

# Phuket Gazette

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## Back from the brink

Phuket's finest return after duty in war-torn Bangkok

**M**ORE than 300 Phuket police are safely back on the island after a hellish experience on the streets of Bangkok, where they manned security checkpoints at the height of the red-shirt rebellion.

The officers were led by Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee, a native of Nakhon Sri Thammarat who has spent 27 years in uniform, more than 20 in Phuket.

"The situation in Bangkok was scary and very difficult to control," said the 48-year-old father of two.

The police role was to control movement through checkpoints and serve as backup for army units clearing protesters from the streets. After soldiers drove red shirts out of restricted areas, it fell to the police units to ensure they didn't return and resume their activities, he explained.

The mission was ordered by the Center for the Resolution of Emergency Situation (CRES), which placed the officers under the command of the Second Cavalry Division King's Guard.

The Phuket contingent, comprised of officers represent-



**CAUGHT:** Phuket police officers with a captured red-shirt guard at their checkpoint in Sathon Nuea.

ing every police district on the island, were ordered to the capital in two units.

The first group of 170 officers left Phuket for Bangkok on April 26 and stayed in the capital until May 14, when they were relieved by the second group of 166 officers under the direct command of Col Peerayut.

Col Peerayut's men had a rude welcome awaiting them. On their first day of action they were stationed near the Thai-Belgium Bridge when three or four grenades from an M79 launcher began exploding around them.

With no way of knowing where the bombs were launched from, some officers ran for their

lives while others crouched for cover.

The most serious injury was to an officer whose face hit the ground, causing a 'hemifacial spasm' that affected the muscles in the right side of his face and functioning of his right eye. He has since recovered.

*Continued on page 2*

## Central Festival security boost to be lifted

**EXTRA** security measures at Central Festival Phuket brought in following the destruction of Central World Plaza in Bangkok were expected to be lifted on May 28 as this edition went to press.

General manager of Central Festival, Wilaiporn Pitimana-aree, said that although there were no signs of political violence on the island, it was company policy to increase security at all branches.

The company had no evi-

dence of a new threat to its stores, but wanted to make its customers feel safe and confident, she said.

The new measures, which started on May 21, included bag searches and an increase in the number of security guards.

Security guards examined customers' bags as they walked into the mall and inspected cars entering the car park.

"We can't say how many security officers we have, but the

number is enough given the number of shoppers and size of the mall," she said.

The extra measures would be reintroduced if the security situation deteriorated or the government extended curfews in place in Bangkok and many northern provinces, she said.

The mall had asked the police to help, Mrs Wilaiporn said.

"Normally there are plainclothes police in our shopping mall, but we'd like to make se-

curity much tighter."

Customers understood the need for increased security, she added.

Janine Blases, a 28-year-old Swiss tourist whose bag was searched on her way into the mall, said she was unperturbed by the procedure.

"Phuket is already safe," she said. "I understand that it's the officer's duty to examine our bags for security."

- *Atchaa Khamlo*

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# Tourists to sober up in Patong 'drunk tank'

**T**OURISTS who over-indulge and get into trouble in Patong may soon be left overnight to sober up in a 'drunk tank', according to plans presented at the second ever meeting between honorary consuls and Phuket authorities on May 24.

Another major proposal mooted at the meeting, held at Phuket Provincial Hall on May 24, was to set up a call center to coordinate taxi services in Patong.

Phuket Vice Governor Smith Palawatvichai chaired the meeting, which was attended by representatives of 16 countries: Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Korea, Norway, Netherlands, Russia, Sweden and Spain.

Phuket Provincial Police reported the number of foreigners who died or were involved in criminal cases so far this year.

To May 12, 33 foreigners died of causes including accidents, health problems, drowning, drug overdoses and murder.

To April 26, 84 foreigners were charged with criminal of-



CONSUL CONVENTION: Participants at the meeting on May 24.

fenses including drunk driving, dangerous driving, theft, drug possession, visa overstay, assault, sexual abuse, child abduction and gambling.

To April 25, 20 foreigners reported having been victims of crimes including theft, robbery, physical assault, murder and fraud.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising said he was

very concerned by the statistics, as safety and security are key factors considered by tourists when choosing a holiday destination.

German Honorary Consul Dirk Naumann asked for 'more understanding' from police officers when drunken Germans swore at them.

"Thai police aren't used to this kind of abuse," he said. "From our side we can only request that Thai police understand that in most Western countries the police do not have the same status as Thai police."

V/Gov Smith said that many tourists came to Patong to get drunk, which meant security measures there should be different to other areas.

"In the future, a special area for drunk tourists will be set up to hold them for a while until they sober up. There'll be no need to go to the police station," he said.

On the subject of Thailand's current political crisis, Mr Paiboon said the Phuket authorities would coordinate to ensure Phuket remained safe for tourists from around the world.

Mr Naumann said that German travel advice was not to travel to Bangkok, the North or the Northeast, but that travel to Phuket was safe.

British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter raised the subject of the island's transport, asking how many tuk-tuks were registered in Phuket.

A Land Transport Office representative said that there were 1,130 registered tuk-tuks and that this number would not be allowed to rise.

Mr Carpenter also proposed introducing a service in which people who had gone out and had too much to drink could call a local driver who would come and drive them home in their own car.

Consuls also reiterated that sometimes police failed to inform them when foreign nationals from their countries were involved in criminal cases.

Every consul affirmed that police could call their offices because their secretaries were Thai and there would be no language problems.

It was also agreed that every honorary consul would receive a pocket book listing the telephone numbers of Phuket's government offices, police stations and important places.

The third honorary consuls meeting is scheduled to take place August 23.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

## Police return

Continued from page one

Another of Col Peerayut's men suffered an attack of gallstones that required hospital treatment. Many others suffered lesser injuries that did not require medical attention.

The Phuket Police were divided into three six-hour shifts. On the fourth shift of the 24-hour watch were officers from Chainat Province, one of whom was killed by an M79 grenade.

"At first our duty was to establish a checkpoint on Rama IX Road to restrict access to the Rajprasong area. The checkpoint was later moved to Witthayu Junction. The situation changed dramatically when [red shirt military commander] Seh Daeng was shot on May 13, just after we arrived," said Col Peerayuth.

Despite the grenade attacks, the Phuket officers never fired directly on red-shirt protesters but did fire warning shots into the air, he said.

Due to a lack of accommodation, officers from the second detachment set up a makeshift urban bunker with tents and mosquito nets in the parking lot of a military base less than one kilometer from the protest site. Periodic gunfire was exchanged between officers in the camp and protesters as columns of black smoke rose into the sky from protest sites in the city.

Crowd control training conducted in Phuket in recent years helped the officers deal with their first real confrontation with armed protesters, he said.

