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The Nation

INSIDE

Getting Sky High



Keep an eye on the sky for the Phuket Fun Fly this weekend.

Page 7

NEWS: Entertainment zones under review; Bypass flyover plan pipped by tunnel; Smoke-free Saphan Hin. **Pages 2 - 4**

LIFESTYLE: Phuket Mermaid bikinis make a splash at Miss Tiffany's. **Page 8**

PEOPLE: Premier League manager Roberto Di Matteo talks sports in Phuket. **Page 10**

AROUND THE NATION 5; AROUND THE ISLAND 6; CULTURE 9; EXPAT GALLERY 11; HAPPENINGS 12; WHAT'S ON 15; BUSINESS 16; TAKE A BREAK 17 & 18; BOOKS & HOROSCOPES 19; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 20; FIRST PERSON, ISSUES & ANSWERS 21; SPORT 22 & 23; PROPERTY WATCH 24; CONSTRUCTION UPDATE 25; EARTH MATTERS 26 PROPERTY 27; CLASSIFIED Ads 28-39.

Safe despite the chaos

THROUGHOUT the recent mayhem in the capital life has largely gone on as normal in Phuket, although fears for the impact of the riots on the local tourism industry remain a top concern.

Days of rioting in Bangkok culminated in the surrender of 'red shirt' United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) leaders on May 19. But rather than spelling the endgame to the drama, the surrender enraged other red shirts, who rioted in the streets of the capital.

They set fire to at least 30 buildings. The enormous Central World shopping complex was gutted by flames and partially collapsed.

The attacks spread across the country, with provincial halls in at least four UDD stronghold provinces set on fire.

Speaking to the *Gazette* on the morning of May 20, Phuket Vice Governor Smith Palawatvichai said he didn't think there was a serious risk of Phuket Provincial Hall meeting a similar fate, but said security had been beefed up as a precaution.

Provincial Hall normally has three night security guards, but Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop has ordered eight more members of the Phuket Provincial Volunteer Security Forces to stand guard throughout the weekend.

At the nearby Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, a fire engine with water cannon was on standby, along with emergency rescue vehicles fitted with spotlights and other emergency equipment.

The governor ordered provincial police to seek out and act on any news or intelligence related to security threats.

Despite these and other precautions, Phuket is far from the provinces where a state of emergency is in effect and no trouble is



NATION'S PAIN: A soldier assists a red-shirt protester in downtown Bangkok on May 20. AFP PHOTO/PEDRO UGARTE

expected here, V/Gov Smith said.

Schools, government offices and banks in Bangkok were ordered to close and a night curfew was ordered in the capital and 22 other provinces until Saturday.

In the face of the troubling images from Bangkok being broadcast around the world, local tourism industry experts are doing their best to get out the message that Phuket is still safe.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Somboon Chirayus said his association would try to instill confidence among potential first-time travelers that Phuket remains peaceful.

The PTA on May 19 asked Gov Wichai to draft a letter to reassure potential overseas visitors that travel to Phuket is still safe.

The letter has been sent to Tourism Authority of Thailand offices abroad, as well as foreign offices of THAI Airways and other travel industry operators, he said.

The events in Bangkok should be less of a deterrent to

repeat visitors to Phuket who know the geography of Thailand well, he said.

Mr Somboon said he thought the impact on existing bookings "would not be that significant", but the number of new bookings would drop.

A source at Phuket International Airport told the *Gazette* on the morning of May 20 that five Phuket to Bangkok flights had been canceled that day, three by THAI Airways and two by AirAsia.

A total of four late-night flights to China and Korea were also canceled the same day by carriers China Eastern Airlines, Jeju Air and Shinghai Air.

International flights between Phuket and destinations in Europe were unaffected, with no reports of cancellations, the source said.

Wolfgang Meusberger, general manager of Holiday Inn Phuket, said he thought Thailand's reputation had been "pretty badly damaged" in the short term.

"At our hotel, the people who have been here before and who love Thailand are still coming, either through Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore," he said.

"New bookings are falling, though for us they haven't fallen too much. May, June and September traditionally have the lowest number of bookings, so I think we will need to wait until the next high season to find out the full impact," he said.

"But with 47 countries having issued travel warnings against Thailand, it will take some time. Everyone right now has a 'wait and see' attitude and as a hotelier I fully understand. People who haven't been to Thailand before are sitting at home watching the images on TV and asking themselves 'Do we go to Thailand this year?' and they're saying, 'Let's wait and see'."

"I have not heard of anyone in Phuket benefiting from the problems in Bangkok. Singapore, KL and maybe even Vietnam, but not Phuket.

Several major events scheduled for Phuket will go on as planned. Forty-five of 50 pilots scheduled to take part in the Phuket Fun Fly parasailing event in Rawai this weekend will still participate, event organizers say.

Scott Rosenberg, organizer of Phuket Film Festival 2010 that starts June 4, said his event would be "just as big and great as before", despite some logistical problems.

Michael Ayling, managing director of Laguna Resorts and Hotels Plc, confirmed that the Laguna Phuket International Marathon would go on as planned on June 13.

Patrick Cotter of Phuket Vagabonds RFC confirmed that the Rugby 10s tournament on May 28 and 29 would also go ahead as planned.

- *Gazette staff*

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New 'entertainment zones' mulled

IN a bid to stimulate the tourism economy, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) is considering adding to the number of areas classified as special entertainment zones in Phuket and other Thai provinces.

The island currently has two entertainment zones, where venues with the correct permits are allowed to stay open until 2am, instead of the usual 1am closing time.

These are Soi Bangla in Patong and Taina Road in Kata.

Amornrit Emapanan, director of Department of Provincial Administration's (Dopa's) Order and Maintenance Division 3, raised the possibility of adding extra zones at a meeting with Phuket entertainment business operators at the Katina Hotel in Wichit on April 23.

About 200 people attended. Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul was receptive to the idea.

"It's a good opportunity to allow operators to run their businesses legally. We've found that there are some places that remain open after hours. Entertainment zoning in Muang District is too limited," he said.

However adding zones would require careful consideration, he said.

"We have to decide if the place is suitable or not. For example, I think Phuket Town



BANGLA ROAD: Will Patong's famous entertainment strip soon have more competition for late night revellers?

should be conserved as an area for sightseeing, rather than noisy because of lots of bars," he said.

Vigrom Jarkti, chief of the Phuket Provincial Office branch responsible for ensuring that MoI directives are implemented at the provincial level, said increasing the number of zones was not yet official MoI policy – but it is under consideration.

"Some areas deserve to be entertainment zones," he said.

"We'll have a board meeting on zoning expansion as soon as we get the signal from the ministry," he said.

There should be a public hearing before any expansion, he added.

Weerawit Kurasombat, president of Patong Entertainment Business Association, said that going out late at night was standard for tourists.

"If the bars and clubs closed early they would go on drinking at the beach and that would cause problems such as rubbish and crime," he said.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhabaan said he thought that all of Patong should be classified as an entertainment

zone, but with much stricter enforcement of regulations restricting the sale of alcohol near schools, places of worship and student dormitories.

"Actually the zoning area in Patong was unclear from the beginning, because by law entertainment venues should not be located close to temples, schools or mosques, but in Patong they are everywhere," he said.

Restricting the Patong entertainment zone to Soi Bangla and its side-sois also gave an unfair advantage to a handful of property owners who rent out bars in

the area and are able to charge higher rent for them, he said.

One expat resident of Nanai Road in Patong, who asked to remain anonymous, told the *Gazette* he didn't think adding new zones would make much of a difference because existing zoning regulations are so poorly enforced – especially with regard to noise pollution.

"My concern is the back road, near Jungceylon and Banzan Market. There is a new development opposite Carrefour with a big sign over the entrance that says 'OTOP'. They have music fairs now every month which last for 10 days at a time on a stage with live bands and synthesized music played at night. I live on Nanai Road and when these shows are underway the music is extremely loud and reverberates all over Nanai. It goes on until 3am or later," he said.

Deputy Mayor Chairat said he was well aware of the problem, which has caused complaints not just to the municipality but also to the Governor's office.

"The area is close to a residential neighborhood, so of course it disturbs people who live there. The municipality has sent them a warning and even went to check, but they still do it. Anyway it's not very often that they have concerts there," he said.

– *Sitthipong Nongkaew and Stephen Fein*

Crash suspects hand themselves in

TWO men wanted for their involvement in a deadly crash on the bypass road earlier this month have reported to police, but only one accepts that his negligence might have played a role in the collision that claimed the lives of a young couple from Kathu.

Phuket City Police duty officer Thada Sodararak said that truck driver Faosi Samakij, 30, and Korean national Lee Joong Park, 40, will both face charges for their part in the accident.

Mr Faosi turned himself in

at Phuket City Police Station on May 14, telling police he was not drunk at the time and that as a Muslim he does not drink alcohol, Lt Thada said.

"He said that before the accident his brother was on the road waving to drivers to alert them that the 18-wheeler was backing out across the bypass road," he said.

Mr Faosi said the victims had stopped their bike to wait when Mr Park's car ran into them before crossing over the median strip, hitting an oncoming car and overturning.

Mr Faosi has confessed to charges of negligent driving resulting in the death of another, but the Korean has denied similar charges, he added.

The families of the two victims, 18-year-old Panatda Butrasan and 22-year-old Witthaya Kwianyon, are expected to demand hundreds of thousands of baht in compensation from the men.

As they are not considered flight risks, neither man has been incarcerated, though Mr Park's passport is being held.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*

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THE SCENE: Broken flower pots and bloodstains mark the area where the deadly confrontation took place.

Cops nab deadly dad

AFATHER lying wounded in a Phuket hospital faces a murder charge after allegedly shooting a young man who had a dispute with his son.

Withun Khonsakul, 58, allegedly shot 24-year-old Anurak Pawatkunawat around 6pm on May 16. Mr Anurak later died in Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Phuket City Police Duty Officer Teerawat Amnartjarernying arrived at the scene, outside a house in the Irawadee Village housing estate off Sakdidet Road in Wichit Village 6, at around 6:30pm.

He found Mr Anurak lying on the ground with bullet wounds to the chest and waist.

Witnesses said the victim appeared at Mr Withun's house with a gang of youths looking to fight Mr Withun's son, 22-year-old Suchin Khonsakul.

The gang refused to believe Mr Withun when he told them his son was not at home.

After Mr Withun pulled out a gun to scare them away, Mr Anurak challenged him to shoot. The older man allegedly shot him three times.

A witness said Mr Anurak's 16-year-old brother slashed Mr Withun on the arms and wrist before fleeing with the other gang members. Mr Withun tried to shoot him too, but missed.

— *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

Flyover plans go underground

A PLANNED flyover at the Darasamuth Intersection near Central Festival Phuket will become a 'flyunder', if the project consultants get their way.

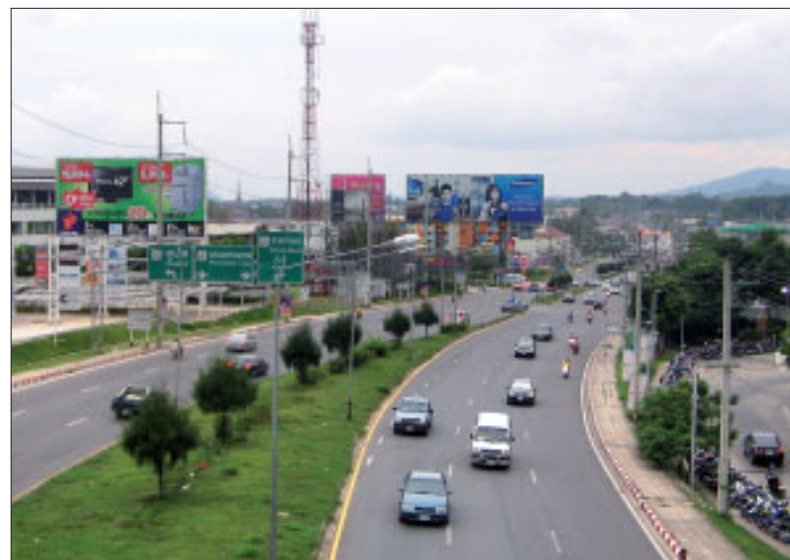
At a public hearing scheduled for May 26 at The Metropole hotel, Thai Engineering Consultants (TEC) will recommend a tunnel to take bypass road traffic under the intersection and onto Chao Fa West Road.

Another tunnel would also take bypass road traffic under the similarly congested Samkong Intersection, about two kilometers north near Tesco Lotus.

A flyover would be constructed to take traffic over Samkong Intersection from Yaowarat Road to Phra Phuket Kaew Road, which leads to Kathu.

A TEC study has concluded this scenario is the best of three proposed solutions to congestion at the two intersections.

The study took into account four factors: traffic and transport, engineering, economics and funding, and environmental impact.



Darasamuth Intersection from the Central Festival – HomeWorks bridge.

A second solution considered in the study would see a flyover at Darasamuth Intersection, with similar structures at Samkong Intersection.

A third would see flyovers for bypass road traffic at both intersections, and no tunnels.

TEC will recommend the first option because a tunnel would have less effect on air quality and generate less noise

pollution, say researchers.

Tunnels would also be less of an eyesore and would not require additional land acquisition, since they would only occupy space currently taken by the existing roads.

Members of the public are invited to share their views of the plans at the Thai-language public hearing.

— *Pimwara Choksakulpan*

Saphan Hin park to be 'prototype' for smoke-free areas

OFFICIALS plan to crack down on smoking and limit alcohol and tobacco sales to special zones inside Saphan Hin public park.

A meeting on May 12 chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Smith Palawatwichai and attended by officers from the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO), Phuket Provincial Police, and other local administrative organizations agreed to establish and strictly enforce zoning regulations in Saphan Hin.

Under the plan, alcohol and tobacco would only be sold in specific areas within the park. There would also be more con-

sistent enforcement of the smoking ban that is already in effect.

Since 2008, smoking in the park has been illegal, but the ban has been largely ignored. The meeting called for the ban to be enforced with 2,000-baht fines for those caught smoking.

Dr Narinrach Pichyakamin, director of the PPHO, said his organization would co-operate with Phuket Municipality officers to realize the plan.

"Saphan Hin is a well-known recreation spot in Phuket and many events and activities take place there. It's one of Phuket's 'faces', and we would like to see it as a prototype for

non-smoking zones," he said.

During special events, exceptions could be made, he said. If an event took place in a zone where smoking and alcohol sales were banned, officers would designate areas and times when the restrictions didn't apply.

When the PPHO and Phuket Municipality complete the re-zoning, they will launch a promotional campaign. Three months

after implementation they will ask for feedback from vendors and the public.

Suwadee Audtarapas, 24, who was spending time in the park, said, "Actually, I agree with the new plans. I'm a smoker, but I try not to smoke near non-smokers. Saphan Hin is a large area, so there should be clearly marked areas where people can and cannot smoke."

Ms Suwadee's friend, Adul Kotsongkaram, 27, said, "I don't think it's so important because Saphan Hin is an open area. If we go to restaurants or bars where smoking is not allowed, I understand that we should smoke in smoking areas. But Saphan Hin is a large open area and I think it will be difficult for officers to enforce the rules."

— *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

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Canadian free after lengthy dope ordeal

A CANADIAN man caught in possession of marijuana left Thailand earlier this month after spending nearly two months in Phuket waiting for his case to close.

Richard Beaver, 28, pleaded guilty to the charge on May 4 and was ordered to pay a 5,000 baht fine. He was also given a two-month, suspended jail sentence.

Mr Beaver, originally reported as Australian, was caught with 0.9 grams of marijuana in Phuket on March 16.

He bought the drug from a dealer at Patong Beach for 500 baht, he told police.

Immigration Police Investigation Unit Officer Jaruwat Cheynonsung said Immigration canceled Mr Beaver's visa the day he was sentenced, then issued deportation papers.

"Normally, the cancellation of a visa takes about three days, as it must be confirmed and signed by the commander of Immigration Police Region 6 head-



SENT HOME: Richard Beaver (right) at a police press conference.

quarters in Songkhla," he said.

"Deportation papers usually take a few hours, depending on the case. These must be signed by the Phuket Immigration superintendent.

"We did our best to get his visa and paperwork processed as

fast as possible so he could leave the country after his girlfriend showed us an airline ticket she booked for him to leave Thailand at midnight on May 5. We worked hard to make sure he could catch that flight," Sgt Maj Jaruwat said.

— *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*



There are already experimental windmills at Laem Phromthep, Phuket's most famous viewpoint.

Wind turbine plans gathering speed

THE ENERGY Ministry is moving forward with plans to build more wind turbines in Phuket.

Mr Wichai Limsawad, head of the Renewable Energy Department's wind power section, told the *Gazette* that Laem Phromthep is a good spot to erect more windmills.

"We have collected wind energy data at the Phromthep Alternative Energy Station windmill since 1983. The turbine there currently generates about 150 kilowatts per hour," he said.

If approved by the ministry, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) would build much bigger windmills at the sports field on Khao Daeng, near Laem Phromthep. Each windmill would generate a maximum of 1,200 kilowatts per hour.

Investment in the wind farm, if approved, could be as high as 180 million baht.

