results – orientated individuals to join our team as:

## PROJECT MANAGER (Phuket)

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- ▶ Possess Degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Building Science or equivalent professional qualification
- ▶ Minimum 6 years hands-on working experience in property development and building construction
- ▶ Able to lead a team of consultants and contractors effectively
- ▶ Strong project management skills with experience in managing multi-disciplined projects
- ▶ A team player with good interpersonal skills and high level of integrity
- ▶ Computer literate with good knowledge of planning software and presentation tools
- ▶ Willing to be stationed at Phuket project sites

Interested candidates are invited to e-mail resume stating present and expected salary to [sao-narak@hotmail.com](mailto:sao-narak@hotmail.com)

### RECEPTIONIST KATA

Female, Thai national with good English skills. Must be reliable. Call for more info. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### NANNY IN FRANCE

French family, 3 children need a nanny/maid for their return to France in July. Good English necessary. 1 month trial in Phuket. For more information, please send email: [nanny\\_france@yahoo.com](mailto:nanny_france@yahoo.com)

### HOUSE-MAID WANTED

Looking for a house-maid to help with cleaning, washing, ironing, cooking, cutting the grass, cleaning the pool etc. Needs to speak English and own a vehicle. 9 hrs/day. 6 days/week. Payment: 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-956 9903. Email: [office@sunbeam-management.com](mailto:office@sunbeam-management.com)

### PART-TIME ASSISTANT

Must be fluent in English, needed for finding and buying materials for a boat that is being built. Contact Gunner.Tel: 089-287 4007.

### SALESPERSON FOOD PRODUCTS

Thai national, experienced in sales, fluent English. Must have a car. Contact George. Tel: 082-790 5143.

### VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TEACHERS

Non-profit organization Xin Xay Neo Foundation is looking for volunteer retired English teachers whose first language is English and love to help kindergarten and grades 1-6 students speak English in public schools in Klog Koi, Phang Nga. 1-3 days a week. Expenses paid. Call Khun Tawat. Tel: 084-059 5957.

### THAI MAID WANTED

to work in house in Hong Kong. Required Sept 2010 to work for mature couple in Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong. Must be fond of dogs and cooking. Only basic English required. Excellent conditions. Interview can be arranged in Phuket. Tel +001-852-9468 6499. Fax: +001-852-2849 8448. Email: [jdwyer@netvigator.com](mailto:jdwyer@netvigator.com)

### FARANG LIVING IN PHUKET

is looking for part-time secretary with computer knowledge Thai-English. if possible with driving license. Please contact me by email: [maurice.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:maurice.phuket@gmail.com)

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## Anantara Phuket Villas, Mai Khao Beach



If you enjoy being the best and are a technical expert in your area then come be a part of the Anantara story. We are looking for the following professionals to join us.

### Chief Engineer

#### Job qualifications

1. Engineering Science bachelor or masters degree required
2. Age 35 years and up, proactive with a pleasant personality
3. Prefer 5 to 7 years experience with property control and operations in 5-star resort
4. Experience in development and implementation of policies for the establishment and good in technical skills
5. Good leadership and management skills and knowledge of day-to-day operations
6. Very good command of English both written and spoken

We enjoy a 5-day work week (average 45-hours per week) and free transport to and from Phuket Town.

As part of our recruitment process you will be assessed on your level of English - This is a key skill for all of our team.

Please submit your CV with cover letter stating the position you are applying to  
Email address [recruit\\_phuket@anantara.com](mailto:recruit_phuket@anantara.com)

Contact Human Resources Department,  
Anantara Phuket Villas

Tel: + 66 (0) 76 336100 Ext.552-553| Fax: + 66 (0) 76336166

Good Luck with your application!

### LOOKING FOR NANNY

To take care of my 18 month old son. Must love kids. Tel: 089-874 6170.

### FREELANCE WRITER

Freelance writer required. Must be experienced and have first class English writing skills. Massive projects, regular work in Phuket, Samui and Krabi. Send full CV by email, please. Immediate start, must be mobile. Travel and Tourism projects, Villa rental company (1.5 baht per word). Email: [sales@thailandholidayhomes.co.uk](mailto:sales@thailandholidayhomes.co.uk) For further details, please see our website at [www.thailandholidayhomes.co.uk](http://www.thailandholidayhomes.co.uk)

### EXPAT CHEF DE CUISINE

Impiana Hotel KLCC, Malaysia is looking for an Expat Chef de Cuisine (Western cuisine). Attractive package & benefits. For further details, please contact. Tel: +60-3-2147 1008. Or send email to: [sunita.kaur@impiana.com](mailto:sunita.kaur@impiana.com)

### CONDO MANAGER REQUIRED

To manage a new 25-unit condo in Rawai. Must be experienced, fluent in Thai and English. Salary: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-801 3445, 081-090 1805.