Most of the time the officers were more frustrated than afraid because they didn't know when the situation would end, he said.

"We were all very happy to come back to Phuket," he said, adding that he thought it very unlikely that similar protests could happen here in the foreseeable future.

— Atchaa Khamlo



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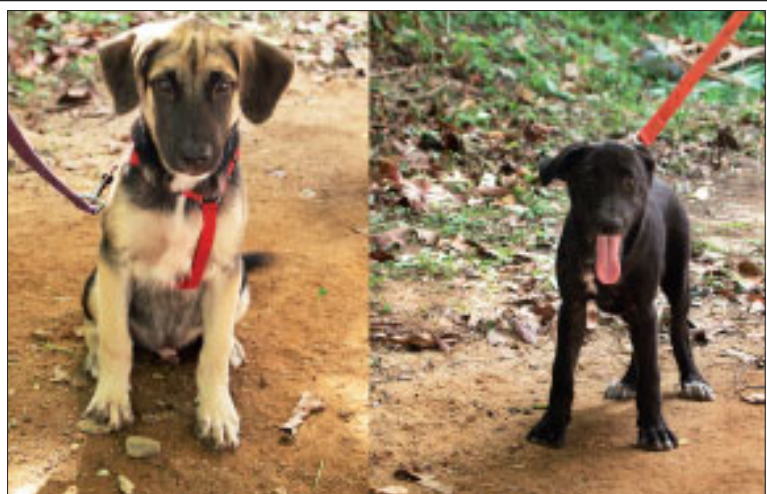
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Nin, left, and Chao Kuay, right, stand ready to protect and serve Phuket.

## New crime fighters

A PAIR of two-month-old puppies are the latest additions to Phuket's arsenal in the fight against drug trafficking. Currently being cared for at the house of Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul, Nin and Chao Kuay will start a drug detection course when they are six months old.

After completing five months of training at the Phuket International Dog School on Koh Sireh, the two Labrador and Spitz mix dogs (one male and one female) will join the Phuket Volunteer Security Force.

Chief Supachai said, "I got the puppies from a friend to make my team more efficient. Until now we have been using manpower, urine tests and Alpha 6 substance detectors to search for drugs."

"But, I think dogs will work better than any equipment or officers because of their sense of smell. I will have Nin and Chao Kuay working with me at checkpoints by this coming New Year's celebrations," he said.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

# Bros nabbed for murder after two months on run

TWO brothers have been arrested after nearly two months on the run and charged with stabbing their neighbor to death for "making too much noise".

Phuket natives Niphan, 37, and Niphan Kruae-in, 36, were arrested on May 20 for the slaying of 41-year-old Ponsan Noi-oonsaen, a native of Chiang Mai.

The brothers were hiding in a hut on a rubber plantation in the Nakkerd Hills behind Wat Luangpu Supha in Chalong.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit said about 10 officers went to arrest the pair about 10pm.

"The officers had to trek for about one hour from the foot of the hill up to the hut where they found the Kruae-in brothers sleeping," he said.



CAUGHT: Brothers Niphan and Niphan Kruae-in.

The suspects did not attempt to flee and surrendered to police, Col Wanchai said.

Witnesses to the murder, which took place in Rassada on March 21, said both men attacked Mr Ponsan.

Only Mr Niphan has confessed to the crime, however.

The brothers told police they were stressed out at the time because they were unemployed.

Mr Ponsan, who lived next door, had been drinking and talking loudly with a co-worker.

He had also been cooking fish, the smell of which annoyed the two brothers, police quoted the pair as saying.

According to the suspects, the final straw was when they twice told him to quiet down, to which Mr Ponsan responded by approaching them and shouting, "How am I being noisy?"

The response to Mr Ponsan's query was the fatal stabbing to which Mr Niphan has now confessed.

Both men fled after the killing. They disposed of the knife near the Phuket Provincial Administration Hospital, police said.

They are being held while police continue the investigation.

— Siththipong Nongkaew

## Phuket air traffic control dismisses 'chemtrail' video

AIR traffic control officials have dismissed as "crazy" a video circulating on the Internet purporting to show a mysterious unmarked airplane leaving "chemtrails" in the sky over Phuket.

The video was posted on YouTube on May 19 by a user calling himself "robinhoodlum".

"Chemtrails in Phuket. Caught on tape at last," says the narrator in a British accent, as the camera follows a plane leaving a trail through the sky.

The video invites users to speculate over "what the hell" the substance is. "I doubt it's something that makes us healthy and boosts our immune system," robinhoodlum posted under the video.

Other users have posted theories. "The barium gets into

your head and shows up on global positioning systems designed to work off the barium in your head. Aluminum amplifies the signal by also accumulating in your head," wrote Kitt0000.

Samonitus connected some dots: "Wonder if it has something to do with the hostilities in Bangkok. The trails probably contain tranquilizer."

Nopadol Soonsit, Air Traffic Control supervisor at Phuket International Airport, said staff there were laughing at the video.

It merely shows a Boeing 747 leaving a contrail – a trail of condensed water vapor – at around 30,000 feet, he said.

"It's normal," he said. "It's just what happens when the engines heat the cold air... Even my

nephew, five years old, knows about it."

About 50 seconds into the video, the trail disappears. The narrator suggests the aircraft is running out of whatever it is "pumping" into the air.

Mr Nopadol laughed at the idea.

"Nobody would use a jet to spray chemicals. Normally if you want to spray something for agriculture or whatever, you fly 500 to 1,000 feet high," he said.

"This one's much higher. He used the zoom," he added.

While robinhoodlum said the footage showed a plane "with no identifiable marks that flies over the island at hourly intervals from around 6am to 8am to around midday," Mr Nopadol said they were different flights each time.

The plane in the footage was probably a Qantas flight from Europe to Australia, he added.

More than 300 aircraft fly over Phuket every day. Most are long-haul flights from Australia, Singapore and Indonesia to Europe and the Middle East, he said.

The video ends with appar-

ent footage of the trail still visible an hour later. Text on the screen claims: "If this was condensation then it would not 'run out'," and, "It would also disappear quite quickly, as the heated air cools and the condensation evaporates."

"Chemtrails. What are they, what's in them, no idea. Does anybody even officially recognize they exist?" asks the narrator.

If Mr Nopadol and his colleagues are anything to go by, clearly not.

— Dan Waites and Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

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# Enter the dragon: *feng shui*

**The proposed traffic tunnel beneath Patong Hill is drawing opposition from some unexpected quarters, as some elderly ethnic-Chinese residents of the island believe the project could ruin Phuket's feng shui, bringing economic ruin to Patong and other parts of the island. Pimwara Choksakulpan and Stephen Fein report.**

ACCORDING to a Chinese legend, Phuket's topography is that of a golden sea dragon emerging from the Indian Ocean. Tradition holds that this dragon, *Hai Leng Ong*, is duty-bound to protect Phuket and its visitors, sustaining life and prosperity in business.