The project would support the Ministry's Alternative Energy Strategy 1998-2012, that aims to

increase domestic energy production by using alternative, non-petroleum-based technologies.

Phuket Energy Office chief Jirasak Tummawetch said the project is suitable for the 'Phuket Green Energy Project' as wind is a clean source of power production that does not contribute to global warming.

"The wind farm could also be a new tourist attraction for Phuket," he suggested.

The Phuket Energy Office is still waiting for EGAT officers to install anemometers high up in the Nakkerd Hills, near the Mingmongkol 'Big Buddha' image, to see if that area might also be suitable as a wind farm site.

"It will take at least a year after the measuring instruments are installed to get the necessary data about wind speed and direction," he said.

When the project was first reported in September last year, the Energy Office said they expected the meters to arrive in late 2009.

— *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

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Red general dead

BANGKOK: Maj Gen Khattiya Sawasdiphol, the controversial Army specialist, was pronounced dead at 9:20am on May 17.

Chaiwan Charoenchokthawee, director of Vajira Hospital in Bangkok, announced his death at a press conference.

Doctors tried but failed to revive Gen Khattiya, who eventually succumbed to kidney failure and cardiac arrest.

His relatives arranged a funeral ceremony at the Soamanus Temple in Bangkok.

Better known as Seh Daeng ('Red Commander'), Gen Khattiya was shot in the head on May 13 while giving an interview to foreign reporters at Sala Daeng Intersection.

His death was announced to red-shirt protesters at Rajprasong by protest leaders Jatuporn Promphan, Natthawut Saikua and Kwanchai Praiphana.

Several protesters broke into tears upon learning of the death. They stood in silence for a minute to honor him.

Gen Khattiya's sacrifice would lead to a successful uprising against the government, Mr Jatuporn said.



MARTYR: Maj Gen Khattiya 'Seh Daeng' Sawasdiphol, who died on May 17.

Gen Khattiya was a 'brother' of the red shirts who had shared in their suffering, he told fellow protesters.

"He did his duty, with bravery, as best he could," he said.

Gen Khattiya was an ardent opponent of both the yellow-shirt movement and the current government.

His warning that 'yellow' rallies of the People's Alliance for Democracy would be attacked by M79 attacks often came true.

Another warning that 'black-shirt warriors' would fight

against government troops has also become reality.

Despite his commitment to the cause, Gen Khattiya ran into conflict with red-shirt leaders over tactics. His plan to use a 'people's army' was turned down by the red-shirt leaders who said they preferred a peaceful fight.

But when the rally began on March 12, Gen Khattiya stepped in to organize the 'red guards' security force, claiming Thaksin Shinawatra had assigned him to take charge of security.

Source: The Nation



IN THE LINE OF FIRE: Photographers walk towards a fire started by anti-government demonstrators in the Bon Kai area of Bangkok. Demonstrators stood on one side, soldiers on the other.

Govt cuts financing

BANGKOK: In a bid to cut suspected financial backing to the still-defiant red-shirt protests in Bangkok, the government on May 16 slapped a ban on financial transactions on over 100 people and juristic entities thought to be associated with fugitive former PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

Announced without much fanfare, the financial 'blacklist' includes Thaksin, his immediate family members, relatives, many banned politicians of the now-defunct Thai Rak Thai Party, business people close to the

Shinawatras and several key leaders of the red-shirt movement.

The measures were announced as widespread political violence that turned key parts of Bangkok into urban war zones entered its third day without signs of abating.

The financial bans cover both domestic and international transactions. Even normal deposits and withdrawals would be subject to restrictions, officials from the Center for Resolution of the Emergency Situation said.

Source: The Nation

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Ananda goes 'green' for Phuket kids

THAI cinema's top leading man, Ananda Everingham, was in Phuket recently for a short holiday between filming. During his stay, he picked up his latest fashion accessory: a bracelet made from the tops of recycled bottles.

The bracelet was one of many made by 16-year-old Fang Thawanhatai Thongmool and children from KT-Chaofa Garden Home Village.

While Fang was undergoing work experience as a trainee waitress at Mom Tri's Boathouse, where her mother, Khun Jarinee, is front office manager, she noticed the bottle caps were just thrown away.

Fang started collecting the tops and when she was sitting around with friends, a little bored during their long school holidays, they came up with the idea of recycling the tops into bracelets.

The bracelets were given away to friends until they realized they could do something even better: sell the bracelets and donate the proceeds to Phuket Sunshine Village, hence helping children in need to achieve a better life.

The idea proved a hit and, with the bracelets priced at 30



Ananda Everingham shows off his recycled bracelet. Photo Courtesy of The Boathouse

baht apiece, many people bought several bracelets to keep and give away to others.

At the recent Green Love Festival at the British International School, the stylish bracelets sold out in less than half an hour.

The enterprising Fang, who returned from a year-long educational homestay in Argentina in January, together with her friends have raised more than 15,000 baht with since they started two months ago.

"We like to do things together and if we can give something to others that's even better," says Fang.



At the new Phuket Subaru dealership's grand opening on May 14 potential car buyers showed up to test drive the company's showcased vehicles. Photos: Elizabeth Branca

Subaru's island debut

A HANDFUL of automobile enthusiasts toured the new Subaru showroom on May 14 in Phuket Town.

The grand opening event marked Motor Image Subaru Thailand's inaugural foray into the island's auto sales market, broadening the dealership pool for the island's potential car buyers.

In the new venture, Motor Image Subaru Thailand join Phuket based TBV Auto Service Co. Ltd (TBV), to bring the Japanese car brand to the island.

An increased customer demand for Subaru's all-wheel drive and safety features is slated as the reason behind the Phuket dealership's opening.

Subaru Phuket is now one of six dealers located throughout Thailand, with Motor Image Subaru planning future locations in the central and northeast regions.

At the 20-million baht showroom unveiling sales specialists and managers were on

hand to answer questions and offer test-drives.

The Phuket dealership is manned by staff brought in from other Thai Subaru locations, particularly Bangkok, to ensure quality service.

Assistant Managing Director Nopakhun Ngamsathil explained, "I am a third generation dealership manager, so this is a family business".

In addition to the experienced front of house sales and management team, 15 mechanics will round out the 30 person staff, most of which have more than 10 years experience with European and Asian cars.

A big plus for islanders is the dealership's after-sale service option.

The location includes the showroom and service department, so customer auto repairs will be done on-premise by professionally trained mechanics using premium parts.

Any model of Subaru can be ordered via the dealer, but only the company's three most popular models will kept in stock: the Impreza, Legacy and Forester.

"We are particularly strong in the family car market due to



Subaru's high safety marks, but we also offer sporty models like the Legacy for those who love speed," Nopakhun said.

"With the mountain roads and rough pavement, Subaru's all-wheel-drive cars are a great match for Phuket customers," he added.

The dealership's sales target for its first year is expected to be 30 cars, with the Forester model tipped as heavy favorite.

Base price for the Forester starts at 1.6 million baht, an Impreza sedan at 1.1 million baht, the Legacy is more expensive starting at 1.9 million baht.

For more information contact the Subaru Phuket dealership. T: 076-2207323.

— Elizabeth Branca and Kitma Pornmongkhonwat

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The lowdown on getting sky high

WITH only three legal launch sites in Phuket, it's not difficult to find the island's paragliding community. Laem Promthep, the Big Buddha in the Nakkerd Hills, Chalong and the Royal Phuket Yacht Club, Nai Harn are the places to see the island's high fliers.

Most weekend's there are a handful of paragliders swooping over Laem Promthep, but from May 21 to 23, hundreds will swarm to the south of the island as the Funfly Paragliding Festival takes off.

Organizers hope the festival will attract newcomers to the sport as well as promote tourism in Phuket over the low season.

To the untrained eye, paragliding simply involves running from cliff-tops strapped into a parachute and floating around for a while. But the sport is deceptively difficult and locking into your harness is a task that requires some practice, and patience.

Jumping from cliff-tops is best avoided until learning a few key training essentials. Initial classroom training provides paraglider hopefuls with the theory they need to understand the factors that will affect their flight: equipment operations, aerodynamics, meteorology and safety regulations are all factored into the training at this stage.

Classroom training is followed by six days practical training. First are low flights and then altitude



Learning to paraglide requires training before taking the big leap. Dr Prasert Theplaong (wearing sunglasses) flying tandem above Laem Promthep.

gliding, which builds confidence through practice within safe limitations, allowing newbie pilots to accustom to flying and overcome any possible height anxiety.

Day one is on flat ground, practicing inflating the chute, or "wing", and forward launching through sprint starts. Day two usually takes place on a small incline and involves more practice with accurate handling of maneuvers. At this point, the instructor should demonstrate how to abort a launch as well as how to deflate the wing before the

launch and during landing due to gusty conditions.

Day three is practicing launching and landing at the launch site, and short flights with 45° turns. Students may be ready for their first low-altitude flight from a hill on day four, and progress to a higher altitude and learn 90° turns.

Day five usually includes altitude flying with 90° and 180° turns, applying brakes to adjust speed and attempt small "big ears": a technique whereby pulling on the outer "A-lines",

folds in the tips of the wing. This method drastically reduces the glide angle with only a small decrease in forward speed.

The sixth and often final day of training is for practicing high-altitude flying and performing 360° turns and a demonstration by the instructor on how to perform reverse inflation launches.

A pilot's ability can be broken down into four qualities: knowledge, skill, experience and airmanship. The first three speak for themselves, but airmanship may need some clarification.

Factors that fall under the airmanship quality and influence flying ability include: Physical: fitness, strength, stamina, substance intake, vertigo and hyperventilation.

Psychological: anxiety and fear of heights, recognition of personal limitations versus natural and equipment limitations. Confidence versus overconfidence (the Icarus syndrome). Performance pressure: group and personal and the danger of panic.

Flying skills: having insight or foresight, anticipating your next move, continuously evaluating, making decisions and reacting appropriately to circumstances.

Phuket Paragliding Club President Dr Prasert Theplaong stressed the importance of a flyer's mental abilities and limitations when he said, "Flyers have to be in good health, not fear heights and be free of any systematic diseases, such as heart disease and hyper or hypo tension".

He also recommends that paragliders avoid launching in rain and strong winds.

"We haven't had any fatalities from paragliding in Phuket, but sometimes people have landed in the sea or have had a hard landing and ended up with broken bones," he said.

To learn more about paragliding, contact Dr Prasert. T: 089-474 5607 W: info@phuketdentalcenter.com

— Nicky Vermeulen

Useful tips before take off

Paragliding enthusiast Dr Prasert Theplaong gives some tips for first-time fliers

- Always have the brake handles in hand, especially when launching.
- Do not launch if there is turbulence. It's enemy number one!
- If you see a pilot having a bad take off, be prepared to have one, too.
- Do not ask for assistance from inexperienced flyers.
- Boots, helmets and gloves are mandatory.
- Don't fly into clouds.
- Choose trees for emergency landings. Don't run the risk of water, cables and sharp objects.
- Do not look at the obstacle you are afraid of crashing into. It's called "fixation", and your body will go where your eyes look.
- You're not going to be able to perform spot landing after your first month of flying. It takes a lot of practice and experience. Depending on the natural ability of the student learning to fly, 200 to 500 flight practices is normally how long it takes to steer with precision.
- Last but not least, have fun learning a new sport.

Buying your own gear

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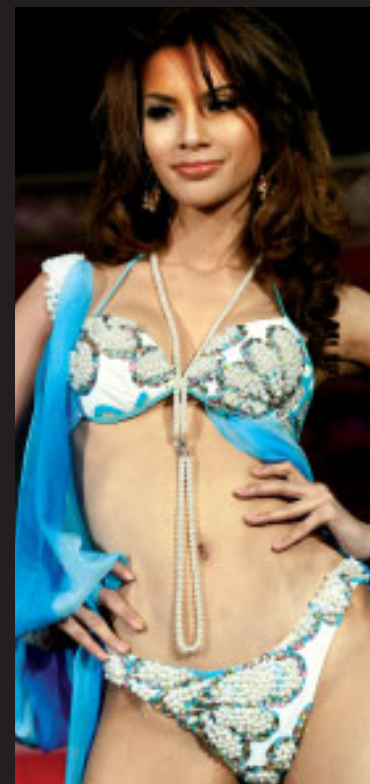
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A swimsuit for every siren



Phuket Mermaids provided all the transgendered contestants with bikinis worn during the swimsuit portion of the Miss Tiffany Universe Pageant held on May 7 in Pattaya. Photos courtesy of Phuket Mermaids

HAVING covered the lithe bodies of bikini models for American men's magazines *FHM* and *Maxim* in recent years, Phuket Mermaids swimwear has now expanded their bikini clad market.

At the Miss Tiffany Universe Pageant 2010, held on May 7 in

Pattaya, 30 Thai transsexual contestants strutted their stuff on the catwalk wearing Phuket Mermaids high-fashion bikinis.

Crystal trimmed bandeau tops, metallic halters and zebra print bikinis adorned the contestants in the unique 13-year-old transgendered beauty contest,

but celebrating diversity is just part of the Phuket Mermaids' company philosophy.

Nuria Stuart, Phuket Mermaids' CEO, founded the company in December 2004. She opened a small shop on Rat-U-Thit Road in Patong, and offered swimsuits designed to fit tall, busty, athletic or fuller-figured western women.

From Andorra in southwestern Europe, Nuria had been living in Thailand since 2000 and, like many Phuket expats and tourists, she recognized a deficit in swimsuit options on the island.

In Phuket Mermaids, Nuria created a swimsuit line and beachwear fashion fit for almost any physique.

As a testament to the brands' growing popularity, presently Nuria has four stores in Thailand: Pattaya, Koh Samui, Bangkok and Phuket.

And with a dozen current beachwear styles available to

buy on the Phuket Mermaids website, the company is reaching further into the worldwide marketplace.

Headquartered in Bangkok, the company employs two designers, one Asian and the other European, blending the two cultural fashion influences into one chic brand.

Managing Director Mark Kingpayom explains, "We are proud to be a part of the Miss Tiffany Universe Pageant because our company celebrates all people".

Throughout Thailand, it can be a challenge for women to find a bikini cut more "European-friendly" and, even though the beachwear is designed for larger women, it still exemplifies style and sex appeal.

Phuket Mermaids has two swimsuit brands. Their high-fashion line, Phuket Mermaids, features detailed embroidery patterns, custom prints and rich imported fabrics, with bikinis

priced between 3000 and 4000 baht. Their mix-and-match bikini line, Tops & Bottoms by Phuket Mermaids, showcases a younger style with vibrant colors and trend conscious cuts, reasonably priced at 1000 baht.

Kingpayom noted the new hot Phuket Mermaids trends include a series of animal and geometric prints, as well as sequined and embroidered designs on imported Italian fabrics.

As fashion icon Coco Chanel once quipped, "The best color in the whole world, is the one that looks good on you". The same sentiment is true for swimwear.

Keeping in mind the curves of a woman's body, Phuket Mermaids' fashionable and functional bikinis make it easy to hit the Andaman surf in vogue.

For more information on Phuket Mermaids swimsuits visit W: phuketmermaids.com.

— *Elizabeth Branca*

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IN THE West the banana is an icon symbolizing healthy eating, comedy and even sex.

For decades the fruit has entertained TV audiences, as cartoon characters slip on its skin, the ubiquitous hazardous fruit prop.

In Thailand, the banana is much more than a Looney Tunes punchline. Aside from being a staple in local diet, the plant is highly symbolic in traditional Thai culture. Almost every ceremony and festival incorporates elements of the banana plant, and every part is utilized, from the roots to the flower.

Often mistaken for a tree, the banana plant is actually a large herbaceous perennial, with a compact watery stalk like a giant celery stick. There are around 30 different species in Thailand, and the fruit can be split into two varieties: the sweet dessert banana, and the cooking type.

Throughout Thailand bananas can be found in many forms: fresh, battered, grilled, baked, steamed and sun-dried; they can also be used to make jam and wine.

The teardrop-shaped banana blossom is also on the menu, and tastes similar to the artichoke, another edible bud. This purple inflorescence is often served as an accompaniment to *pad thai*, *nam prik* and *khanom jeen*, while the plant's tender inner stalk is used to make *gaeng som*, a pungent southern Thai curry.

After nutrition, the banana plant's other major contribution to everyday life is packaging and presentation. The broad waxy leaves are strong and waterproof, and make ideal wrappers for a long list



BANANA NATION: There are around 30 different species of banana plants found throughout Thailand.

Nuts for bananas

Be it baked, battered, grilled, sun-dried, steamed, in wine or jam, Thais love bananas

of snacks, sweetmeats and desserts.

Arrays of neatly folded packages containing a myriad tempting delights can be found in every Thai market. The leaf's fragrant juices protect the food from burning while it is grilled, and add a subtle hint of flavor to the snack.

Despite its ubiquity, the banana plant is considered sacred. At the funeral of Princess Galayani Vadhana, the crematorium was decorated with dozens of intricately carved banana stalks, and her body was laid on a mat of banana leaves.

The beautiful flotilla

of illuminated rafts which characterize the annual *Loy Krathong* Festival also incorporate the plant. Most *krathong* are made from a cross-section of the plant's stalk, and adorned with elaborately folded banana leaves.