### ENGLISH TEACHER WANTED

Graduate Degree + TEFL (F.T.) Salary: 30,000 baht per month. Contact Koy. Tel: 081-788 0911. Email: [swpk\\_mlp@yahoo.com](mailto:swpk_mlp@yahoo.com)

### KRABI ENGLISH SPEAKERS NEED

- Project Manager  
- Site Foreman  
- Reception Manager  
- Housekeeper Supervisor.  
Tel: 081-375 6234. Email: [pbs@tharaheight.net](mailto:pbs@tharaheight.net)

### NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female caucasian to teach class of 10-12 students. 3-6 year old children. Chalong, Mon-Fri 8am.-4pm. Start May 1. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: [phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com)

### URGENTLY REQUIRED

Coordinator:

- Thai nationality (male/female)
  - Good command of spoken & written English essential
  - Experience in community service and sourcing for overseas funding
  - Computer and Website literate.
- Tel: 076-614060, 081-397 9809 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-614060. Email: [joojee88@yahoo.com](mailto:joojee88@yahoo.com)

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR

Varied role for self motivated Thai National with strong communication skills; good command of written and spoken English a must. Experienced on Word & Excel with the ability to create reports. Involves administration of staff hours, holidays, etc, overseeing of purchasing & housekeeping dept, dealing with local administrations. Drivers license a plus. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Or send email to: [zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com](mailto:zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com)

### CAN YOU SELL?

We are searching for top-class sales people to join our marketing team. Fluent English skills and driving license essential. If you think you can sell contact me. Tel: 076-527565. Email: [info@phuketooceanvillas.com](mailto:info@phuketooceanvillas.com)

### Employment Wanted

### NANNY AND HOUSEKEEPER

Thai lady, 35 years old, 10 years experience with farang families. Has experience overseas, and with children of all ages. Can do Thai cooking, cleaning, has a driver's license and reference predicate. Can go abroad. Tel: 081-477 7197. Or send email to: [meaw\\_phuket@hotmail.com](mailto:meaw_phuket@hotmail.com)

### NEED A MAID?

employment agency has maids available, full time, live-in/ live-out or for periodic cleaning. English speaking. Contact Anong. Tel: 088-442 8032 (Thai). Contact Fon. Tel: 088-442 8027 (Eng).

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## 150 MILLION BAHT PROJECT

in Nai Harn, seek 50% partner with 25 million baht. Tel: 085-792 0908.

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Restaurant & bar for sale or lease. Good location on Koh Lanta. Cheap, cheap deal. Want quick sale! Tel: 086-974 3085 (English & Thai). Email: kohlantatthebritcafe@yahoo.com

## GUESTHOUSE KAMALA

10 min north of Patong, 4 rooms, bar, restaurant, staff, apartment, UBC, cable, hot water, aircon, shower, safe in each room. Offer near 1.5 million baht. Tel: 089-971 6120.

## SHOP HOUSE IN KATHU

for rent. 4 floors, 4 aircon. Fully furnished apartment on third floor. Very good location only 26,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-432 6587.

## BEAUTY SHOP PATONG

Nail & beauty shop and equipment. Banzan street. 2.5 year contract. Tel: 089-504 8882.

## INTERNET CAFE FOR SALE

Near Prince of Songkla University. Shop with small built-in bedroom. Only 250,000 baht. Call for more details at the number: 080-698 0873.

## ROOFTOP RESTAURANT FOR RENT

on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

## SHOP + 2 FURNISHED APTS

Take over lease contract (expires 11/2011). Key money: 150,000 baht. Furnished apts. 20,000 baht deposit, 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-277 5743 (English). Email: mb@is-internetservice.com

## SPEED BOAT COMPANY

One 35-foot speedboat with 2 engines, a unique design and big sound system. Plus fully equipped office in Boat Lagoon. Must see. 3.25 million baht. Tel: 083-102 5444 (English & Thai), 087-035 9241 (English). Email: yellowsharktour@hotmail.com

## 500,000 BAHT GUESTHOUSE

Located Patong, Nanai Rd/Banzaan Rd, next to 7-Eleven. 3 rooms with fans, 3 a/c rooms, beauty salon at bottom, separate entrance to room. 90,000 deposit, no key money. Rent 35,000 baht, 3 years lease left. Contact Mats or Tab. Tel: 081-787 2573 or 085-795 2101.

## SALE SHOP PATONG BEACH

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## AVIATION BUSINESS

Interested in starting or investing in an aviation business in Thailand? We can help. Professional, fast, economical and most importantly, bureaucratic-hassle free. Email: aeroprothai@yahoo.com

## BAR FOR SALE

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## 11<sup>TH</sup> CHILDWATCH CHARITY GOLF DAY

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