The south-facing dragon's supposed snout is Laem Phromthep, while its heart is in the vicinity of Phuket Town. The Nakkerd Range of hills running up the island's southwest coast makes up part of the dragon's long, curving abdomen that ends in a tail that curls back up over its torso when it sits in a semi-coiled position. [see picture]

So important to Phuket's history is *Hai Leng Ong* that a large monument of the whiskered

sea dragon sits as the feature attraction at Queen Sirikit Park, near the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office on Thalang Road in Phuket Town.

An explanation of the importance of 'The Great Sea Dragon of Indian Ocean' [sic] fills the first page of a tourist-oriented booklet currently under distribution by Phuket City Municipality. The island's up-and-coming soccer team, FC Phuket, goes by the name "Southern Sea Kirin" – *kirin* being the Japanese-language rendering of a legendary Chinese sea creature that also resembles a dragon.

The importance of the sea dragon legend varies from person to person, but there is concern in some quarters that a proposed tunnel beneath Patong Hill connecting tambons Kathu and Patong



A representation of *Hai Leng Ong* at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Road in Phuket Town.

could 'slay the dragon', bringing economic ruin to the island.

The proposed tunnel, which enjoys strong support from Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop and Patong Mayor Pian

Keesin, is now the subject of a 40-million-baht study by a Bangkok-based team, which has already made its recommendation on the best possible route.

The route would begin on the Kathu side of Patong Hill near the Go-kart Speedway and emerge on the Patong side east of Phisit Gorani Road, passing over the Ban Mon community via a 200-meter elevated roadway. The terminus would be on the new Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, near the APK apartment complex.

Supporters of the project say the tunnel would decrease traffic accidents on the treacherous Phra Barami Road. Opponents in the Ban Mon community say they would have to sell off their land under eminent domain law. They also claim the elevated roadway would pass over Ratchapathanusorn (the National Memorial of His Majesty The King's Footprint) on Phisit Gorani Road, which commemorates HM The King's visit to Patong on March 11, 1959.

Now adding to the chorus

of dissent are some members of Phuket's ethnic Chinese community, who oppose the project on spiritual grounds.

Banjong 'Ko Jong' Damklam, 67-year-old manager of the San Chao Phor Suea (Tiger God Chinese Shrine) on top of Patong Hill, said some elderly Chinese residents of Phuket continue to maintain an active belief in the legend of *Hai Leng Ong* – and fear that the proposed tunnel route would go through the dragon's stomach, killing it.

"They fear the dragon's death will change the *feng shui* of the island, ruining business on both sides of the hill," he explained.

"Patong Beach faces out to the Andaman Sea, so they fear that if another tsunami happens seawater could pass through the tunnel and inundate Phuket Town," he said.

Mr Banjong said any tunnel work should only proceed after the spirits have been appeased.

"If the people insist on the project, I suggest that before work begins all persons involved in the construction should come to the shrine on Patong Hill to perform

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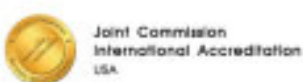
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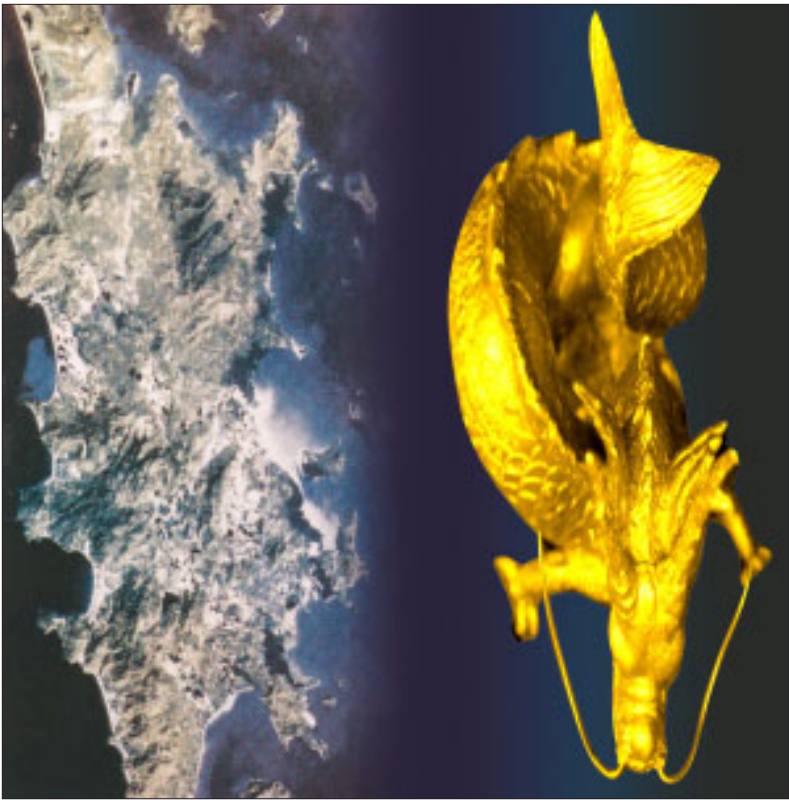
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# concerns over Patong Tunnel



Some ethnic Chinese believe Phuket resembles a coiled sea dragon.

a ritual asking for forgiveness. This should make everything run smoothly," he said.

Mr Banjong personally disagrees with the proposed tunnel, but is willing to go along with it if a majority of Phuket residents are in favor, he said.

In its lofty position at the border between tambons Kathu and Patong, San Chao Phor Suea currently gets plenty of "passing trade" in the form of motorists on Phra Barami Road who must pass by it to get from one side of the hill to the other.

Not many of them stop, as the parking area across the street is limited and the dangerous road conditions there are notorious, but many cars still beep their horns three times to show their respect for the hilltop's guardian spirits. At certain times of year the shrine puts on Chinese movies on a

makeshift screen in the parking lot, not for passers-by, but to entertain the local hill spirits.

Even if a tunnel does eventually become the favored route between Patong and Kathu, Mr Banjong is not unduly concerned about the number of visitors coming to the shrine, which relies on donations to fund its activities and upkeep.

"I think the tunnel will not affect number of people coming to the shrine. Its location is at the highest point [in the hill pass] and people who worship at this sacred place will not stop coming here," he said.

Local historian and president of the Phuket Community Foundation (PCF), Pranee Sakulpipatana, said she wasn't overly concerned about the legend of *Hai Leng Ong* and the fate of Phuket if the tunnel goes though the proposed route.



The manager of the San Chao Phor Suea (Tiger God Chinese Shrine) is opposed to the tunnel project, but doesn't fear its potential impact on the shrine's activities or finances.