A lot of superstitions and beliefs shroud the plant. A species known as '*gluay tanee*', produces the best quality leaves but is never grown near a home, as it is believed that an evil and seductive female spirit named



'*Tanee*' resides in the tree.

In recent years a banana plant in a remote village shot to fame after it was rumored that the plant could predict winning lottery numbers. Visitors flocked to the site to rub powder and water on the stalk in the hope of deciphering lucky numbers as the solution dried.

The Thai idiom, 'It's like peeling a banana', describing simple tasks, is similar to the English equivalent, 'It's a piece of cake'. It's also an indication of which nation enjoys a healthier lifestyle.

It seems the banana plant's uses are as diverse as the plant itself.

Northern hill tribes still use the outer stalk as pig fodder, while the roots are ground into an organic fertilizer. The fibers inside the stalk can be dried to form a strong thread, and the sap can be used as a fabric dye.

In the past, Thai boxers attacked the stalk as part of their training, and parents used it to craft traditional toys.

Some of these traditions are withering due to modernization, but the banana's popularity remains unblemished. Much more than just a pretty fruit, the banana is deeply rooted in Thai culture and tradition.

— Lesley Chittayanon

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Phuket in the Premier League

Football legend Roberto Di Matteo talks exclusively to the *Gazette*

OVER the years, Phuket has attracted more than its fair share of celebrities and high-profile sports stars, the latest to join the ranks being Roberto Di Matteo, who was in Phuket last week to sign off on his new high-end condo at The Serenity Residence in Kathu.

Di Matteo has played football at the very highest level, both on the domestic and world stage. Born in Switzerland to Italian parents, he enjoyed a stellar career that took him from Switzerland to Italy and onto England before an injury brutally cut his success story short.

In 1993, he won the Swiss league with Aarau and was named Swiss player of the year, securing a transfer to Italian giants Lazio. He spent three seasons at Lazio and was called up to the Italian national team for the first of his 39 caps. He went on to represent Italy at the European Championships in 1996 and the World Cup in 1998.

He fell out with both the Lazio manager and supporters and was snapped up by Chelsea Manager Ruud Gullit in 1996. He was soon joined by his Italian team



THE COACH AND THE CONDO: (From right) Taisika Phraisa-ngob, wife of the Phuket Governor; Roberto Di Matteo; Serenity Residence GM Alain Gogniat; and Thung Thong Police Station Superintendent Pol Col Kraithong Chanthongbai. Photo copyright Serenity Residence Phuket/Bitsiren

mate Gianfranco Zola and together the two helped Chelsea win two FA Cups, the league cup and the European Cup Winner's Cup.

Di Matteo scored what was then the fastest goal in FA Cup final history in 1997, hitting the back of the net after just 42 seconds against Middlesbrough.

He would presumably have

gone on to collect even more silverware had his career not come to an abrupt end in a UEFA Cup match in 2000 in Switzerland. Di Matteo suffered a triple leg fracture, resulting in his announcement of his retirement the following year.

Di Matteo went on to enjoy a successful managerial career

and last month his West Bromwich Albion side was promoted to the Barclays Premier League.

While his managerial career continues to spiral, last week Di Matteo touched down in Phuket to attend the soft opening of The Serenity Residence in Kathu, and to check out his newly bought condominium at the project.

The massively successful Di Matteo, who is married with three children, could have chosen any destination in the world for his holiday home, but had no hesitation in buying property in Phuket.

"I love Thailand and the friendliness of the people, also the climate is nice. There are some great golf courses in Phuket and the developers of this condominium are friends of mine, plus they are quality apartments," he said.

Di Matteo may be enjoying a well-earned post-season break in Phuket, but it is the calm before the storm as he prepares for managerial life under the media

microscope of the Barclays Premier League. If West Brom's Premiership tenancy is to be anything more than temporary, Di Matteo will need to work wonders with what he acknowledges will be a meager pre-season transfer budget.

"We are going to have a cautious approach to next season and it has been well documented that we are not going to spend lots of money. We are going to be realistic and we are going to try to use what we have to build a competitive side that can stay up."

Avoiding relegation with a 17th-placed finish would be regarded as a serious accomplishment, but Di Matteo is reluctant to set any specific expectations.

"We are not going to set ourselves a target. We are just going to try and do as well as we can and aim for the highest position possible. I am not going to say we want to finish 17th, we are going to try and win as many matches as we can and see where we finish."

Di Matteo will be joined in the Premiership by fellow Italians Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti and Roberto Mancini, recently appointed manager of Manchester City. West Ham United recently dismissed Gianfranco Zola after an unsatisfactory second season and Di Matteo is disappointed that he will not be able to pit managerial wits against his former Chelsea and Italian national squad teammate.

Continued on Page 22

This interview was made possible by the staff and management of The Serenity Residence in Kathu. For more information, contact Alain Gogniat at T: 081-970 3136. E: alain.gogniat@serenity-residence.com W: serenity-residence.com

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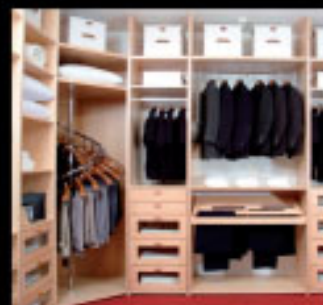
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EXPAT GALLERY

Brad Kenny

BRAD Kenny is well known for providing sanitary water to Phuket families who contract his Environmental Solutions & Protection Corporation (ESP) to create tailor-made water treatment systems for their homes.

He also contributes to helping a number of worthwhile projects for local communities in Phuket and Phang Nga as Chairman of the Community Services Committee of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach.

Brad grew up near Detroit. He was a talented competitive swimmer and was awarded a full scholarship to attend the University of Michigan where he pursued his interests in math and aviation.

He received a Bachelor of Engineering and was immediately recruited by one of America's largest defense contractors, General Dynamics, as a field service engineer for the F-16 fighter aircraft.

He spent the next 11 years traveling and working around Asia, from Korea to Japan, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines as program manager in weapons development and F-22 and F-35 fighter aircraft. He came to work in Thailand on a project with the Royal Thai Air Force in 1987 and was based in Korat.

"I was immediately attracted to the idea of living in

Thailand as I really enjoyed working with the Thai people and the quality of life. In 1991, I decided to leave a very good career with General Dynamics and open my own business in Bangkok."

Brad has had a long term interest in environmental issues. He took courses in water treatment and bio-technology with industrial applications during his years at General Dynamics.

On his own, he established a trade representative office in Bangkok, and then in 1993 he formed Environmental Solutions and Protection Corporation as he could anticipate the demand for water treatment systems in the country's expanding residential and industrial sectors.

He introduced desalination systems and waste water management using environmentally friendly products. He had a thriving business until the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

"Suddenly, my phone stopped ringing and I had to develop another business strategy. I had visited Phuket for the first time in 1982, and in the late 1990s the luxury property market was taking off. I decided to move here to provide ultra-purification systems and drinking water in every tap."

His first clients were at Lakeshore Villas and then Lake-wood Hills where he installed a

reverse osmosis system to provide "the cleanest water in Phuket." He has been busy over the past ten years providing water purification systems for most of the island's up-scale developments.

"Many project contractors are experts at building a beautiful villa but really don't have the training or resources to provide a top standard water system. So, often after a villa is sold the new owner will contact ESP to install a system that meets an international standard."

Brad finds it very rewarding to work with the Community Services Committee of Patong Rotary.

"We distributed 80 million baht in donations to needy families and villages after the 2004 tsunami. We were able to rebuild Baan Pak Triam which had been washed away. We bought land, designed the homes and put in the infrastructure."

Brad also manages the Rotary's COMREL community relations program, which entails working with the US Navy when a ship comes to Phuket. Under COMREL, the sailors spend part of their time improving a local school or village. He has now organized 44 such projects.

He is on the Board of Directors of the Home and Life Foundation, which provides shelter and livelihood for 23 children in Phang Nga province. He is also active in Phuket's International Business Association (IBAP).

— 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, ahh, 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.

take your seat

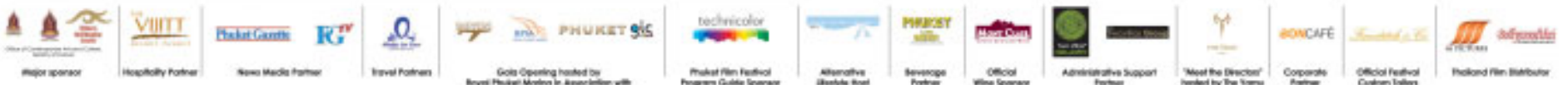
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- **World Premiere Thai Film, Yuthier Sippak's Friday Killer** with Closing Party (June 13th) at (ask us later)
- **Meet the Directors series** with Daniel Martin (director Cadillac Records) June 8th, Reception 6pm, Movie 8pm - at Cape Yamu
- **Special screening of Made in Thailand** movies including The Prince and Me 4: The Elephant Adventure, Sunday, June 6th (movie 7 pm with After Party starring Thai rap band Thaitanium). Screening & music at The Green Man. 200 Baht tickets on sale at the Coliseum.
- **Tribute to Khun Korn Akadej and classic Thai films**, Sunday June 6th all day long **FREE** (first come first served). See website for movie names and more detail
- **Thailand premiere Bitter/Sweet** with After Party (only 80 tickets available at 200 baht apiece) at Vijitt Resort: Tickets on sale at Phuket Boncafe and at Coliseum Cineplex - Phuket Town
- **International premiere, USA documentary Teenage Papparizo** by Adrian Grenier
- **Two Benefit Screenings** (at Coliseum) Soi Dog Foundation (June 5th 2 pm) & Chumchonhai Foundation (June 6th 2 pm with UNDP hosted reception at Coliseum)
- **Alternative Lifestyle Day 6/09** screening "Piggles", "Loose Cannon", "Milk", Special ALD party & events.
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www.phuketfilmfestival.asia





CUISINE KUDOS: La Trattoria, the popular Italian restaurant at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, was recently named one of Thailand's Best Restaurants 2010 by the readers of *Thailand Tatler* magazine.



CUP CUTIES: DaVinci Restaurant is ready for the FIFA World Cup in South Africa starting on June 11. Staff will wear different football team jerseys and discounted beers and pizzas will be served for the event.



TEAM EFFORT: SALA Phuket Resort and Spa's staff and management participated in their quarterly sports day and barbecue on May 13. Teams took part in a day of sports games followed by lunch cooked by the management team. Pictured (back row, center) is SALA General Manager Jon Ashenden.



CAMERA READY: The first 100 photographers registered for the Phuket Fun Fly 2010 Canon Photo Contest were treated to a photo technique workshop at the Canon Concept Store at Central Festival on May 15. The island's first paragliding festival runs May 21-23 at Laem Promthep.



THE PERFECT MIX: StereoLab Beach Bar and Lounge Owner Georges Poquet and General Manager Angkana Jamsrikaew greet their guests in Surin on May 15.



Diners enjoy StereoLab's Saturday night sunset barbecue.



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Building a Phuket music legend

WHEN producer and composer Gary Crause moved to Phuket he brought with him a legend, the story of which is well worth a listen.

Gary is a soft spoken 43-year-old family man from Zambia, Africa; a vegetarian, a Buddhist, and a die-hard fan of the hard rock band Kiss.

For the past ten years Gary has produced some of South Africa's best pop and rock bands, such as Toxic Shame, Jo Day, SuperNeon and SpoonFeedas, who have each had Top-20 hits in the South African and European pop charts.

Gary moved to Phuket in February, bringing with him his Kiss memorabilia, his wife Debbie and ten-year-old son Blaze. They were followed by several truck loads of expensive music-making hardware, which now has a home in the form of a plush new professional recording studio, located at the Boat Lagoon.

As well as being a fully-equipped recording studio, Legend Music is also a publishing company and record label enjoying success on all fronts in South Africa; licensing albums and singles to Universal Music.

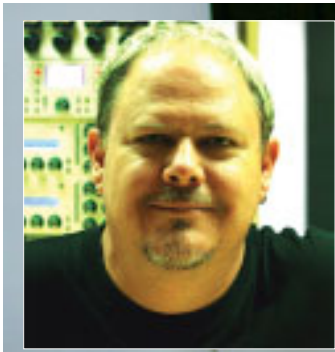
Gary's love for the rock band Kiss is immediately evident in the studio's reception area, where the bands' album covers jump at you from the walls. Inside the studio, guitars used by the band hang from the walls.

When talking of the US rock band famous for its members' painted faces and outrageous stage performances, Gary revealed the often-overlooked fact that after 37 years, Kiss remains one of the largest grossing tour bands on the planet.

The relocation of Legend Music from Johannesburg to Phuket was a move aimed at providing a "destination recording facility" for international bands, said Gary.

"Recording studios are a dime a dozen these days, but artists enjoy working in a pretty and relaxing environment. Phuket seemed ideal for that. It's not too far from Europe and Africa, and the island is well placed for artists based in Asia and Australia," he said.

The studio's sound equipment is heavenly hardware for any audio enthusiast: an all Focusrite analogue interface; 20 input tracks of Focusrite ISA;



A singer works on her vocals while music producer Gary Crause tests out his mixing board at his new studio.

Liquid Channel preamps and a nice selection of microphones.

The studio is also stacked with a plethora of percussion instruments, both traditional and contemporary, including: bongos, steel drums and tambas; an electric drum kit, plus a wide selection of guitars.

"The idea is to offer a very high standard of recording service at affordable prices for local and international artists," said Gary.

Advances in internet technology allow Gary to work online with artists, record labels and other producers; although nothing beats a band working together in a studio, claims Gary, who is sometimes faced with the task of mixing and mastering a song from several recordings made by different people in different parts of the world.

When Gary first leased the factory-like building in a corner of the Boat Lagoon, it was an empty space which had been left unused for years, but he has transformed the building into a solid, sound-proof palace of audio production. The tiered, polished wooden floorboards give the place a warm glow. The central musical command console is surrounded by three partitioned recording booths, each completely soundproof and with a glass wall facing the console.

Gary said Legend Music also produces audio for movie

productions. Before moving to Phuket he worked with award-winning American producer Greg Simms on an animated

movie called *The Lion of Judah*, set for release in the US in September.

— Nick Davies

Legend Music can be found online at www.myspace.com/legendmusicproductions and soon at www.legendmusic.net. Gary can be contacted directly by phone (084-304 2587) or by email (gary@legendmusic.net).

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

May 26. Boy George in a one-night DJ performance



British pop legend Boy George will be appearing for a one-night performance at Seduction Discotheque in Patong on Wednesday, May 26. The former Culture Club lead singer will be spinning house tunes from 10pm onwards. Tickets are just 300 baht each and can be purchased at the door on the night of the show between 10pm 11:30pm. For more information contact T: 076-340215 E: info@seduction.com W: 24phuket.com

May 23. Mai Khao Turtle Mini Marathon 2010

The JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa with the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation will hold their 6th Mai Khao Turtle Mini Marathon starting at 6:30 am on May 23 at Pru Jeh Sun Lake, Mai Khao Beach. The annual event raises funds for the Phuket Marine Biological Center's Marine Endangered Species Unit. Marathon registration fees include a T-shirt and lucky draw prizes for all. Trophies and medals will be awarded to event winners. Marathon registration begins at 4:30am with the race starting at 6:00am. Registration ticket prices are 250 baht for 10.5km and 200 baht for 3.5km, and go on sale at 4:30am the morning of the marathon at the Turtle Foundation office. For more information contact Khemwalai. T: 086-689 2230 E: info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com W: maikhaoturtlefoundation.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.