"I don't pay much attention to these types of beliefs. I think it is said that Phuket looks like a dragon, because people describe it by their imaginations. Don't be overly interested in this topic," she advised.

The *Gazette* got a similar response from a famous fortuneteller and *feng shui* doctor Ajarn Prasith Jantharasuth, who also hosts a local radio program.

"I have heard many times that people said that tunnel will kill the dragon and break the *feng shui* of Phuket, but I disagree. I think they should study the sci-

ence of *feng shui* and the shape and dragon in detail first before weighing in on this topic," he said.

Ajarn Prasith said some believe it is the dragon's heart, not the stomach that lies inside Patong Hill.

"I think the tunnel could go under its heart, but I have to study in detail to know exactly where the heart lies and which

is the best route for the tunnel to avoid it. I can guarantee there won't be any problems if the tunnel doesn't pass through the dragon's heart," he said.

Plans to bore a tunnel beneath Patong Hill date back decades, to the time when Patong began to change from a pristine fishing village into the bustling seaside resort town it is today.



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## Smashed in 'Seven'

UBON RATCHATHANI: Two young men arrested for allegedly being drunk and smashing up a 7-Eleven store told police the attack was motivated by hunger.

Suspects Kasemsan Saiwong, 19, and Sorayut Saithong, 20, said they launched the attack in anger at the store closing early because of the curfew in place in Ubon and other provinces.

The pair, who were arrested in the early hours of May 23, told police they had been drinking all day at a traditional rocket festival.

After getting home, they went out to find some food – but all the shops and restaurants were shut under the curfew imposed by the Centre for Resolution of the Emergency Situation (CRES).

Seeing their own nutritional plight as an emergency situation in need of resolution, they took their anger out on the 7-Eleven, kicking in the shopfront to get at some food.

Both have been charged with criminal damage breaching the Emergency Decree, police said.

Source: Thai Rath

# Ravaged capital gets a clean-up

BANGKOK: City officials and Bangkok residents joined hands on May 23 for a mass clean-up of the ravaged city center.

Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra led more than 2,000 workers and volunteers in a major operation to tidy up sites that saw conflict between protesters and troops before and during the crackdown.

Six locations adjacent to the Rajprasong intersection were cleaned to enable Bangkokians to resume their normal lives on May 24, when schools in the capital started the new semester after a week's delay.

The same day, businesses and state agencies re-opened their offices after a week-long closure.

"We have to forgive what happened in the past and look ahead to rebuild a bright future for Bangkok," Mr Sukhumbhand said.

The Bangkok Metropolitan



**CLEAN SWEEP: Volunteers giving Bangkok its shine back on May 23.**

Administration was working on a plan to rehabilitate the capital and help the business sector renew tourism, he said.

The authority would host a merit-making ceremony with 1,000 Buddhist monks on Rajadamri Road from Rajprasong to Sala Daeng, where many people died in the protest, he said.

A large amount of rubbish had accumulated at Rajprasong intersection, site of the main rally stage, but workers said they would clean it as soon as possible.

Many volunteers joined the big cleaning day in a spirit of helping the country return to peace and order. Some were not even Bangkok residents, but joined the operation in solidarity.

Social networking websites were integral in spreading word of the clean-up.

"We heard about it on Facebook. Our group actually came here yesterday to take photos and put them on Facebook to encour-

age our friends to take part in the event," said Rachya Rungsaroj.

Most volunteers brought their own cleaning tools, garbage bags, brooms, trowels and rags. Companies and independent groups gave out water, food and energy drinks to support the volunteers throughout the day.

"I'm not originally from Bangkok. I used to think Bangkok as an urban area where people live separately and have no interaction with others. Now I clearly see the real Thai tradition of helping each other still exists," said Sininart Swadpoon, from Thammasat University.

Even foreigners lent a hand. "My girlfriend heard about the event on Facebook so we decided to help clean and get things back to normal. I was surprised to see how big the mess was," said Chris Garben, an American who joined the clean-up with his Thai girlfriend, Meg Sukjit.

Source: The Nation

## Thai film wins top prize at Cannes

CANNES, FRANCE: For the first time ever, a Thai film on May 23 won the Palme d'Or for Best Picture at the Cannes Film Festival.

*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, was described as 'lyrically beautiful' and 'often surreal'.

Jury chairman Tim Burton named it best film in competition, seeing off 18 other films from an impressive roster of filmmakers that included Mike Leigh, Ken Loach and Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami.

It is the first Asian Palme d'Or winner since 1997, when Kiarostami shared it with Japanese film maker Shohei Imamura.

The win came after the veteran South Korean director Hong Sangsoo was awarded the prestigious Un Certain Regard sidebar prize for *Hahaha*.

The Asian clean sweep took most Cannes watchers by surprise. Just as surprising was that there were no prizes at all for Loach and Leigh.

Burton said deciding the Palme d'Or had felt like an easy choice. The jury saw the film early and it stayed in their heads throughout the festival, he said.

"The world is getting smaller and more Westernised, more Hollywoodized, and this is a film where I felt I was watching from another country. It was using fantasy elements but in a way I'd never seen before so I just felt it was like a beautiful, strange dream."

Accepting the award, Weerasethakul said, "I would like to thank all the spirits and all the ghosts in Thailand who made it possible for me to be here."

Source: The Nation

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# Paragliders storm the south

**N**AI HARN Beach was a photographer's dream last weekend. While low season waves crashed on the beach, the sky was filled with brightly colored parachutes darting and back and forth.

A total of 156 flights were made at the first Phuket Funfly paragliding festival from May 21 to 23, with about 50 pilots turning out for the event. Thailand, Greece, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Japan and Sweden were all represented, as

some of the world's best paragliders ran and jumped from Laem Promthep and swooped down onto the southern end of Nai Harn Beach.

In the hotly contested spot landing competition, nine out of 50 attempts were awarded 100 percent for accuracy.

Thai national team paraglider Pornchai Lertvetchakul won first place, finishing with 290 points.

In second place was Kam-pol Samngamninn with 280 points,

and Pollapat Aranyakanon finished third with 275 points.

Another eagerly anticipated element of the event was the Canon Funfly photo competition.

Judges were hard pushed to choose a winner with a huge selection of breathtaking shots taken over the event. First prize

went to Att Yomyai for his photograph of a paraglider high over Laem Promthep (above, main photo). Att won a Canon EOS 550D camera worth 32,900 baht.

Songyos Ponswang won second place and a Canon Powershot G11 worth 20,900 baht with his stunning photograph (bottom

right). In third place was Akachai Chaijaroen who won a Canon FS306 camcorder worth 11,900 baht for his photo (not pictured).

– Nicky Vermeulen

*Additional photographs supplied by Elizabeth Branca and Christian Mouchet.*

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THERE'S a cozy little hangout in Phuket called Bush Pilot Lounge – and it's not on Soi Bangla.