May 29 - 30. Phuket Latin Carnival Weekend

Two popular island venues will play host to the Phuket Latin Carnival. The two-day event will feature Latin food, samba dancers, salsa dance workshops and music by two Latin DJs. On May 29, the weekend kicks off with a day cruise departing from Clublime at noon. The cruise is priced at 1,990 baht and includes one welcome drink, plus

three drinks onboard and a full buffet. After the cruise Clublime is hosting a Latin-themed foam party starting at 9pm and priced at 400 baht which includes one welcome drink, plus two drinks in the club with canapés. On May 30, StereoLab on Surin Beach will host a Latin beach party starting at 4pm till late. Priced at 990 baht, tickets include tapas and two glasses of sangria. A full weekend event pass is available for 2,990 baht if pre-booked, or 3,390 if paid at the door. Tickets can be purchased from 12pm to 3am at Boat Cruise, Club Lime and Stereo Lab. For further information contact Jorge de la Torre. T: 089-725 6994 E: jorge@eventsthailand.net W: eventsthailand.net

June 2 – 5. Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand

Watch Southeast Asia's finest young golfers compete at the Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand at Laguna Phuket. From 7am to 7pm at Laguna Phuket Golf Club. For further information contact Manachai Inkaew. T: 081-306 2266 E: manachai@tropicofcancer.info W: mercedes-benztour.com

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 onto 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 6 – August 8. Belly Dancing Courses at Royal Phuket Marina

The ten-session course, titled "Introduction to Baladi", teaches beginner techniques for belly dancers and will be conducted by the famous Malika. Running from June 6 to August 8, the course is split into three sections: beginner one technique, beginner two technique and choreography structure. You will need shorts and a hip scarf to start. Book now for an early bird discount. Priced at 500 baht per person, per session until May 30. After May 30, tickets are priced at 600 baht per person, per session. Held Sundays from 12:30-2pm at Royal Phuket Marina, RPM Health Club. For further information contact Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com W: royalphuketmarina.com

June 6 - July 18. Brazilian Soccer Sundays at Royal Phuket Marina

The Brazilian Soccer School was started in Leeds-England with four children back in 1996. Fourteen years on, they now have close to two-million children training regularly around the globe. The seven-week course will be held every Sunday with students separated into two age groups as follows: U10s – classes are suitable for 7-10 year-olds and held from 3:30 to 5pm. U8s – classes are suitable for 5-8 year-olds, (five-year-olds must have previous football experience) and held from 5- 6:30pm. Book now for an early bird discount. Only 2,100 baht per child, per course until May 20. For bookings after May 20, the price is 2,450 baht per child, per course. Professional Brazilian Soccer School coaches will ensure a safe environment. For further information

contact Martin Hill. T: 085-331 0295 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com W: royalphuketmarina.com

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. Four Immeasurables Retreat at the PIA Mind Center

Phuket International Academy Mind Center (PIAMC) is holding an exclusive meditation retreat titled "Four Immeasurables" hosted by Dr B. Alan Wallace. Presently accepting bookings, this weekend retreat will consist of teachings, guided meditations, and discussions. Regardless of the participants particular religious beliefs, these practices can be of benefit any person seeking to explore their own capacity to experience unconditional love and compassion. Registration price starts at 1,800 baht per person, per day for those not requiring on-site accommodation. On-site accommodation is also available for an additional fee. More information and accommodation options can be found here. From 9am - 9pm at PIA Mind Center. For further information contact T: 076-376000 E: mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

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June 6 – Patong

June 13 – Laguna

June 20, 27 – Chalong

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Phuket hotel and travel expo slated for October

EVENTS Thailand team and Skai Phuket committee members Simon Samaan and Jorge de la Torre are combining their talents to stage the inaugural Asian Hospitality & Travel Show at the Central Festival Conventions and Exhibitions Center in Phuket from October 1 to 3, 2010.

"The exhibition is geared towards becoming a platform for networking between suppliers within the Asian hospitality and travel sectors," said Samaan, who is also Membership Director of Skai International.

"With 100 exhibitors, business appointments, seminars, networking meetings, competitions and demonstrations, prize giveaways and a job club, the exhibition is primarily a trade event, but also provides elements of fun and relationship building exercises to make the event as accessible and enjoyable as possible," Samaan told the *Gazette*.

The expo is expected to attract more than 2,000 visitors in its first year.

Although the expo is slated for nearly five months away, the event, limited to a maximum of 100 exhibitors, is already gaining momentum, de la Torre explained.

"We opened bookings on May 1, so it's still early, but we have had eight 'definite' bookings already and at least 10 others are in the process of signing up," he said.

"We're starting our Southeast Asia media campaign on Monday [May 17] primarily through Skai International and some local media, so we're anticipating a lot of interest will be generated from next week onwards."

"With 25,000 members in more than 500 clubs in more than



ABOVE: Phuket being promoted at the Feria International Tourism Trade Fair in Spain last year. The expo attracted 13,000 companies and 150,000 industry professionals. **RIGHT:** Phuket expo organizers Simon Samaan and Jorge de la Torre hope their expo can attract numbers that rival the Spanish trade fair in years to come.



80 countries, Skai International is the biggest association of hospitality and travel professionals. Skai International secretary [Jim Power] has endorsed the event as well as Skai Asia. Both will be promoting the event at various club meetings, through their respective websites, monthly events and so on, from this week and thereafter," de la Torre added.

Top-level trade associations are expected to join the event. "We're currently in contact with TCEB (Thai Conventions & Ex-

hibitions Bureau), PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association), TICA (Thai Incentives & Conventions Association) and THA (Thai Hotels Association)," said Samaan.

Although industry expert speakers have yet to be confirmed, the topics will be determined with direct relevance to industry players in Phuket and the region, Samaan said, adding that the event will also include a variety of interactive forums, including "business appointments" and networking meetings.

Of the business appointments, Samaan explained, "These will be short meetings of about 10 minutes each, mainly between hoteliers and organizations seeking to do business with them".

Included as networking meetings will be the closing party as well as sponsored cocktail nights after the show on October 1 and 2.

Of the activities included in the expo format, the Job Club is

expected to provide the most direct, immediate benefits for both prospective employers and qualified job-seekers. A dedicated booth at the expo will feature two sections: one with job-seekers' CVs, the other with details of positions vacant.

"This will be a service to help employers within the hospitality and travel sectors source staff. We will compile a list of applicants who are actively seeking employment within the industry about one month before the show and have these available to be viewed by employers at the show," Samaan explained. Applicants' names and contact details will remain confidential with the event organizers.

"If an employer is interested, we will then inform the applicant so they can contact the employer directly. The applicant will be also given the option to reveal their contact details so the employers can contact them directly," he said.

"We will also do this the other way round. That is, employers will be contacted before the show to advertise vacancies. These will be displayed at the show and applicants can apply directly," he added.

It wouldn't be a hospitality expo on Phuket without a variety of competitions and demonstrations of local hotels and their staff to show off their skills. On the contest agenda are ice, vegetable and fruit carving; a Best Thai Dish and a Best Western Dish cooking contest; a barista "brew-off", a bartender and cocktail mixing competition, a "blind wine tasting" and a Miss Asian Hospitality & Travel Show beauty pageant.

— *Gazette reporter*

To take part in the event, call Simon at 084-768 0536 or Jorge at 089-725 6994, email info@eventsthailand.net or visit www.eventsthailand.net. Bookings close August 31, with a 10 percent discount on registrations paid before July 1. Skai members also receive a 10 percent discount.

Taking some time off from the money



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson

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Richard Watson has been writing for the Phuket Gazette about money matters in Asia for over ten years. It has been our pleasure to work with him and while his departure from our pages brings us sadness, we wish him well for all his future endeavors, money-related or otherwise. The Editor

FOR over 10 years, I have been writing this column in the *Phuket Gazette* and have seen many changes as well as worked with interesting editors. My photo has changed with the years, but the friendliness of the staff has stayed the same. So now, it is time for a break. My business will still continue as usual.

I would like to take this time to thank the publisher, editor and all the team, past and present, at the *Phuket Gazette* for it is true: "Without your help it would not have been possible."

Globally, we live in interesting times. The greatest recession we have experienced appears to be coming to an end. Growth is certainly apparent in most parts of the world.

Stresses still exist and the focus has moved to sovereign debt. The rescue package of almost US\$1 trillion announced by Europe and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to rescue Greece and other potential weak links will hopefully contain any future damage.

This promises to be a very testing time for investors.

The good news is that corporate profits have exceeded expectations and this is very positive news for equity markets.

Asia looks to have permanently moved into a more important position in the world economy and the world, as we know it, is changing rapidly.

With all this in mind, my best wishes to all readers.

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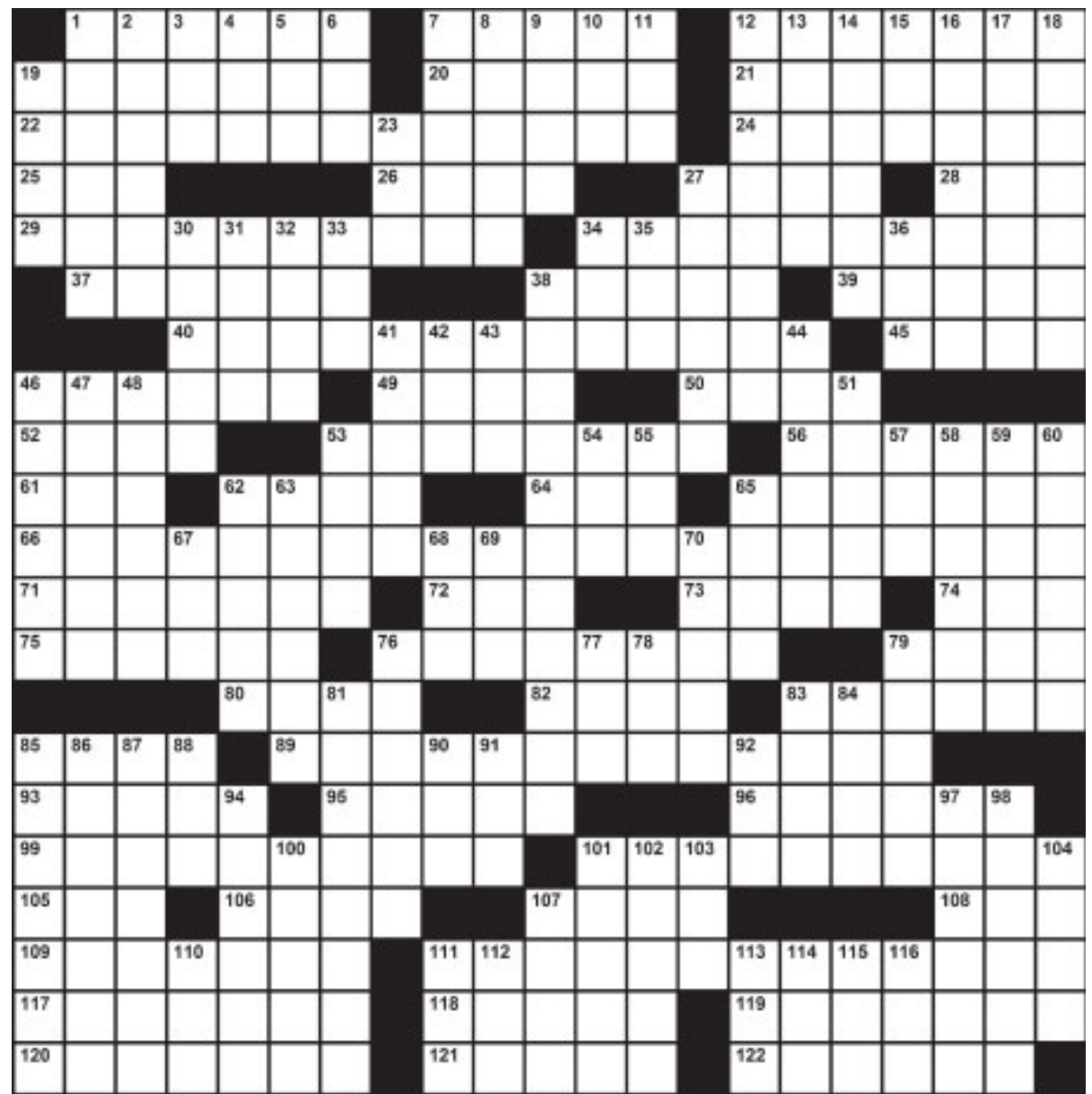
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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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



ACROSS

- 1 Was in charge of, as a committee
7 Test, as ore
12 Colorado San Luis Valley town
19 Feature on either side of a football helmet
20 Transcription pro
21 Prepared a violin bow
22 Fleeting success
24 Basic computer input
25 "Whether ___ nobler ..." (Hamlet)
26 Had a good cry
27 "... and ___ bed"
28 Accompaniment for chips, often
29 Dry-cleaning equipment
34 Description of an underachiever, perhaps
37 Bequeathed property
38 Like a March wind
39 North, south of the border
40 Part of an expensive serving set, perhaps
45 "Is it just ___ is it cold in here?"
46 Also
49 "In ___ of flowers ..."
50 They may be blue in the face
52 Uncas' love in "The Last of the Mohicans"
53 Small bloom
56 Speak sincerely
61 Tavern drink
62 Aggravate
64 Busy bug
65 Approaching the end, as of usefulness
66 Many include rolls and coffee
71 Smoke in a church
72 U.N. workers' gp.
73 Regrets

- 74 Some NFL pass catchers
75 Horror-stricken
76 One of racially mixed ancestry
79 "I've had it up to ___"
80 Corn servings
82 Father figures
83 Ovoid tree nuts
85 Union Jack holder
89 In an impressively beautiful manner
93 Make ___ of (botch)
95 Strongly green
96 Li'l fellow
99 Does a fancy dive
101 Verse containing seven metrical feet
105 Coy conclusion?
106 Like a mechanic's hands
107 Sunscreen chemical that absorbs UV light
108 Sigma successor
109 Bureaucratic form-filling
111 Lincoln toppers
117 Orioles screwballer Mike
118 West Point motto word
119 Sinus infection symptom
120 Snaps handcuffs on
121 Upright in posture
122 Singer Kate and actor Will

DOWN

- 1 Ice-melting aid
2 An antonym for restores
3 They accompany "oohs"
4 Play-___ (kids' clay)
5 Whitney of cotton gin fame
6 Bear's digs
7 Wan
8 "Riverdance" movements
9 It's 'twixt Aug.

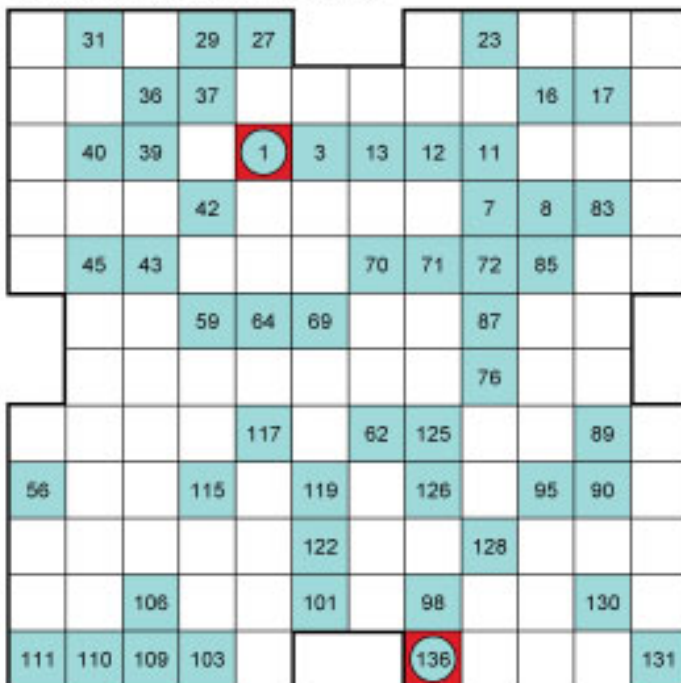
- 10 Santa ___, Calif.
11 Hither and ___
12 Directional aid for a word processor
13 Averse
14 Feeling light-headed
15 "Term" or "town" opening
16 How bar bets may be made
17 Embedded
18 AC-to-DC device
19 Baby newts
23 Tango number
27 Last six lines of a sonnet
30 On the ocean or in a fog
31 Drop in a letter-box
32 "___ put hair on your chest!"
33 ___ up (accelerate)
34 "... man ___ mouse?"
35 ___-picking (being petty)
36 Ending for many e-mail addresses
38 Aristocratic talk show host
41 DeGeneres
42 ___ de Janeiro, Brazil
43 Church bench
44 New version of an old film
46 Small tree of the mimosa family
47 "Adios!"
48 Tool for nuts?
51 Feudal underlings
53 Take to one's heels
54 Confederate soldier, for short
55 Auction conclusion?
57 High Ottoman
58 Pater ___ (Lord's Prayer)
59 Hospital worker with a residency
60 Title roles for MacLaine and Kinski
62 Beauty parlor

- 63 Insect stage between molts
65 Deity with goat legs
67 "Coffee or ___?"
68 ___-tac-toe
69 "Ctrl" neighbor
70 Irregularly notched, as a leaf
76 Become bone-hard
77 What Dick, Jane and Spot did
78 Roulette choice
79 Card game expert Edmond
81 Ones who scold
83 ___ lot (gorged oneself)
84 Skelton's Ka-diddlehopper
85 Mediterranean holiday spot
86 Unpaid athlete's status
87 South Carolina in 1860, e.g.
88 "For shame!" sound
90 "Before," when before
91 Fleur-de-___ (Quebec symbol)
92 Region above Sask.
94 Drinkers' toasts
97 Include a document, as with an e-mail
98 Insurable events
100 Bite playfully, as a kitten might
101 Rack and ruin
102 Thumb-raising film critic
103 Baby food
104 Bit of deception
107 Dixie-style bread
110 Rat tail?
111 Female pronoun
112 Rocky peak
113 Plural suffix
114 Character on "The Office"
115 "___ tu" (Verdi aria)
116 Something to doff

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SEARCH D C IONARY****BATO_N**

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. In what city is Bird's Nest stadium located?
2. What were the two main opposing political parties in Great Britain during the eighteenth century?
3. In the UK, the cricket ground called the Rose Bowl is the home to which county's club?
4. Who was born Josef Vissarionovich Dzugashvili in Gori, Georgia in 1879?
5. In which US city did the famous Tea Party take place in December 1773?
6. Interlagos is the track venue for which country's Formula One Grand Prix?
7. What country produces Peroni beer?
8. Which city in India will host the Commonwealth Games 2010?
9. Besides a cow, which animal's milk can be used to make mozzarella cheese?
10. In 1836, the state of Texas gained its independence from which country?
11. Which famous song starts "Well it's one for the money, two for the show"?
12. Named after a posh New York hotel, which salad contains celery, apples, grapes, walnuts and mayonnaise?
13. What fruit comes in Conference and Comice varieties?
14. Mace is a spice obtained from which tree?
15. On which Scottish island is Talisker malt whisky produced?
16. Within the grounds of Scone Palace, the most northerly racecourse in Scotland is located near this city?
17. In the song *Seventy-six Trombones*, from the musical 'The Music Man', how many cornets are close at hand?
18. Henry VII was the first King of England from this family dynasty?
19. How is number 49 shown in Roman numerals?
20. The true caviar comes from several species of which fish?

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Puzzle Solutions

WHATZIT? solutions

1. A wolf in sheep's clothing
2. Look it up in the dictionary
3. Short end of the stick

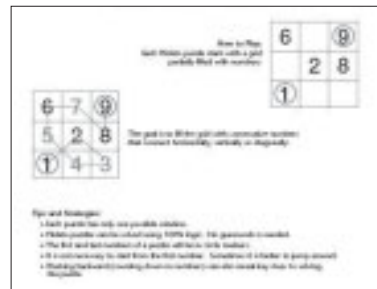
Solution to this week's Spot the Difference



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Beijing
2. Tory and Whig
3. Hampshire
4. Joseph Stalin
5. Boston, Massachusetts
6. Brazil
7. Italy
8. Delhi
9. Buffalo
10. Mexico
11. Blue suede shoes
12. Waldorf
13. Pear
14. Nutmeg
15. Isle of Skye
16. Perth
17. 110
18. Tudor
19. XLIX
20. Sturgeon

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



Hidato Puzzle Solution

10	31	30	39	27		24	33	32	21	28
23	28	26	27	28	28	28	14	18	16	17
34	48	38	34	1	5	13	12	11	10	9
46	44	41	42	2	6	8	6	7	8	40
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82	88	82	82	82	74	74	76	88	78	
83	87	81	146	117	65	82	138	77	78	89
86	84	114	115	118	118	124	128	127	95	90
85	113	107	105	120	122	129	94	128	95	94
112	108	106	104	121	131	136	94	87	129	134
115	116	109	105	102		137	135	134	133	131

Solution to this week's crossword

H	E	A	D	E	D	A	S	S	A	Y	A	L	A	M	O	S	A
E	A	R	H	O	L	E	S	T	E	N	O	R	O	S	I	N	E
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O	T	E		O	I	L	Y			P	A	B	A				T
R	E	D	T	A	P	E				S	T	O	V	E	P	I	P
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Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

TO PARAPHRASE Dr Samuel Johnson, when a man is tired of Bangkok, he is tired of life. So a book called *Bangkok Days*, with photos of Soi Yommarat and Patpong, deserved being snatched off the bookstore shelf.

The author, Lawrence Osborne, is a 38-year-old Brit, a graduate of Oxford and Harvard, and a globe-trotting magazine writer best known for his travel book *The Naked Tourist*, a lengthy discourse against the horrors of mass tourism.

Bangkok Days (Harmel Secker, London, 2009, pp271) is his latest book, subtitled "A sojourn in the capital of pleasure".

The Brits have a phrase for this type of book: "a load of bollocks". This is not a story of

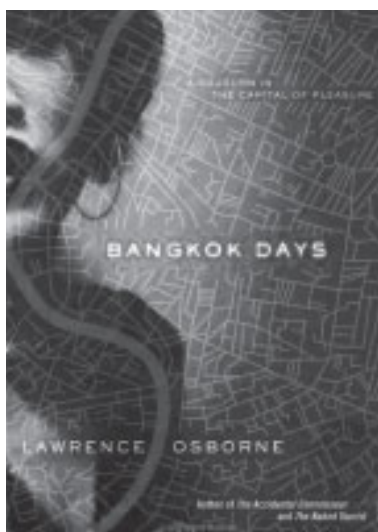
the vast heaving pulsing behemoth that is home to 10 million residents chasing after the good life. It's full of airy vaporizing East versus West, the nature of love, Buddhism, Hinduism, and so on. The story takes place mostly inside Osborne's uninteresting head.

He is fond of sprinkling literary quotes amid his ruminations: Henry Miller, Chateaubriand, Hemingway, Cavafy, Evelyn Waugh, the Earl of Rochester, Rumi and Gombrowicz. He writes howling errors of Thai history and geography, but he is not much interested in Thailand and a handful of Thai characters make only fleeting appearances in his book.

What he is interested in is a trio of lonely old *farang* men who have come to Bangkok for sexual distraction and death.

He meets them – an Aussie ex-banker, a Scottish ex-soldier and an English ex-salesman in the Primrose Guesthouse, near Wang Lang pier on the Chao Phraya River.

"I had begun to sink like a stone into my own well. The city



is no more than a protocol for this sinking. Because Bangkok is where some people go when they feel they can no longer be loved, when they give up. It was also true of the other tenants. Broken, disappointed, rejected, they had headed east."

Osborne has come to get his teeth fixed cheaply and winds up hanging around to wander the streets at night. To give him credit, his descriptions of many Bangkok neighborhoods are very

good. Here he is on an old section of Rattannakosin:

"This part of Rattannakosin just north of the canal is one of the few remnants of the old city that the authorities, no doubt in a fit of absentmindedness, have neglected to bulldoze. The surfaces of the house are a vertical maze of cracks and puzzles, in which cicadas are lodged as if they have mistaken it for a man-made forest... strings of shells moved. This street was like a glass ship that's been shaken. Hundreds of flowerpots emerged from circles of lamplight. Yellow houses with red doors, slanted gardens. A flowering tree spreading right across the street, and an ancient sound of radios."

He sets a beautiful stage, but nothing ever happens just endless mental meanderings between himself and his elderly companions. The point here is the effect of Rattannakosin on old Englishman Dennis McGinnis.

"I was glad I had brought Dennis here, because it made him light up. He waxed angry and it

made him bright, because every man from a cold race has inside him a well of unspent lava boiling with bitterness and poetry. I thought of my own people: the British officers, the quiet, prudent yeomen, the musty village churches by the river Ouse filled with damp flags and regimental rags. The vicars tabulated back to the time of Oliver Goldsmith. What kind of race were we?"

The odd thing is that Lawrence Osborne never seems to have any fun. He laboriously describes the notion of *sanook*, but never experiences the thing itself. A great many people love Bangkok, but from Osborne's relentlessly gloomy outlook, you wonder why.

The book often has the feel of magazine pieces stapled together. Osborne cranks out chapters about his stays at the luxurious Bamrungrad Hospital and the Chiva Som Spa in Hua Hin. He even has a piece about visiting Father Joe Maier in the Klong Toey slum in which his confuses his Mercy Center office with his home in the slum. Typical.

Horoscopes



Isla Star



GEMINI (May 22-June 21): This week you have the wind in your sails and progress should

be more than satisfying. The final week of May is the time for Geminis to catch up with mundane tasks they put on the back burner earlier this month. Your enthusiasm for life is catching, and friends will be looking in your direction for inspiration. Those with a birthday in the coming days can count on financial gain in the year ahead.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): Many Cancerians will have put their love life on hold

since the start of May. However, Cupid has other ideas this week. A relationship that didn't appear to be going anywhere earlier this year is forecast to be rekindled. If the other person is an earth sign, there are positive signs. But getting together with an air sign again could involve excess emotional baggage. The number 5 can bring good fortune next Thursday.



LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos who have been feeling under the weather may be

ready to explore some alternative healing. A Capricorn friend has some helpful recommendations, but Virgo's suggestions could involve wasting time and more money. Employment falls under benevolent stars this week and

your efforts to make an unforgettable impression on Monday or Tuesday will not be in vain. Wear a piece of tiger's eye to encourage a more balanced flow of energy.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Worried Virgoans should see the light where a personal

problem is concerned this week. The stars predict that you will be able to put this situation in perspective and move on. Relationships will bring more satisfaction until the middle of next month, but your interest in the social scene remains low-key. Invite a creative water sign friend round this weekend to ask for advice on how to improve your environment.



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23): Librans could be taken aback

early next week when a usually easy going water sign shows a steely side. This could be a wake-up call that you have been taking too much for granted. Making a thoughtful gesture will go a long way towards keeping this relationship on the right track. Avoid the temptation of over-spending as finances are subject to slightly stormy astral conditions until the middle of June.



SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Some Scorpios receive the answer to a question that has been burning for too long this week. Although you

don't usually find it easy to listen to advice, there are signs that another water sign has the right words to get your attention. Ending this month on a positive note should not be difficult if you take the right steps. Your financial luck is forecast to improve and happy holiday plans are highlighted.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your diplomatic skills are really

appreciated in the world of work this week. Sagittarians should be able to get to the roots of an ongoing dispute and offer sensible solutions. This weekend you are offered the chance to blow off steam when an active Arian friend comes to town. Romance is well-starred until the end of this month and finances begin to look brighter when you decide to drop a personal commitment.



CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A communication breakdown is frustrating for some Capricorns early next week. Put your point of view in writing and delay tactics until

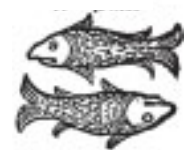
after Wednesday when the stars will support your efforts to be heard. Your financial situation is a little precarious until the end of this month. New investment schemes will be luckier in June. Where romance is concerned, a Piscean's shyness could be mistaken for lack of interest.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Spiritual matters



begin to be more important than material gain for many Aquarians. From now until late June,

you could be actively seeking a way to find more peace of mind. Not everyone will understand your quest and you could now discover who your true friends are. Although finances may not be as important at the moment, some gain is indicated this week. Wear lotus pink to encourage a tranquil outlook.



PISCES (February 20-March 20): A boost to your bank balance is forecast

to please Pisceans. This will probably take the form of a salary increase or some kind of bonus. Either way, the stars predict that celebrations will be on your agenda this weekend. The course of true love runs smoothly until the end of May, but an enforced absence early next month could cause problems. Those who are single may be interested to hear that Leo is intrigued.



ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your fear of change stands in the way of progress this

week. Arians are advised to take a rational look at their current situation and be prepared to take some chances. The stars indicate that a healthier financial future is within your reach. A fledgling ro-

mance is put to the test this weekend when the other person asks for something you're not ready to give. The number six can be lucky next Wednesday.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taurians should try to choose their words wisely this weekend. The

stars suggest that a trying situation could cause you to lose your cool and say something that will be regretted soon afterwards. Where romantic relationships are concerned, the only answer is to have more respect for your partner's point of view. Wear moss green to encourage a more realistic outlook.

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The Phuket Gazette

- Since 1994 -

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Entertainment zone changes for the better

A few years ago, the back of a best-selling T-shirt on sale in Patong listed events that had hurt Phuket's tourism industry: 'Phuket tourism, 2001 Bomb Alert, 2002 SARS, 2003 Bird Flu, 2004 Tsunami. What's Next?'

The front simply read: 'Still alive and kicking,' a nod to the industry's resilience.

Given the drop-off in sales of the older shirt, perhaps it is time for the T-shirt producers to update their message. Some possibilities: *Military Coup* (2006), *One-Two-Go Crash* (2007), *PAD Airport Closures* (2008), *Oil Price Spike* (2008), *Emergency Decree* (2009), *Red Shirt Uprising* (2010 - ?). The only problem might be finding a shirt long enough to fit them all.

On a more serious note, the political turmoil in the country does represent a grave threat to Phuket's tourism industry, even if the island itself has remained free of discord.

While Phuket may offer very good value for money to tourists who realize how little threat there is to their safety, any benefit from this will be far outweighed by the effects of the images being broadcast daily from Bangkok.

It seems every major threat to Thailand's tourism industry is met with knee-jerk tourism promotion schemes, such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) 'road-shows' abroad, and this latest threat is no different. Unfortunately, the TAT's role is largely limited to that of cheerleader, one with little power to actually influence events on the playing field.

More unfortunate is the fact that the one arm of the government with real power to change things – the Ministry of Interior (MoI) – has failed to address the many tourism-damaging regulations put in place during the Thaksin years under Interior Minister Purachai Piemsomboon, when impractical closing times and zoning laws on entertainment venues were enacted.

Recently, however, the MoI has mooted the idea of expanding the zones in Phuket and some other provinces as a way of 'boosting tourism'. [See page 2]

It is unlikely that this 'initiative' has anything to do with the current crisis, as the MoI bureaucracy works in ways that make it generally impossible to effect important change in the short term – and not at all when governments come and go in quick succession.

Nevertheless, the idea of adding to the number of zones in Phuket offers a small ray of light at a time when the island's tourism prospects are gloomy indeed.

More importantly, let's hope the country can step back from the brink – before zoning regulations are the least of our worries.



Letters

The Gazette is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-615240 or send an email to editor@phuketgazette.net with

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

No more death defying crossings

I am intending to visit Patong again soon, and when I do, I hope to be able to cross Ratu-thit 200 Pi Road near Soi Kebsup without another near-death encounter with a speeding *songthaew*.

Please, someone re-paint the crosswalk and install a sign and/or flashing light. Speed bumps or rumble strips on approach to the crosswalk could help as well.

Tom Udon Thani

Phuket not an island

I'm tired of Phuket's complacency over what is happening in Thailand right now.

Yes, there has been no violence here during the latest unrest in Bangkok. So far, the island remains 'safe'. But for how long?

People need to wake up to the fact that what we are witnessing in Thailand now is civil war.

Even if the government can make the red shirts go home, even if there is compromise and fresh elections, one side – yellow or red – will cry foul. And we will see more of what we are seeing now, on a larger and deadlier scale.

Contrary to what many seem to believe, Phuket is *not* an island. This province is connected to the mainland by roads, by air, and by the political, social and economic bonds between Thais who live here and their brethren in the rest of the country.

Those who are unable to see how Phuket could get dragged into this are severely deficient in imagination.

This civil war will not see opposing armies facing each other over some front splitting

central Thailand from the north.

Like most modern wars, it will be fought using guerrilla tactics – threats, bombs and terror. Phuket – as a yellow shirt, Democrat Party stronghold – will be a target.

The live grenade left at the ASTV offices last week should remind us of this.

Even if the violence is confined to Bangkok, the economic effects on this tourism-reliant island will be devastating.

If I had family here, I would be seriously thinking about leaving. Fast.

**Bernard Curtis
Phuket Town**

A noble man

Frank Visakay faced his ailment and its inevitable consequences without fear or wallow – an inspiration to us all. May we all face our challenges with as much grace and nobility.

Phuket, the world and Saturday morning breakfasts at Don's will all be less colorful without his presence. Frank's greatest legacy is the warmth he left in the hearts of all of us who knew him.

**Anna and Bolek Peplowski
Gazette forum**

Support appreciated

My twin brother, Frank Visakay, has left on another adventure. He never once complained of his ailments and was stoic and good natured throughout all this.

Thank you all for your kind comments and thoughts. It gives me much comfort to see he had such good people and good friends around him. He leaves us with many happy memories. God bless.

**Stephen Visakay
Gazette forum**

Accelerating action on internet speeds

We've seen very bad connection problems and download speeds for the past month, particularly with 3BB and TOT. Fortunately, though, it looks like the problems have been cleared up, at least temporarily.

It's easy to complain about individual problems, but the only way we're going to get the Internet service providers' attentions is by collecting real, hard data. That's why it's important that everyone report their international speeds on the Phuket Internet Speed Reporting page.

You can gripe all you like, but if you want to do something about it, get signed up and record your speeds.

Google 'Phuket Internet Speed' for details.

**Woody Leonhard
Gazette forum**

Dog days numbered

I'm quickly growing tired of the stray dogs roaming the streets of Phuket, specifically in my neighborhood.

These animals serve no purpose other than to occupy space in the middle of the street, annoying road users.

They are dangerous, disease-infested creatures and are truly a nuisance. They are not pets, nor are they guard dogs; they are a threat to my safety that I must confront on a daily basis.

I have heard the police are responsible for dealing with this particular problem and would like to know when they will step in and cull these hideous beasts.

**Simon Wargel
Phuket Town**

The Phuket Gazette

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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.

Puppet troupe keeping culture alive



FIRST PERSON

Patong, Mr Pisutr talked to the *Gazette* about preserving Thai culture and how his troupe is using pop-culture in its traditional Thai puppet performances to interest younger generations. **Compiled by Atchaa Khamlo.**

Nowadays we're bringing different cultures and technology into the mix of our traditional Thai puppet performances. Characters like Michael Jackson and Beyoncé have made appearances in the shows and we have used rap music, while still adhering to the principles of this Thai art.

We have introduced these new elements because we want the performances to be more interesting for younger audiences. The strictly traditional puppet shows were a bit boring for them. We have also limited our performances to one hour or less. This is especially true for the shows we do for middle and high school students.

We have introduced new technologies to create sound effects and laser animated backgrounds. There are students in schools all around Bangkok who would accuse you of being 'uncool' if you haven't seen a Joe Louis performance.