Located at the Phuket Airpark in Pa Khlok, the breezy lounge with views of buffalo and *dok bua* is the hangout of the Phuket Flying Club, a non-profit association of the island's growing number of small and ultralight plane pilots – those who fly for the love of it, not just to get from point A to point B.

Phuket Airpark is similar in many ways to real estate developments that surround golf courses, except that the development's central feature is a grass runway – not a fairway. Owners who buy plots along the runway will be able to land their aircraft on the airstrip and taxi straight into their units, which will come complete with garage-like hangers.

Although still in the early stages of development, Phuket Airpark has come a long way since it opened in January last year. The airstrip, initially a dusty expanse, is now covered with grass. It has also been lengthened and drainage in the seaside area has been improved. The real estate side of the development is just 'getting off the ground' and the area seems to hold great potential for those wanting to set up a niche aviation-related business.

Some interesting possibilities might include a flying school, island tour service, sky diving, banner towing service or air taxi, to name just a few. The only private airstrip on the island, the airpark seems to have little competition – and is perfectly situated for low-flying tours around Phang Nga Bay, like the one immortalized in celluloid by the James Bond film *The Man With The Golden Gun*.



When Phuket Airpark first opened the runway was a dusty strip (inset). Today pilots land on soft grass.

# Runway revisited

## Phuket Airpark stirs passions for tiny engines

Phuket Airpark Managing Director Suchard Raksangob showed me around the flying club's main hanger, which at the time housed a four-seat Cessna, a small amphibious plane, a tiny 'experimental' aircraft and the Phuket Flying Club's first aircraft, a Canadian-built Zenair CH701 jointly owned by five club members.

Offered a ride in the two-seater, I was a bit nervous about

taking to the skies in something not much bigger than a sea kayak. However my nerves settled after meeting my pilot, former THAI airways pilot and Phuket Flying Club President Capt Watana Thinphanga.

Capt Watana flew some of the world's largest commercial aircraft in his 33 years with THAI and retired with a perfect safety record. Perhaps Thailand's answer to Capt Sully, he now flies ultralights as a hobby, sometimes doing aerobatics and helping out in good causes, like teaming up with marine biologists to try and count the local dugong population.

With their bird's eye view, the Phuket Flying Club also keeps lookout for possible land encroachment cases, Capt Watana said.

Confident in my pilot, I felt at ease as we taxied out and prepared for takeoff.

Flying over Phuket in an ultralight is a fantastic experience; highly recommended. At about 90 miles per hour and flying at altitudes of 300 to 500 feet, the aircraft offers excellent views and is a dream come true for anyone

interested in aerial photography. We started by flying over the new *Gazette* offices in Koh Kaew, then through the pass at Patong Hill then over Patong, where we circled a few times.

From there it was south along Karon, then low through a pass in the Nakkerd Hills in Kata, being careful to stay below the Big Buddha image. After that we flew south of the island, catching a view of the spectacular Laem Phromthep from the sea side.

With my camera memory card full after flying over Rawai, Laem Panwa, Saphan Hin, Rassada and Koh Sireh, Capt Watana told me it was my turn to take over the controls.

Although he remained in control of the rudder and throttle, I got to experience part of what it feels like to control the pitch, roll and yaw with a joystick. After a little practice he encouraged me to take it in for the landing, which was successfully accomplished on the second attempt.

I was still high from my first taste of flying as we discussed the aviation potential in Phuket

over coffee at the Bush Pilot Lounge, which has an interesting collection of old or antique flight-related items as well as a WWII-era Ford passenger car.

I was surprised to learn that flying, while not cheap, is also not the 'rich man's game' many assume it to be. For a start, a new ultralight like the Zenair CH701 sells for about two-million baht, well less than many luxury cars.

The Zenair's tiny engine, which is no louder than that of a car, runs on normal 95 unleaded gasoline and gets great 'gas mileage'. It is actually much cheaper to operate on a per-kilometer basis than a ride in a Phuket tuk-tuk. Our 50-minute flight only burned up about 500 baht's worth, Capt Watana said.

On top of this, airport landing fees are ridiculously cheap for the accurately-named ultralights. The fees are 'weight-based' for commercial aircraft, so after a 20-minute ride to Krabi or 50-minute ride to Trang you can land in either of the airports there for under 100 baht.

To make costs even more affordable, the Phuket Flying Club is looking to acquire four more small aircraft, like Pipers or Cessnas, on a shared basis or under sponsorship.

Currently with some 20 members, the non-profit club welcomes anyone interested in flying. Several expat aviation enthusiasts and high-ranking police officers are among the current members.

An added bonus for new members is that an ultralight pilot licence only requires 20 hours of flying time.

Members meet at the Bush Pilot Lounge for a happy hour on the afternoons of the third Thursday of the month. Stop by to learn more and join them in enjoying some cold 'pilots fuel', also known as 'beer'.

– Stephen Fein

For more information about the Phuket Flying Club contact Capt Watana T: 081-9183467; E: wthinphanga@hotmail.com or see the W: phuketflying.com. For more information about Phuket Airpark see phuketairparkresidence.com or contact Suchard at T: 081-810 4510 E: suchard@phuketairparkresidence.com.

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# Festival screen ready



**PACKIN' HEAT:** *Repomen* starring Jude Law (left) and Thai movie *Bay Rong* (above) are just two of many films to be screened at the Phuket Film Festival.

IT'S BEEN a good week for Thai cinema and the weeks ahead look promising too.

A Thai drama about a monkey ghost with glowing red eyes, an uncle who is dying of kidney disease and a princess having sex with a talking catfish won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on May 23 (see page 6).

Apichatpong Weerasethakul's film *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* scooped top honors at arguably the world's most prestigious film event, at a time when Thailand is making headlines for all the wrong reasons. Plaudits for Apichatpong have been raining in since the win. From the culture minister to man on the street, Thais seeing Thais win big at a major film festival will undoubtedly invigorate the film industry on home turf.

While the Thai film industry basks in Cannes glory, film buffs on Phuket can look forward to seeing more Thai flicks at the Phuket Film Festival from June 4 to 13. Over 30 feature and short films from 11 countries will be screened at various locations around the island.

The majority of films will be screened in their native language and accompanied by English subtitles. The main screening venue will be the Coliseum Cineplex in Phuket Town, where a smattering of 'Meet the Director' receptions are due to take place.

Academy Award nominated director Gus Van Sant was

scheduled to attend the 10-day event, according to festival director Scott Rosenberg, but has since canceled his Phuket visit.

On opening night, ticket holders are invited to a 'networking night' with filmmakers and actors at the Royal Phuket Marina. The following day, Hollywood movie *The Prince and Me 4: The Elephant Adventure*, which was filmed in Thailand, will make its Thai premier at the Green Man Pub in Rawai, followed by a live performance from rap group Thai-thanium, whose lead singer stars in the film.

On June 8, Cape Yamu will set the scene for a screening of Darnell Martin's *Cadillac Records*. The Golden Globe nominated director will attend and be on call to speak with ticket holders.

Thai film *Bitter Sweet* will be screened at the Vijit resort in Rawai on June 11, with actresses Mamee Napakprapa Nakprasit and Viyada Umarin in attendance.

Grisly futuristic action thriller *Repomen* starring Jude Law and Forest Whitaker is pencilled in to make its Thai premier on June 12.

"This will be the only chance to watch *Repomen* in Thailand. It is not due to be released in cinemas in the Kingdom," said Mr Rosenberg.

Closing night is set to be an action-packed affair, with the world premier of acclaimed Thai director Yuthlert Sippapak's

*Friday Killer* at Kargo restaurant near the Laguna resort complex in Cherng Talay. The first in a trilogy, the film marks a return to the hitman genre for Sippapak.

Other films to look out for include the premier of Adrian Granier's documentary *Teenage Paparazzo*, the Vietnamese action thriller *Bai Rong* (Clash) and the Australian comedy *Bran Nue Dae*, to name a few.

The festival is sponsored

in part by the Thai Ministry of Commerce, Vijit Resort, Two Villas, Global i Care, REBC, Siam Winery, Coliseum Cineplex, Royal Phuket Marina, Cape Yamu, Skippers restaurant, Kargo restaurant, Club One Seven, Boncafe, The Green Man, Duc de Praslin, Finestitch Tailors, the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

Tickets for events are available at the Coliseum Cineplex in

Phuket Town. Regular movie tickets cost 120 baht, except for reception events. Tickets for Meet the Director nights cost 150 baht.

A full festival pass costs 3,800 baht.

Book tickets online and find out more information at [W:phuketfilmfestival.asia](http://W:phuketfilmfestival.asia) or call the festival hotline, T: 081-722-4461.

— Fraser Morton

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## Looking Back

By Anand Singh

**D**URING the 17th century, Siamese kings were quite tolerant of foreigners and the kingdom was opened to foreign trade and commercial relations with the West. Muslim merchants from Persia traded heavily in Siam throughout the 16th and 17th centuries AD. During the reign of King Songtham, a prominent Persian scholar known as Sheikh Ahmad of Qom traveled to Ayudhaya.

As Ayudhaya's Persian trading community grew, Sheikh Ahmad managed to gain royal favor with King Songtham and became a courtier. With his knowledge of commerce, he was allowed to manage Siam's foreign trade.

The Persian community in Ayudhaya had become important for Siam's trade, and yet it was without representation at court. Seeing the need for an adviser on Persian-Islamic affairs, King Songtham created a new office known as the "Chularajmontri" and appointed Sheikh Ahmad as the first holder of the title.

Being a learned Muslim scholar, Ahmad was able to advise the king on matters concerning Islam and Persian traditions in the capital. Persians in the kingdom referred to Ahmad as "Sheikh-ul-Islam". From then on the Chularajmontri has been recognized as the leading authority on Islam in the Thai kingdom. The office still exists today and holders are directly appointed by the king, and remain the Chularajmontri for life.

During the reign of King Narai, towards the latter half of the 17th century, Persian influence reached its peak in the



## Phuket's Persian era

**Qom is the birthplace of Sheikh Ahmad, who traveled to Ayudhaya and gained royal favor. He went on to manage Siam's foreign trade. Today, Qom is a renowned learning center for Islam.**

royal court of Ayudhaya. King Narai was very open-minded towards foreign knowledge and religious beliefs. He welcomed trade from Western powers, giving the Dutch and Persians in particular much liberty in trading within Siam.

It is said that during King Narai's reign many Persians were appointed to high-ranking offices in the capital. There are also records that tell of several Muslim governors being appointed to rule trading towns.

One of the most influential figures in the Siamese court during this period was a Persian named Aqa Muhammad Astarabadi, who arrived in Siam in 1650 AD. Already well in favor with Narai even before he became king, Aqa Muhammad became one of the king's closest advisers.

With Aqa Muhammad's help, the court built strong relations with Muslim-ruled ports in India and the Middle East, fos-

tering trade and increasing revenue. Being able traders and experienced mariners, the Persians were placed in command of virtually the whole Siamese trading fleet.

Aqa Muhammad was so trusted by the king that he was even allowed to reform the king's personal company of bodyguards, replacing them with 200 professional soldiers from India.

Under Aqa Muhammad's influence, many Indians and Persians were appointed governors of important Siamese trading towns, and in 1676 Aqa Muhammad asked King Narai to replace the Siamese governor of Phuket with two Moorish Muslim brothers, Muhammad Beg and Isma'il Beg, both Aqa Muhammad's associates.

Phuket was a major source of tin in the region and the Dutch had been trading tin on the island under Siamese governor Okphra Phet. After a quarrel between Dutch traders and Governor

Okphra Phet, the Dutch were chased off the island and as a result lost control of one of the most important tin-producing ports on Thailand's Andaman coast.

The begrudging Dutch appealed to Aqa Muhammad to have Okphra Phet removed from office. Aqa Muhammad obliged and convinced the king to remove Okphra Phet despite a tenacious fight to retain his position.

According to Capt Thomas Bowrey, an English merchant and chronicler who visited Phuket during the time, King Narai had said he wanted a sterner man who would be more suitable to govern Phuket and its tin trade. Muhammad and Isma'il Beg were therefore appointed Joint-Governors of Phuket.

However, Bowrey also noted that Phuket people resented the foreign governors. Under Persian influence many of the offices that used to be held by Siamese officials, such as counselors and secretariats, had been filled

by Persians and Indians with connections to either the Beg brothers or Aqa Muhammad.

With many high-ranking positions in Phuket being held by foreigners who spoke a different language and followed different cultural practices, the locals neither trusted their superiors, nor believed their interests were being looked after. Both the Malay and Siamese inhabitants of Phuket loathed the new governors and felt tyrannized.

Hatred towards the foreigners boiled over when the governors tried to divert all of Phuket's tin exports to Mergui, a Siamese port governed by an Indian Muslim.

Muhammad Beg wanted to secure Phuket's tin reserves exclusively for Indian traders, who could buy them from Mergui and ship them to Indian- and Persian-controlled ports.

This policy was strongly resented by Phuket locals, most of who mined tin for a living and sold it to the highest bidder, regardless of origin.

Enraged, Phuket locals massacred about 80 Indian officials on the island at that time, including the Beg brothers, ending the relatively short Moorish governorship of the island.