An example of a modern twist we have added is in the story of Phra Apai Mani in which we have a hermit rapping the lyrics of a poem by Sunthorn Phu, a poet during the Rattanakosin period [1786-1855]. It really works because during the shows we hear a lot of screaming and cheering.

We have given performances at around 400 schools in Bangkok and the students have

really enjoyed them. We perform at many different types of schools, including international and temple schools.

Our troupe performs for about 8,000 students every week during school terms.

Performances for foreigners are slightly different in that we make the puppets 'act' more, with more movement and sound effects so that the audience understands what they are doing.

The shows are done in Thai language and subtitled in English. We do not change the language because we want to preserve our culture and continue the tradition of Thai puppetry.

It takes a lot of time to create a new show. We have to choose a story, write dialogues and songs, and make costumes. We put about three million baht into each story.

One of the most difficult parts is making costumes, which can take from six months to a year. The cost for one puppet's costume can range from 200,000 to 500,000 baht. Our 10 costume technicians copy costumes from the fashions of various periods and use high-quality materials. We import the materials from places like France and India and use things like gold-plated silver and the wings of green beetles to add color.

We have 270 staff members working for us, about 60 of them are performers.

The performers controlling the puppets must be trained in



Joe Louis Traditional Thai puppet theater troupe puts on a show at Jungceylon in Patong.

Thai classical dance and Thai drama for at least three years before learning how to control the puppets. They can actually perform on stage after about five to six years of training.

Each puppet needs three people to control it, so we have our puppeteers work in teams. They work better if they keep practicing with the same people.

If one of our teams is absent, they are replaced by another, because we have around five teams trained to operate each character. For example, we have about 15 young people learning how to control monkey puppets.

Not everyone makes it to

the stage, even if they have finished studying Thai classical dance and Thai drama. It depends on their talents and diligence. Sometimes only one in 50 makes the cut.

The puppeteers have to be able to do three things simultaneously: dance, control the puppet and follow the music.

These days, the young people coming to us seem to learn quickly. Most of the people we accept for training are between 18 and 20 years old.

Most of our 60 performers have graduated from the Thai classical dance program at Silpakorn University or are local artists. Some of them are from

Rajabhat and Rajamangala universities. Also, many of our staff are the fourth generation of the Yangkheiosod family and were trained from a very young age.

Our regular shows take place at our Joe Louis Theater at Suan Lum Night Bazaar in Bangkok, along with a restaurant in South Pattaya and in Nongprue, Chonburi.

The audiences at performances in Bangkok restaurants are always about 80% foreigners.

We have taken our show on the road to about 17 different countries and some foreigners, including Japanese, Australians and Europeans have come to study with us. So far none of them have been able to join the show, as it is very difficult to reach the required skill level. Even most Thai people cannot make it.

Our group continues to do this work so we can teach Thai people about their traditions through such a high art form.

We plan to open our own school to teach Thai classical dance and Thai drama, but we don't have the money for that yet. It would cost around 400 to 500 million baht.

I would like Thai people to remember their ancestors and to never forget that we have made it until now being 'Thai'. Foreigners come to Thailand because they like our traditions, so we should work to preserve our culture.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

The Phuket Gazette
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-615240, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

Is marriage easier the second time around?

I am an English man who wishes to marry a Thai woman. I have been married to a Thai woman before and we divorced in Phuket Town. I have a copy of the original marriage certificate and the original divorce certificate.

Do I still need a letter from the British embassy to say that I am eligible to marry in Thailand or will the divorce certificate cover this?

Steve Jeffrey
Karon

An officer at Muang District Office replies:

Yes, you still need the letter from your embassy. You have to translate the letter into Thai, make a copy and bring it to the Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to certify the translation. You can then use it, along with your divorce certificate and passport, to register your marriage.

In short, follow the same procedure you did with your first marriage.

For more information contact Muang District Office: 267 Mae Luan Road, T. Talad Yai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-212407, F: 076-211171.

Where can we dispose of our yard waste?

We have many trees along my soi in the Samkong area near Bangkok Hospital. The leaves of these trees fall on the road, and we have cleaned them up, bagged them and put them out for the garbage collectors. However, the garbage collectors did not take the bags.

Our house lies in Rassada Municipality's jurisdiction and we would like to know what we should do. How should we dispose of yard waste?

Name and address supplied

An officer at Rassada Municipality replies:

The Rassada Municipality is not responsible for the collection of yard waste; we only collect household garbage within the municipality. It is up to you to find a way to dispose of it.

One option is to take your yard waste to the incinerator at Saphan Hin. Please note that the incinerator charges a 520-baht-per-ton disposal fee.

For more information please contact Rassada Municipality: 17/ 58 Moo 3, Rassadanusorn Road, T. Rassada, A. Muang Phuket 83000. T: 076-525779, E: info@rasada.org, W: www.rasada.org

Soccer orphans trounce BIS

DESPITE a spirited performance by British International School (BIS), Youth Football Home (YFH) dominated a friendly match between the two under-15 squads on May 15, beating their BIS counterparts 3-1.

The 11-a-side match featured many of the boys who had played in the Fair Play League earlier this year. Piers Grasmann, the top scorer in the league, led the attack for BIS, where the match was played, while YFH's outstanding twins Nonthawit and Nattawat Onting were also on display.

YFH took an early lead through Norachai Temrun, who struck an unstoppable thunderbolt from 25 yards out.

BIS spurned a couple of chances to equalize, but YFH enjoyed the lion's share of pos-

session and a second goal arrived as BIS failed to deal with a well-struck corner and Nonthawit Onting headed the ball home at the far post.

BIS pulled a goal back with Grassman's superb long-range effort on the stroke of half time.

A BIS fightback was dismantled by Suniti Boonhao who scored with a well-taken finish, before the game was prematurely ended by a thunderstorm. The game ended YFH 3, BIS 1.

YFH will hold its annual match in honor of the charity's founder, Henrik Lorenz, on May 22. Every year, members of the Singapore Cricket Club and Hong Kong Football Club play each other in Phuket to commemorate the life of Lorenz, who died in 2006. The match will kick off at 4:30pm at YFH in Thalung.



A Youth Football Home player maintains possession while a BIS defender holds off. Photo: James Goyder

Di Matteo in Phuket:

Goal is staying in the Premier League

From Page 10

"He is a good friend of mine and I was sad to hear that he was sacked, but that is part of our jobs. We know that at any time you have a bad run of results you can be sacked. I will be seeing him this summer and we will hopefully enjoy a nice round of golf in Sardinia."

Di Matteo laughed off the suggestion that he and Zola might form some sort of a managerial dream team at West Brom next season. "West Brom already have one manager, I don't think they need another one."

While Zola's reign at West Ham might have come to an abrupt end earlier this month, Mancini and Ancelotti are likely to remain at their respective clubs



Roberto Di Matteo. Photo: Courtesy of The Serenity Residence

and Di Matteo has a huge amount of respect for both men.

"Mancini is in a different league to me. He has got more experience and I am not surprised how well Chelsea have done under Ancelotti. He was assistant manager to Arrigo Sacchi when I was playing for the [Italian] national team and he has managed some big teams before and obviously done well. At Chelsea expectations are very high, but he has done an excellent job," says Di Matteo.

Ancelotti and Mancini are likely to be given multi-million-pound budgets to strengthen their already impressive squads this summer. Although Di Matteo might not have the same sort of resources at his disposal.

"We are excited to be in the Premier League and to be measuring ourselves against the best teams in the world, and I am excited to be measuring myself against the best managers in the world," he said.

By his own admission it took

Di Matteo much longer than he expected to come to terms with the fact that his playing career was over. He fell into management almost accidentally after a chance phone call from the Milton Keynes Dons FC in 2008, but was an instant success.

In his first season in charge, MK Dons finished third in League One. They missed out on promotion after losing a penalty shoot-out in the playoffs with Di Matteo's former Chelsea teammate Tore Andre Flo missing the decisive spot kick.

While MK Dons were destined to languish in League One for another season, Di Matteo was not and he promptly departed to take over at Championship side West Bromwich Albion.

Di Matteo went one better at West Brom, securing a second place and automatic promotion. However, all his managerial achievements to date will pale into insignificance if, after seeing his team promoted to the Premiership, he can keep them there.

When the new Premiership season kicks off in three months, it will bring with it high expectations and intense scrutiny. If Di Matteo as manager can thrive under these challenging conditions, then he could put the pain caused by the premature ending of his playing career behind him once and for all.

— James Goyder

This interview was made possible by The Serenity Residence in Kathu. For more information, contact Alain Gogniat at T: 081-970 3136. E: alain.gogniat@serenity-residence.com W: serenity-residence.com



Pariwat Pinsawat (left), 13, and Jinjuta Thongtan, 15, at the Phuket Country Club earlier this month. Photo: James Goyder

Phuket youngsters to play in top-flight golf tournament

PHUKET golfers Pariwat Pinsawat, 13, and Jinjuta Thongtan, 15, will be heading to San Diego in July for the Junior World Golf Championships.

The annual tournament for elite young golfers, this year to be held from July 12 to 16, boasts Tiger Woods and Ernie Els as past champions. Woods, whose mother is Thai, won the Junior World Championships six times, including four consecutive wins from 1988 to 1991.

In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of wins and top 10 finishes by Asian golfers in international tournaments, and Pariwat and Jinjuta will be hoping they can follow in Tiger Wood's footsteps.

Although Jinjuta, who has never been outside Thailand before, is not expecting to win, she is looking forward to the experience.

Pariwat, however, believes he is capable of coming home with what would be the crown in his rapidly expanding collection of golfing trophies. "I am not ner-

vous at all and I believe I have a great chance to win it," said the top-seeded golfer in his age group in Thailand.

Pariwat, along with Nattawat Suwajanakorn, Rattanon Wannasrichan and Poom Saksansin, has just returned from Bangalore, where the Thai foursome won the team trophy in the HP Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship by an easy margin of 11 shots on May 16.

During the tournament, Pariwat scored a four-under-par 68 to head the leader board on the second-last day of play.

Pariwat also recently won the Optimist Cup in Pattaya, just one of three tournaments he has won so far this year, including the National Youth Cup.

The junior golfers, who both attend Satee Phuket School and who both have established themselves as among the best young golfers in Thailand, were honored with a dinner at the Phuket Country Club earlier this month.

For more information visit www.juniorworldgolf.com.

— James Goyder

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Senior World Cup football tourney back on the island

THE island is gearing up to host the fifth annual Football Senior World Cup 2010 tournament that kicks off on May 31.

The tournament is to be held in Phuket for the first time since 2006, when the island hosted the inaugural event.

This year's tournament, which runs from May 31 to June 5, will include teams from eight nations. In Group A will be Thailand, Iran, England and Armenia. In Group B will be Australia, USA, New Zealand and Taiwan.

To ensure fairness, the 11 starting players must meet strict age requirements, with the goal-keeper at least 38 years old and other members of the lineup as follows: three players 38 to 44 years old; four players aged 45-49; and three players aged 50 or older.

Group A matches will be played at Surakul Stadium in Wichit, while Group B matches

will take place at Karon Stadium.

During group play there will be two games daily at each venue, starting at 4pm and 6pm.

Admission is free to all matches and fans will have a chance to watch football stars of the past in action right here in Phuket.

Seniors World Cup organizing committee chairman Thepitak Chansuthep told the *Gazette* that the side from Iran will have several players who have represented that country in the FIFA World Cup.

The Thai national team will stay at the Phuket Orchid Hotel, while the other teams will stay at Centara resorts in Karon, he said.

The tournament is organized by the Seniors Football Association of Thailand (SFA) in association with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization. The Tourism Authority of Thailand is promoting the event, which has corporate sponsors in-

cluding PTT, Honda, Chevrolet and Isuzu.

In order to maintain the competition in the future, during the tournament the SFA will try to establish a new organizing body, the Federation Internationale de Senior Football Association (FISA).

Thailand has hosted all four Senior World Cup events held so far, and all organized by the SFA. The 2nd Seniors World Cup was played in Chonburi (Champions: Germany); the 3rd Seniors World Cup in Phitsanuloke (Champions: Thailand); and the 4th Seniors World Cup in Udon Thani (Co-champions: England, Australia).

With headquarters in Thailand, FISA would have three stated objectives: acting as the main source of information for seniors football in all aspects; exploring opportunities for senior footballers to benefit youth; and using sport as way of building friendships and social



The Thai National Team celebrate their victory at the inaugural event in Phuket in 2006. Photo: Phuket Gazette file

networks around the world.

During the 2010 World Cup, the SFA will invite senior football associations or clubs from all around the world to become FISA committee members and vote for the chairman and sub-committee heads. Once established, the com-

mittee will create policies and operational guidelines and set up a website and office in Thailand.

The organizers say this year's tournament will be a boost for Phuket tourism at a time when hotel occupancy rates are falling.

— *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*

Laguna on track to set marathon record

DESPITE ongoing political unrest in Bangkok, a surge in the number of overseas entries has put this year's Laguna Phuket International Marathon on track to become Thailand's second biggest full marathon, after the long-established Bangkok Marathon.

Total entries for the complete field of full marathon, half-marathon, 10.5km run, 2km children's run and 5km family walk are up 20 percent on the same period in 2009, Laguna announced on May 14.

Pre-race registrations for the event, now in its fifth year, is at more than 600 runners.

Organizers predict a record of more than 5,000 entrants from some 45 countries will take part on June 13, making the Laguna Phuket International Marathon the fastest-growing destination



Registrations from overseas are setting the pace for a new Laguna Marathon record. Photo: Courtesy of Laguna Phuket

marathon in Southeast Asia, said Laguna representatives.

Race Director Roman Floesser, of event organizer Go Adventure Asia, said, "It's par-

ticularly pleasing that our full marathon is now beginning to rival the popularity of the Bangkok Marathon, a regional fixture established for more than 20 years".

International entries have been received from as far afield as Australia and Japan, as well as from Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and throughout Thailand.

Back to defend their titles will be last year's marathon winners Stephen Paine from

Australia and Katja Fink of Switzerland, as well as Italian Stefano Passerello, winner of the 2008 half-marathon.

"We're encouraging more entries from club and group teams to add to the fun atmosphere that is always generated," said Floesser.

Runners will also be encouraged to take part in fund raising, either for their own chosen charity or for Laguna Phuket's

support for local schools.

The marathon will begin at Laguna Phuket and take in various local areas on a mainly flat course, including a village market, rubber plantation, rice fields and beach views, before finishing back at Laguna Phuket.

Online registration is open until June 5. For more information or to register, visit www.phuketmarathon.com

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Tri-Asia, LaTour eye Asian expansion



LOOKING GOOD: The Dewa (above) in Nai Yang is one resort included in a new partnership between Phuket's Tri-Asia and US-based LaTour Hotels and Resorts. Photo by Dewa

GLOBALIZATION and localization sometimes offers the best of both worlds, and this is never more evident than the hospitality business. The recently announced joint venture between Phuket's Tri-Asia and US-based LaTour Hotels and Resorts looks set to use the island as a platform for expansion.

In a marriage of East and West, the North American management group, understanding the significance of having local experience and expertise on the ground, have tapped leading professional Lars Ydmark to provide a platform for Asian expansion.

Having worked with international chains such as Shangri-La and French chain Accor, along with his own development of hotels in Kata, Patong and Grove Gardens at Yamu; Lars has, over

the years, consistently demonstrated a track record of exceptional entrepreneurship.

At the cornerstone of the new partnership, is the inclusion of Nai Yang's boutique property Dewa into the mix. LaTour already operate Kalim's rising star IndoChine Resort and Villas and have created a development pipeline in Asia with more hotel deals set to be signed.

Phuket as a destination has acted as a catalyst for the growth of groups such as the Banyan Tree and Aman Resorts in years past. More recently, North American chains such as Hawaii's largest operator, Outrigger, have recognized the importance of the island as a tourist hub, and have invested in a regional office to serve what it views as the fastest-growing marketplace in the world.



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.

In Nai Yang, the location has continued to see renewed interest, bolstered by the redevelopment of one of the island's pioneer resorts into its present award-winning Indigo Pearl incarnation. High-profile Thai investor TCC acquired the Adamas Resort a few years ago and since then Dewa has opened, altogether elevating area's profile considerably.

Further north, hotel development continues with Nai Thon surging back with the luxury Malaiwana and Istana villa project along with a planned Pullman resort by the Arcadia group. In Mai Khao, recent openings include the Renaissance and under construction are a Holiday Inn and the Mai Khao Dream.

A planned expansion of Phuket International Airport looks set to double the passenger handling capacity from its present 6.5 million to nearly 13 million. The proposed private jet terminal similar to the facility set up at Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport is in the works, according to Airports of Thailand (AoT).

Back at Tri-Asia, Lars is upbeat about the potential of the management arm moving forward. Hospitality-led residential projects in Asia continue to flourish and cashed-up property development firms are looking to create more mixed-use projects.

All too often the larger in-

stitutional players lack the focus or experience in creating hospitality components and this creates low-hanging fruit for the new group's ambitions.

The trail of tears of conglomerates who have come to the island over the years lacking both the cultural awareness and business acumen needed in this part of the world has resulted in many "here today, gone tomorrow" epic stories.

The future for LaTour bodes well, and tapping into a valuable resource like Lars, is a sound decision.

In these trying days of political and economic turmoil, which in time will pass, it is encouraging to see homegrown companies like Tri-Asia move forward and create a larger Phuket presence.

It's too easy at times to forget that through all the challenges in the market of the past decade, Phuket possesses such considerable cartel that can be sustained not only here, but exported as well.

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Construction Update

Kathu

Construction work on the Thara Bangwad apartment complex is due to be completed by the end of this month.



An artist's conception of the completed superstructure (below). A view of the reception area (right).



Smart and simple living with Thara Bangwad

OWNERS of the Thara Patong Beach Resort and Spa are in the midst of developing a 50-room rental apartment complex, the Thara Bangwad Apartments in Kathu.

Situated near the banks of the Bangwad Reservoir, the 1,800-square-meter, three-story complex is expected to attract both Thai and expat renters.

Triphada Construction Co Ltd are the project developers. Construction work began in May last year, and is expected to

finish by the end of this month.

Project Director Jikit Sarideepan said 28 apartments within the complex would be reserved for Thara Patong staff. The remaining 22 apartments will be available for short-and long-term rental contracts.

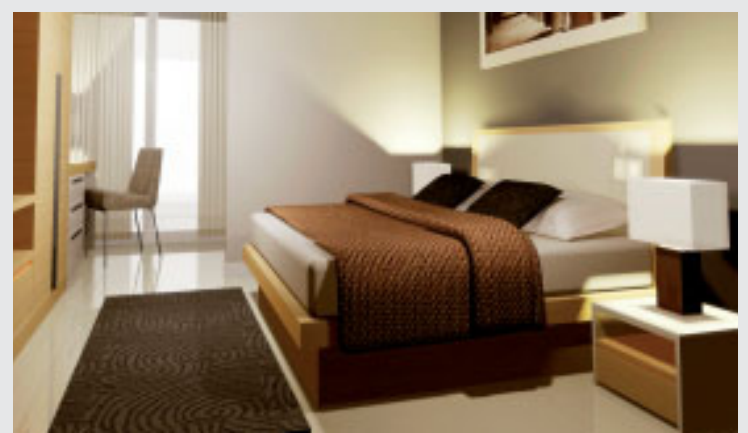
Interior designer Angwara van Deventer is ensuring the Thara Bangwad rooms are, "Comfortable, smart, simple, and modern," Mr Jikit said.

Room sizes range from 24 to 32 square meters, with both

consisting of one bedroom, one bathroom and a terrace. Rooms come fully furnished and are priced between 3,000 and 8,000 baht a month, with the more expensive rooms coming with air-conditioning units and more picturesque views.

Additional facilities include WiFi, key-card access, 24-hour security, parking and a cleaning service. For more information contact E: tharabangwad.apartment@gmail.com.

— Nicky Vermeulen



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Blooming trees to brighten your yard



A TOUCH OF COLOR: Oleanders (top left) are common in a variety of reds, pinks, corals, yellows and whites. Tecoma Stans (bottom left) are mostly seen in yellow but there are a few hybrid varieties in oranges and reds. Frangipanis (middle) are as well known for their bright yellow, pink and red colors as they are their fragrant smell and are a favorite in tropical gardens worldwide. Hibiscus (above) flowers are another tropical delight that come in an array of colors. Photos by Wikimedia/open source.



A RECENT article in this column highlighted trees ideal for a Phuket garden, though many other trees were left unmentioned. Hence another foray into this arboreal area. First, a caveat. Although most books devote separate chapters to trees and shrubs, the distinction is often an arbitrary one.

Plumerias, better known as frangipanis, for example, are usually cultivated as shrubs and can be successfully grown in containers. But mature plumerias can grow to eight meters tall if left to their own devices, as seen at Muslim cemeteries and Buddhist temple grounds around the island.

Nonetheless, the *leela-wadee*, to give it its Thai name, is entirely suitable for gardens. It may drop its leaves during

periods of dormancy, but it enjoys full sun and will tolerate fairly arid conditions.

One of the main reasons members of the apocynaceae family, including the oleander, thevetiana, and allamanda, do so well in hot, parched conditions may be that all these shrubs or trees contain a white, resinous and noxious latex that not only coagulates when exposed to air, and thereby sealing bleeding cuts, but also resists evaporation better than conventional sap.

The frangipani has many other merits. Although its open, often skeletal structure does not provide much shade, the shapely leaves appearing at the end of branches complement the clusters of five-petaled fragrant flowers. Hybrids of the commonest

plumeria species, such as plumeria rubra, now exist in deep red and rainbow combinations, as well as in the more established hues of white, pink and yellow. Some nurseries in Phuket even specialize in this shrub, so the choice is wide.

That's not to say they will cost a fortune: frangipanis take easily from cuttings. Just plant a length of swollen stem a couple of inches deep in moist soil or potting compost, and it should soon sprout leaves at its tip.

But the real boon is the scent, a fragrance of such distinction that it has become the key ingredient in many world-famous perfumes. In comparison, plants with no striking scent or flowers hardly seem worth mentioning in this column.

The pisonia alba, the so-called lettuce tree or *sang chan*, is a real favorite among Thais, and grows well in Phuket, often as a container plant.

From the same family as the bougainvillea, this evergreen shrub hails from coastal regions, and is especially at home in Phuket. One specimen, on the front lawn of a house near Nai Harn lake, is fully

20 feet tall and almost as wide.

However, its preference is for light, sandy soil, and may struggle elsewhere, growing slowly even when established.

Pisonia owes its deserved popularity to its large, floppy leaves a remarkable shade of lemon-green, and in full sun glow with a lambency that rivals that of flowering shrubs. Very different.

Much faster-growing and easier to propagate from seed or cutting is the acacia or wattle, or *kratin narong* in Thai. In some ways this plant is more difficult to manage than the pisonia, as it sheds its leaves all year round.

Yet, it abundantly produces mimosa-like, globular flowers carried on short racemous spikes, and its tough, evergreen, fern-like foliage is an added attraction.

Specialist garden centers on the island may carry the smaller acacia cincinnata, which is bushier. Once established, all varieties of acacia can tolerate drought and most produce attractive and sweetly scented yellow or cream-colored flowers.

A good choice for Phuket? Absolutely.

Finally, to laud an ornamental tree: the tabebuia. Like the wattle, it has New World origins and as a member of the same bignoniaceae family that boasts tecoma stans [the yellow trumpet tree], it is widely used in hot weather gardens.

Tabebuia comes in both pink [rosea] and yellow [argenta] forms. The latter produces clusters of dramatic chrome yellow flowers only after it has shed its leaves. The result is a stunning display of naked blossom.

These trees mentioned above are dotted around the island, all blooming in the current dry season. They may be a bit big for the average garden, but oh so pretty.

To reiterate the following shrubs and small trees are all recommended for gardens in Phuket: cassia, cordia, jacaranda, crape myrtle, plumeria, acacia, pisonia, tabebuia, allamanda, oleander, thevetia peruviana and tecoma stans. Quite a list. And all well equipped to make the grade in your Phuket garden.

If you would like your garden featured in the *Gazette*, contact me at pcampbell45@gmail.com

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Property Briefs

Still strong amid crisis

PATUM Design & Develop is aggressively expanding franchises for its homebuilding in provincial markets to offset declining trade in Bangkok. Phuket is one of the main new markets the firm is entering this year after opening a franchise outlet in the province last month, the *Bangkok Post* reports.

"We've seen high purchasing power and a huge demand from professional homebuilders in the self-built home markets outside of Greater Bangkok, especially in Chiang Mai and Phuket," said Chief Executive Sitiporn Suwanasut.

Mr Sitiporn said Phuket offers high potential as a market due to the diverse range of buyers.

About 2,000 to 2,400 self-built homes are constructed each year in Phuket, where small contractors account for 80 to 90 percent of the market.

MBK hotels on hold

MBK PLC, the operator of the MBK shopping center in Bangkok, says it will put off new hotel projects in Phuket and Samui, worth 2-3 billion baht, for one year, the *Bangkok Post* reports.

MBK will instead focus on expansion of existing property projects and community malls to reduce risks amid Thailand's political uncertainty.

The company says the prolonged demonstrations have so far cut visitors to its flagship shopping center, located near the center of the Bangkok protests, by 20 percent from the normal rate of 100,000 a day.

Once the demonstrations end, MBK says it will take about one year to reactivate its Phuket and Samui hotel projects.

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

While Bangkok burns, Asia property surges to recovery

WHILE the full extent of the events in Bangkok have yet to be felt throughout the property investment sector in Thailand, and in particular Phuket, the Asia Investment Market View report released by CB Richard Ellis on May 11 noted that investment in property across Asia in the first quarter of 2010 had streaked ahead of last year's figures.

"The flow of small- and medium-sized transactions witnessed in the latter half of 2009 continued to feed through into the year's opening three months. Given the relatively low level of trading activity at the beginning of 2009, in the first quarter total direct real estate investment in Asia jumped 215 percent on a year-over-year basis to an estimated US\$16.5 billion," according to the report.

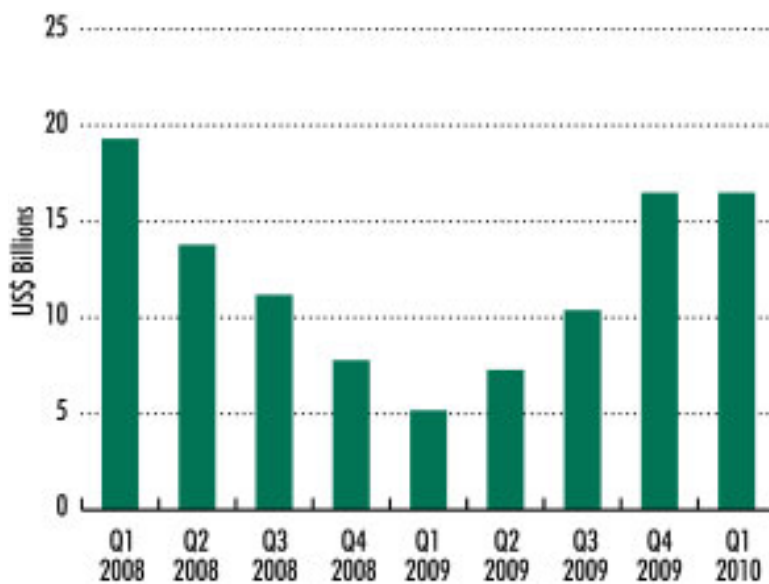
Transactional activity throughout Asia mostly derived from domestic investors, who accounted for 72 percent of total investment volume.

However, the US\$12 billion in transactions completed by domestic investors during the period was US\$2.1 billion lower than the previous quarter. This shift, reflected the rising proportion of international transactions during the period and the return of international real estate funds, according to the report.

"The quarter saw both opportunistic and core international institutional investors return to the Asian real estate markets, attracted by the signs of a sustained recovery," said Andrew Ness, Executive Director of CBRE Research Asia.

"At the same time, well-capitalized Asian REITs and sovereign wealth funds also resumed the portfolio expansion which they had halted during the most severe period of the global economic downturn. Their return was marked by rising level of acquisitions in Japan and Singapore."

Prime office properties continued to attract the most interest during the first quarter 2010, accounting for more than US\$5.8 billion of investment, 35 percent of the total volume recorded, with



The Asia real estate investment volume Q1 08 - Q1 10.

office properties accounting for seven of the 10 largest transactions during the period.

Residential and retail properties continued to attract a similar proportion of investment from investors, with residential properties accounting for 13 percent, and the retail sector comprising 14 percent of the total investment.

Despite the relatively high proportion of market share, the US\$2.1 billion worth of residential transactions was 48 percent lower than the amount recorded in the Q4 2009. To an extent, this contributed to the tightening of monetary policy and other fiscal and bank regulatory measures, recently adopted by Asian

governments seeking to cool down local residential markets.

The report noted that the revival in Asia business and tourist travel was reflected in Q1 2010 in the surge in activity in the hospitality sector, which showed strong growth during the period with seven hotel transactions worth a combined US\$590 million concluded.

In comparison, Q1 2009 recorded US\$62 million in hotel transactions, and Q4 2009 saw just US\$26 million.

"The continued recovery of the regional economy combined with low interest rate regimes continue to provide a favorable investment environment for real estate investors," the report added.

"Overall capital values are expected to stay on a steady upward trend and rental income is likely to improve in the short-term. These relatively stable real estate investment market conditions will act to attract both local and international investors to place their capital to work in the region."

— *Gazette reporter*

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Property Gazette

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Rawai beach. For lease or sale. Land and villa, 400sqm. 6 beds, 6 baths, fully furnished. Sale price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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For quick sale: 2 exclusive pool villas in Kata. One 4 beds, now 17.5 million baht. One 5 beds, now 22 million baht. Payment options. Call K. Michael. Tel: 087-894 1384. Email: milnelaur2@aol.com

FIRE SALE

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

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.

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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

RAWAI CONDO

Corner unit, 3rd floor, nice view. Price: 465,000 baht. Please call 087-331 7045 for more details.

NEW TOWNHOUSE



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

HEAVEN ON EARTH



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

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

PERFECT LAND

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

NEW TOWNHOUSE

2 story, 100sqm, corner position with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Quiet location, 2 carpark, 2 minute to Super Cheap. Price: 2.5 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

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

SURIN BEACH

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

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

NEW DETACHED HOUSE



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

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.

PATONG BAR

Urgent bar sale at very special rate. Price Starting 2 million baht only. Fully equipped, ready to open. Tel: 089-730 2229 (English & Thai). Email: asia.intech@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.

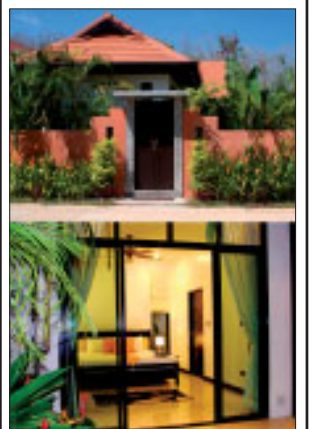
ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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: drbearnshaw@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

REDUCED VILLA



Thai-Balinese Style, L-Shaped. 2 bed ensuite, good location. Top quality, optional pool. Just 3.5 million baht. Must see! Tel: 084-293 7923. Website: www.phuket-aurasia.com

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Property Gazette

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

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.

ALERT: SPACIOUS 4 BED VILLA

Cherng Talay, fully furnished, landscaped. Best offer over 6.1 million baht. Tel: 089-216 7220 (English). Email: julianburgess@myway.com

POOL VILLAS

for sale. 6 houses, 2-4 bedrooms with big pool. Tel: 085-674 6786. For further details, please see our website at www.phukethome.ws

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

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

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 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7051. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.awphuket.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.immobiliens.0.html?&L=0>

1/2 RAI CHANOTE LAND

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

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.kkaowyairesort.com

KRABI, AO-NANG POOL VILLAS

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

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

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.

HOUSE IN KAMALA



for sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peace 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 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.

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.

PATONG TOWNHOUSE

in Baan Benjamas for sale. Corner position, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, it is neat, light and airy. Quiet location with garden and undercover carpark in a maintained estate. Central location. Price: 6.7 million baht. Tel: 087-257 2289, 087-900 8445.

NAI HARN APARTMENT

1 bedroom apartment, 58sqm. Super location, very modern, with a seaview and pool. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-844 6476. Email: dildalarge@yahoo.co.uk

PAY IN 2 YEARS, NO INTEREST



2 condos in Rawai. Price: 1.7 million baht for 54sqm. 1 million baht for 27sqm. Located 200 metres from the pier. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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

SHOPHOUSE AT SURIN BEACH

3 storey. Good location. Price 17 million baht. Call Khun Nantana. Tel: 084-261 1161.

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

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.

BAAN BAI MAI



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

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



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

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

HOUSE & BUSINESS RAWAI

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

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 Francais).

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

THE ROYAL PLACE

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

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Property Gazette

1 RAI IN PASAK

Chanote title, 3 phase power. Land located in Pasak Soi 8. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

SALE & RENT VILLA

7 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, kitchen, garden top floor, swimming pool. For sale: 19 million baht. For rent: 70,000 baht. Tel: 087-267 7281 (Italian) or 085-243 3878 (Thai).

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

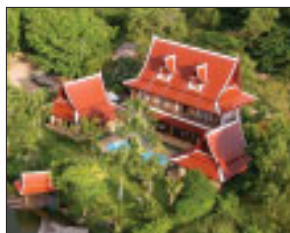
NAI HARN APARTMENT

1 bedroom apartment, 58sqm. Superlocation, very modern, with a seaview and pool. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-844 6476. Email: dildalarge@yahoo.co.uk

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for sale or rent. 312sqm, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished, 24-hour protection. 5 minutes to Chalong Bay, 10 minutes to Nai Harn Beach, 20 minutes to Patong Beach and 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Price: sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 45,000 baht per month. Please contact Khun Sam (English/Thai) 085-1106449. For further details, please see our website at <http://ipdproperty.com/30-chalong-villa/30-chalong-villa.html>

THAI-STYLE VILLA IN CHALONG



Luxurious, lakeside, Thai-style villa in Chalong. Has 8 rooms and a swimming pool. Price: 38 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8740.