A few years later, Persian influence started to decline in the capital. Aqa Muhammad died in 1680 and his position as the king's favorite was filled by yet another foreigner: Constantine Phaulkon.

After Aqa Muhammad's death, Persian influence was no longer guaranteed at the court of Ayudhaya and it began to decline throughout the kingdom, making way for a new era of European influence at the court of Ayudhaya.

*Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian, having lived on the island from age three to 21. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand can be contacted at E:as.pkt@hotmail.com.*

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## EXPAT GALLERY

## John Gray

**J**OHN Gray has led a most remarkable life. He is well known on Phuket for introducing sea kayaking in Phang Nga Bay 20 years ago. He was the first person to offer day trips into the remote caves which had been the exclusive domain of valuable birds' nests.

"I had been operating sea-kayaking trips in Hawaii during the mid-1980s and was always interested in exploring Thailand. I researched the local limestone caves for four years and developed tidal technology to determine when the caves were accessible."

Although John was the first to offer the opportunity to explore these hidden caves, he was soon met with a lot of local competition, but he has managed to stay ahead of it due to the quality and innovative focus of his environmentally friendly tours.

He is in great demand as a speaker and trainer representing the Andaman region at conferences aimed at improving eco-friendly tourism.

John has had a love of the sea since he was born.

"I started swimming in the Pacific Ocean when I was six months old, long before I could walk. I love body surfing and have ridden the biggest waves in the world, including Waimea Bay

in Hawaii and The Wedge at Newport Beach."

He was a talented student and born environmentalist. His parents were avid members of the outdoor Sierra Club. At his home, the family offered a drop house for injured birds for the Audubon Society, including birds of prey.

John was elected President of his high school business club, Junior Achievement. In an annual competition sponsored by the New York Stock Exchange, he was given the top achievement award on the floor of the NYSE.

He moved to Hawaii in 1970 where he spent much of the next 20 years before coming to Phuket. He worked as a writer and publicist before becoming the Marketing Director for the United Way, and then the Pacific Basin Communications Director for the National Cancer Institute.

"This is when I developed my interest in medical research. I believe that heart disease, diabetes, obesity and cancer are the price people pay for eating their 'relatives'. I have not had any red meat since 1980."

On a scholarship, John graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and International Relations, while on a three-year break from his life in Hawaii.

In 1982, he became "Gentleman John", an announcer for wrestling events around the Pacific Basin, including Samoa, Tonga and Tahiti.

He was the Associated Press correspondent for the South Pacific Games held in 1983 in Samoa, and during that stint was appointed Minister of Communications for the government of Western Samoa.

But he decided to return to Hawaii and develop his sea-kayaking business taking adventure tourists to remote islands where they could experience his love of local, pristine nature. He particularly liked the island of Moloka'i and began making documentaries about the beauty of the tropical environment.

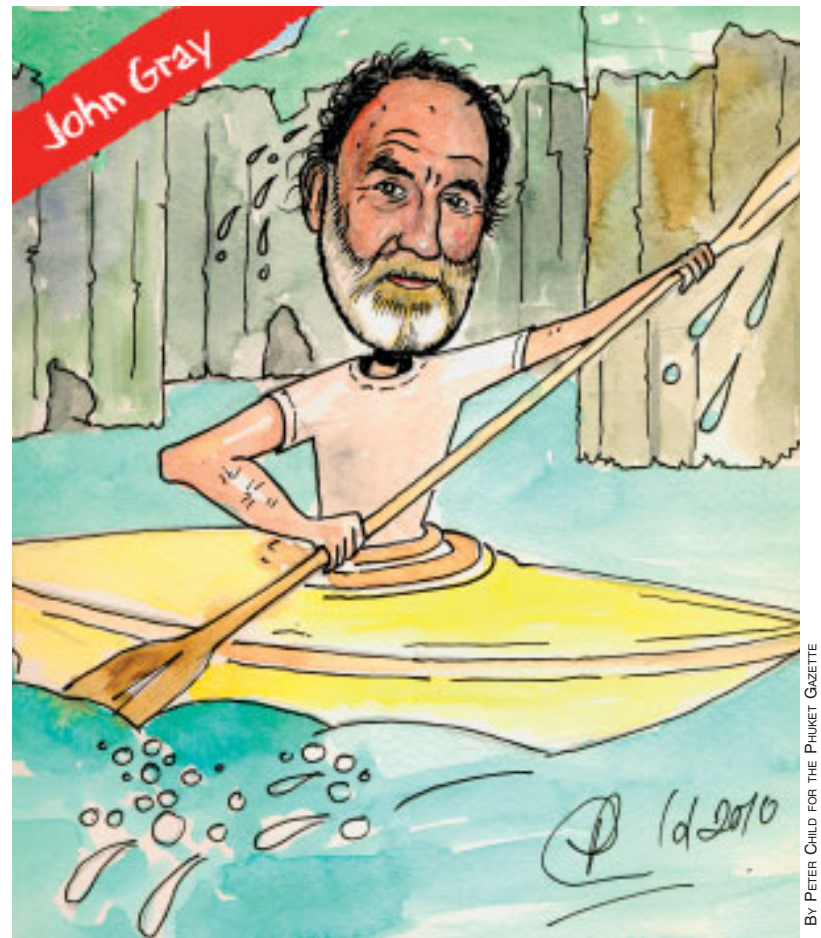
He went to Fiji and did a film about Halley's Comet, and his film *Moloka'i's Forgotten Frontier* won top awards for a nature documentary.

"By 1989, I was ready for a new adventure. I decided to move to Asia to become an environmental activist."

Running his business has not always been easy for John as he refuses to compromise his service standards to make more money.

But John has survived and even thrived on the many challenges by doing things his own way, which he believes supports both the local eco-tourism industry and the long term health of Phang Nga Bay.

— Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

## ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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



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**MEMBERSHIP HANDOVER:** Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngob (center) became the first member of Laguna Phuket's Advantage Card scheme earlier this month. Laguna Resorts and Hotels Managing Director Michael Ayling (left) handed over the new membership at the Governor's office at Phuket Provincial Hall.



**JAZZ FESTIVAL:** Popular singer Gel Dela performed at the Phuket Live Jazz festival on Karon Beach on May 22. Photo by Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn



**GAZETTE GATHERING:** The *Phuket Gazette* team stopped in at DaVinci restaurant in Nai Harn on May 21. Pictured from left is, well... all of us, minus a few latecomers. Missing in action is our new Managing Editor Chris Husted, one Scotsman and two Americans. *Gazette* Publisher John Magee (seated, right). Photo by Chart Graphics Inc.