LAND, NANAI ROAD

for sale. 90wah with mountain and ocean views. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

LAND 1/2 RAI NEAR LAGUNA

In Bang Jo, nice quiet area, near beaches. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-078 0014 (English). Email: homeinphuket@live.com

NEW CONDO PATONG

Brand-new, fully furnished, 1-bedroom condo. Freehold. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

FREEHOLD FINISHED CONDO

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

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

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: 083-645 3546.

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).

TOWNHOUSE 2 STOREY



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

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.

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

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.

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

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>

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.

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LAND IN KATHU



Near the Loch Palm Golf Course. 600sqm. 2,600,000 baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Fax: 076-323724. Email: info@botanvillage.com

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

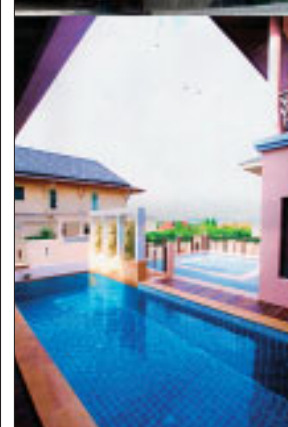
PATONG TOWER URGENT SALE

Freehold, lease hold. Start 4.7 million baht. Tel: 081-878 2199. Email: orso.realestate@gmail.com

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

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

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for sale or rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 ensuite 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

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

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

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>

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

3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS HOUSE

or sale. Preuschart 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

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Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 868 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 881 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.net

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

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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

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MOTORSAILER

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DUNCANSON 30 (1996)

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

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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

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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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Fast cruising catamaran reduced to AUS\$185,000. For further details. See www.boatshedphuket.com

NEW SEADOO RXTX 255HP

New 2008 Seadoo Rxt-x 255Hp. Special price: only 485,000 baht. Can do 70mph. 2 units left. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com

CHOLAMARK RIB 3.8M

Good dive boat for fishing and pleasure launch trolley. Price: 45,000 baht. Tel: 081-539 9560.

14FT SAILING DINGHY

For a couple or family, will be racing at Ao Yon. 2/3 sets of sails, uses no fuel as air is free. Price: 135,000 baht. Tel: 081-539 9560.

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In good condition. 2-engine Hino V10, and 2 electric motors. Call for more info. Tel: 085-883 5281.

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60' motoryacht for sale. The boat was built as a passenger vessel and is ideal for day trips and dive trips. 2 x 380 hp engines. Licensed for 40 passengers, plus crew. Tel: 083-395 8198 (English & Thai). Email: frank@krabibiz.com

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2005 Seadoo Jetboat. 1500cc, trailer + tower, condition 90%. can reach 60 Mph. Special price: 670,000 baht. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com

55-FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

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

SEALINE 260

Economical single diesel, end of season. Bargain at only 1.2 million baht. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

SCHIONNING POWER CAT 42'

Twin diesel inboards, 4 double berths. Excellent condition. Price: US\$329,000. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

JOUET 1280 KETCH

Just refitted and in excellent condition. Price: US\$109,950. www.boatshedphuket.com


FORMULA 353 FASTEC

Dealer stock boat. Reduced to only US\$155,000. Less than dealer cost price! Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

MAXUM 2100SC (2005)

Condition as new, c/w road trailer, 260Hp Mercruiser, low hours. Price: 1.25 million baht. www.boatshedphuket.com

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Personal Assistant to Principal

Qualifications:

- Female, Thai
- Good command of English
- Able to work under pressure and deal with tight deadlines
- Computer literate with good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Internet
- Able to work directly with the Principal

Working Hours: Monday-Friday 09.00-18.00

If you are interested in this position, please submit your CV with covering letter in English to: admin_phuket@limcharoen.com or contact Khun Plas 076-342 882-4.

www.limcharoen.com

PROLIVING Company Limited is a property development company. We are engaging in a high end luxury condominium project located on the beach side of Patong beach, Phuket. We are recruiting talented and collaborative individuals that are interested in joining a dynamic team.

SALES / MARKETING MANAGER

The position requires a business minded person to lead and supervise all sales and marketing for all projects.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male / Female Age 30 +
- University graduate with Bachelor Degree or higher
- Minimum two years experience in dealing with high end sales / marketing at managerial level
- Experience in Phuket real estate is a plus
- Superior record in achieving sales target
- Exceptional command of English
- Excellent planning and organization skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, self-motivated and first-rate team player
- Job location in Patong, Phuket

SALES ASSOCIATE

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University graduate with Bachelor Degree or higher
- Experience in Phuket real estate is a plus
- Minimum two years experience in dealing with high end luxury condominium sales
- Able to work in a fast track environment
- Good command of English
- Job location in Patong, Phuket

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University graduate with Bachelor Degree or higher in accounting or finance
- Two years experience at supervisor level
- Good command of English
- Handle daily accounting operations (i.e. A/P, A/R, GL)
- Submission of monthly withholding and VAT
- Liaison with accounting firm
- Job location in Patong, Phuket

Interested candidates, please send your resume and picture to: solom.dansirikul@gmail.com



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

Contact Human Resources Department,
Anantara Phuket Villas

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

Good Luck with your application!

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.

SALES POSITION IN RAWAI

looking for staff with sales skills for furniture and gift shop, English requested. Please send your CV to: asiamed@gmail.com

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 For further details, please see our website at 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

SALESPERSON: FOOD PRODUCTS

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

EXPERIENCED TRAVEL AGENT

Required for small office in Cherng Talay. Apply by email with resume, pic, salary. Email: trevor@sbyphuket.com

THAI SALESPERSON

Experienced, must speak English fluently. Salary + Commission. Call K. Fon. Tel: 088-442 8027.

CONDO MANAGER REQUIRED

To manage 35 unit condo in Rawai. Must be experienced, reliable, fluent in Thai and English. Can do rentals & sales, etc. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

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

HOUSEMAID 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

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION

HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

The Twovillas Group

Sales and Marketing Executive

The Twovillas Group is a team of creative, forward-thinking property developers with 15 years' experience who have so far created 18 residential environments in Phuket's Nai Harn, Bang Tao and Patong Bay coastal areas.

Qualification

1. Male/Female, Thai nationality, 25 - 30 years old
2. Bachelor degree from a reputable university
3. Experience in real estate market will be an advantage
4. A minimum of 3 years' experience in sales property
5. Strong command of English, both written and spoken
6. Good interpersonal and communication skills

Contact: Niksa Tel: 076261999 Fax: 076-261541
info@twovillas.com
www.twovillas.com

ENGLISH TEACHER (THAI ONLY)

SGS/Guard force center in Thalang looking for full-time English Teacher. Thai national only. Tel: 076-336084, 081-607 6637. Fax: 076-336085. Email: greatdeal94@gmail.com

WANTED

housemaid and gardener for farang home. Must have experience. Please contact Khun Ya. Tel: 081-797 7898.

GRAPHIC/FASHION DESIGNER

Must have good command of English and computer skills. Salary: 25,000 baht per month. Email: boxergirl@boxergirl.net Website: www.boXXerworld.com

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: jdye@netvigator.com

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 Klong Koi, Phang Nga. 1-3 days a week. Expenses paid. Call Khun Tawat. Tel: 084-059 5957.

LINUX PROGRAMMERS NEEDED

American company seeking Linux programmers in Patong. English language required. Experience with C language or Perl required. Device driver experience and kernel level programming, or user interface programming with Perl and knowledge of Linux administration. Please send resume and salary requirements to Michael Anderson. Email: manderson@streamscale.com

LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE

Dynamic, mobile, sales and marketing professional required to develop our private holiday villa rental portfolio in Phuket. High business ethics, sound commercial understanding with great presentation & interpersonal skills essential. Superb earning potential with retainer & expenses paid. Work permit available for the right person. Contact Paul by email sales@thailandholidayhomes.co.uk For further details, please see our website at www.thailandholidayhomes.co.uk

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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

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We are seeking outstanding personalities to join our motivated team, committed to personalized and superior customer service.

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Tel: 076-584450 Website: www.theparadise.biz



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,
Soi Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83120

Tel: + 66 (0) 76-279914 Fax: + 66 (0) 76-279412
E-mail: hr@TheBellphuket.com
Web: www.TheBellPhuket.com



Home Product Center Public Company Limited was founded on June 27, 1995 with an initial registered capital of 150 million baht. The company is a joint venture between Land and Houses Group, American International Assurance Co., Ltd. and the Sarasin Family. The Company was listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand on October 30, 2001.

The company was established with an objective to operate a retail business by selling goods and providing complete services relating to construction, improvement, decoration and renovation of buildings, houses and residence places under the trade name "HomePro".

► Management Trainee - GM Store

Qualifications:

- Must be between 32 and 45 years old and possess a bachelor's or master's degree in Business Administration or related field.
- Must have experience in sales team management, sales target management, customer management, inventory management and overall knowledge of retail operation or department store industry.
- Good English communication skills. Good personality and good leadership skills. Willing to relocate upcountry.

► Management Trainee - Sales Manager, Administration, Customer Service

Qualifications:

- Must be between 28 and 32 years old.
- Hold a bachelor's or master's degree in any field.
- Minimum 3 years experience in logistics management, product delivery management or customer services.
- Willing to work on rotation shift schedules.
- Experience in retail industry or department store will be an advantage. Willing to relocate upcountry.

To Join our team, send your resumé and recent photograph to:
Home Product Center Public Company Limited
104 Moo 5, Sub-District Rasada, District Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-255189 ext.1850,1851
or hr11@homepro.co.th



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

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If the answer to all of the above is yes, then email your application in PDF format and a recent photo to terry@ensign-media.com today. We require a sales professional to sell advertising in Property Report Thailand, the country's leading real estate magazine, as well as Helm magazine, Superyacht Asia Pacific magazine, Phuket Marine Guide and Property-Report.com, our real estate portal. Interviews will be offered in Phuket and Bangkok. Driving license is required. Use of company vehicle is provided. Thai nationals only.

Ensign Media Co., Ltd.

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Tel: 076-264756

Employment Wanted

EXPAT ENGINEER

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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

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High quality furniture for sale: 5-seater modular rattan sofa, 2 plantation chairs, customised Balinese teak shelves, wooden benches & more. Leaving Phuket. Must sell by month end. Call to view. Prices negotiable. Tel: 085-791 0691 (English). Email: vjmisso@gmail.com

MOVING SALE RAWAI

Orient rugs prints from China, India, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong. Select Asian furniture. Jade ivory vases, kitchen utensils, rosewood desk, Japanese wedding kimono rare, Japanese stone lantern. More to come. Indonesian statues, queen size bed+matress, tables, flowerpots, dining set (8). Tel: 080-145 3483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

LLADRO FIGURINE

Tahitian Dancing Girls, #0100 1498. It's 11.75 inches, retired 1995, hand painted. DF file available by email. Very slight damage to 2 fingers on 1 hand. 40,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-895-7727 (English). Email: info@axiominvestments.com

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1.5hp Pentair Whisperflow. Hardly used. 12,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-683 1964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

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MP3 collection, over 30,000 tracks tagged. Comes on 250GB, USB drive. 31,000 baht. Email: philsim96@gmail.com

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Color map navigator, pre-loaded with marine charts. One year young, never used. Price new 25,000 baht, make an offer. Tel: 081-077 3307. Email: sudeekh@web.de

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- Room fan: 36 cm, 390 baht when new. Now 200 baht
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Burmese cabinet, sofa bed, terrace, table, chairs, fan, dehumidifiers, shelves book, artwork, etc. Tel: 089-970 1861. Email: derek24davies@aol.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

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Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 7 PM
Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM
Krabi Hospital - Krabi
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(Additional Krabi meetings on request by contacting 084-4463103)
Scandinavian Speaking Meetings-Karen
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
Tel: 086-8440480 Swe. 082-2765566 Nor.
For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

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a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors—small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwc.com

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Come join our monthly, last Thursday Pub Quizzes. Starting at 20:00. Royal Phuket Marina. Tel: 076-360890.

REWARD OFFERED

For return of Acer desktop computer and buffalo external hard drive. It was sold for 5,000 baht from house in Soi 15, Sai Yuan, 3 months ago by fake real estate agent. It contains all photos of my recently deceased husband. Email: carriemaizey@gmail.com

Business Opportunities

AVIATION BUSINESS

Are you seeking to start, invest, or buy a Thai aviation business? Contact Aero Pro first. Tel: 085-258 0006 (English). Email: aeroprothai@yahoo.com

BAR SOI ERIC

for sale. Contract 37 months. Call for more information at Tel: 089-288 2803, 087-883 1756.

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For sale. Location: Patong. Foreign free hold. Price: 2.9 million baht. 1 million with no agents included. Tel: 083-172 2973.

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NEW SALON FOR SALE

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Nail & beauty shop sale. Bazaar Rd. Equipment included. Tel: 089-504 8882.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
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Brand new, top of range model. Automatic, 4 doors, for rent. Price: 900 baht per day. Tel: 085-795 0872, 087-726 6529.

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White, 1 day: 2,500 baht, 1 month: 40,000 baht, 6 months: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-958 2705.

NEW VIOS AUTO FOR RENT

Vios 1.6L, white, auto, 2010 model, alarm, ABS. For rent weekly, monthly and daily. Tel: 087-470 6840. Email: phuketrentcar@gmail.com

FOR RENT NEW VIGO

Vigo 4x4 AT, black, 4-door, leather seats, CD, ABS, bumper, 2,010 model for rent daily, weekly, monthly. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-470 6840. Email: phuketrentcar@gmail.com

FORD 10,000 BAHT FOR RENT

For rent, min 4 months, max 6 months. First class insurance. Crew cab pick-up, automatic 2.5L. Price: 10,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-280 1721, 087-886 5425. Email: jessicaphuket@gmail.com

NEW JAZZ, CITY, VIOS FOR RENT

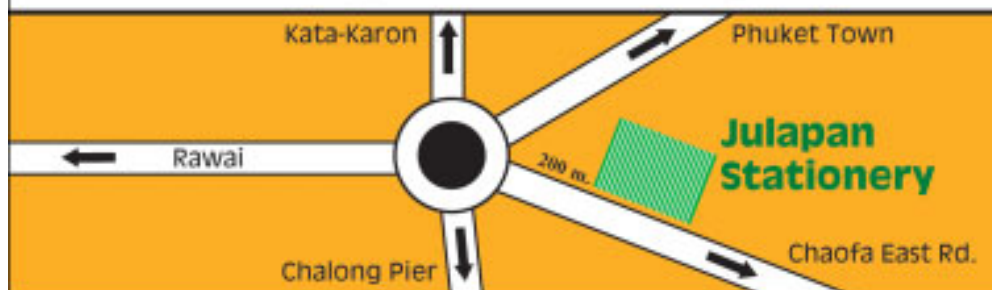
With first class insurance. Special price for long-term rental. Tel: 080-521 9888 (English & Thai), 084-051 1955 (English & Thai). Email: somin_s@yahoo.com

Others

ELECTRIC GOLFCART

Gem car, four seats, new batteries. Cost when new: 460,000 baht. Will sell for 320,000 baht. Tel: 081-487 4812.

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Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

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(heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.



Laguna Phuket International Marathon

Phuket, Thailand
13 June 2010

Marathon
Half Marathon
10.5 Km Run
5 Km Walk
2 Km Kids Run























Run Paradise!

Contact Info : For international enquiries T: +66(2)236 2931-2 | F: +66(2)237 2321 | www.phuketmarathon.com
 Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. (Marketing Support)

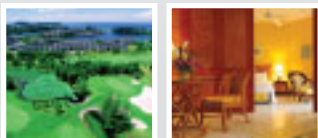
Looking for a place to stay?
 See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

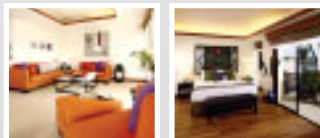
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Allamanda Studio THB 6 M



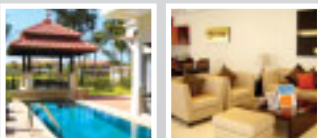
- 1 bed 1 bath Apartment
- rental pool
- golf course view

2 Laguna Village Villa THB 13.5 M



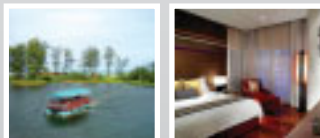
- 2-storey 2 beds Villa
- rental pool
- garden view

3 Laguna Village Townhome II THB 19.5 M



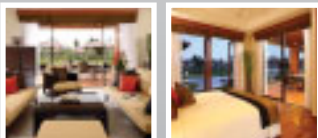
- 2-storey 3 beds Townhome
- maid's quarter
- fully furnished
- lagoon view

4 Sheraton Island Villa-Duplex THB 19.9 M



- 3-storey 2 beds 2.5 baths
- fully furnished • refurbished
- approx. 5% rental return
- sea view • golf membership

5 Laguna Village Residence I THB 33 M



- 4 beds 3 baths Residence
- separate storage room
- rental pool
- lagoon view

For more information on these and other properties, please call:
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 or email:
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