**TOUGH WORK:** New wellness and fitness center, Studio B, located on the Bypass Road hosted an interactive workshop on May 22. Attendees tested out a range of cutting edge fitness contraptions under the watchful eye of Studio B's Business Development Manager George Grecia (black shirt). Photo by Elizabeth Branca



**PEDALING FOR PROMOTION:** The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office hosted a cycling tour day around Phuket Town on May 23. The event was 'geared' at promoting historical landmarks in town to tourists. Photo by Thanasorn Chookate



**TAKING TOP HONORS:** After five out of 37 Phuket children took top honors at the taekwon do championships in Bangkok from May 1 to 5, Phuket Provincial Sport Club President Chetwit Thantipanwadee and Phuket City Superintendent Wanchai Ekporrpit (back row, police uniform) held an awards ceremony for the young martial artists upon their return.



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Pruerk-Ampai	91.10	6,350,000	100,000	3,075,000	3,175,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	9,100,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,550,000

\* These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden

\* 1-year-free use of the club facilities except spa and restaurant

\* The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice



Location Map

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### Mercedes-Benz Tour





## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

June 13. Phuket Yacht Club  
SW Monsoon Race and Fun Day

Join us for a fun-filled day of sailing, swimming, cold beers and Beach BBQ. Come for a sail or join in with the morning races, or just relax and enjoy the beach BBQ. All welcome. Arrive after the marathon for a pleasant and relaxing afternoon, meet new friends and see a different part of the island. If you are interested in dinghy racing, contact [andrew@leemarine.net](mailto:andrew@leemarine.net). From 10:30am - 4pm at Ao Yon Bay. If you can volunteer helping with boats, food, drinks or the BBQ, please email us. Contact Donna Stephens. T: 086-120 0752 E: [phuketyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:phuketyachtclub@gmail.com) W: [phuketyachtclub.info](http://phuketyachtclub.info)

## May 29 – 30. PIA Sports &amp; Leisure Club BSS World Cup Event

With the 2010 World Cup in South Africa approaching fast, Brazilian Soccer School (BSS) invite all players aged seven-15 to join us at PIA Sports & Leisure Club for the BSS World Cup Weekend. Under-10 players (born 1999/00) play on May 29, 8:30am-11:30am. Under-13s (born 1997/98) play May 30, 8:30am-11:30am; and Under-15s (born 1995/96) play on May 30, 5pm-8pm. Contact Martin Hill. T: 076-336000. E: [bss@phuketinternationalacademy.com](mailto:bss@phuketinternationalacademy.com) W: [phuketinternationalacademy.com](http://phuketinternationalacademy.com)

## May 29 – 30. Phuket Latin Carnival Weekend

From midday – 3am. Samba dancers, salsa dancing workshops and two Latin DJs! Saturday: Latin Cruise Party, 1,990 baht (includes one drink at Clublime, 3 drinks on board and full buffet), followed by Latin Foam Party at Clublime, 400 baht (includes one welcome drink + 2 drinks in the club with canapés). Sunday: Stereolab, on Surin Beach, 4pm tapas followed by beach party till late, 990 baht (includes Latin tapas and two glasses of Sangria). Special ticket for the full weekend: 2,990 baht if pre-booked, or 3,390 if paid at the door. Contact Jorge De La Torre T: 089-725 6994 E: [jorge@eventsthailand.net](mailto:jorge@eventsthailand.net) W: [eventsthailand.net](http://eventsthailand.net)

## May 29. SALA's Chillin' &amp; Grillin' BBQ

Join us at SALA Phuket for our Ocean BBQ. DJ Tom will set the mood for the afternoon, spinning groovy beach tunes with live percussion. Children can enjoy the pool and loads of garden games, and of course, Chef Jan will be serving up his usual mouthwatering BBQ fare, including Australian rib-eye steak, slow-smoked pork ribs,

grilled veggies, fresh salads and all the fixing's. From 1pm-5pm at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa. Price: 1,120 baht net per person, including a bottle of Peter Lehmann Shiraz or Unoaked Chardonnay per couple. Contact Tibor Baan. T: 076-338888. E: [fbphuket@salaphuket.com](mailto:fbphuket@salaphuket.com) W: [salaphuket.com](http://salaphuket.com)

## June 2 – 5. Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand

Watch Southeast Asia's finest young golfers compete at the Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand at Laguna Phuket, which is being sponsored by *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*. From 7am-7pm at Laguna Phuket Golf Club. For more information contact Manachai Inkaew. T: 081-306 2266 E: [manachai@tropicofcancer.info](mailto:manachai@tropicofcancer.info) W: [mercedesbenztour.com](http://mercedesbenztour.com)

## June 4 – 13. Phuket Film Festival 2010

After a successful inaugural event in 2007, the second Phuket Film Festival, sponsored by *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* will lay the groundwork for a sustainable annual event which will not only help raise visibility of Phuket as a quality tourist destination but also act as an anchor event drawing tourism during Phuket's low season. From 11am – 11:30pm at the Coliseum Paradise Multiplex in Phuket Town. For further information contact Chaiwat Ahantharik. T: 02-9824525 E: [info@phuketfilmfestival.asia](mailto:info@phuketfilmfestival.asia) W: [phuketfilmfestival.asia](http://phuketfilmfestival.asia)

## June 5. Phuket Film Festival Gala Opening

The 2010 Phuket Film Festival kicks off with a Gala Opening and Awards ceremony with lots of food, drink and fun at Royal Phuket Marina. Join us and meet the Festival VIP directors, producers and stars. The film festival is sponsored by *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*. Tickets are 1,500 baht at the Coliseum Cineplex in Phuket Town or at the door. From 9pm – midnight at Royal Phuket Marina Town Square. For further information contact Scott. T: 081-722446 E: [info@phuketfilmfestival.asia](mailto:info@phuketfilmfestival.asia) W: [phuketfilmfestival.asia](http://phuketfilmfestival.asia)

## June 6- August 8. Belly Dancing Courses at Royal Phuket Marina

The 10-session course '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 600 baht per person, per session. Held Sundays from 12:30-2pm, RPM Health Club. For further information contact Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364 E: [muratc@royalphuketmarina.com](mailto:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com) W: [royalphuketmarina.com](http://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: Under-10s: classes are suitable for 7-10-year-olds and held from 3:30-5pm. Under-8s classes are suitable for 5-8

year-olds, (five-year-olds must have previous football experience) and held from 5pm-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](mailto:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com) W: [royalphuketmarina.com](http://royalphuketmarina.com)

## June 13. Laguna Phuket International Marathon

Join the largest destination marathon in Southeast Asia, the Laguna Phuket International Marathon sponsored by *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*. Race day will feature a marathon, half-marathon, 10.5km run, 2km kids' run and 5km walk, passing through Phuket rainforests, rubber plantations and local villages. For further information contact the organizers. T: 02-236 2931 W: [phuketmarathon.com](http://phuketmarathon.com)

## June 18 – 20. Four Immeasurables Retreat at the PIA Mind Center

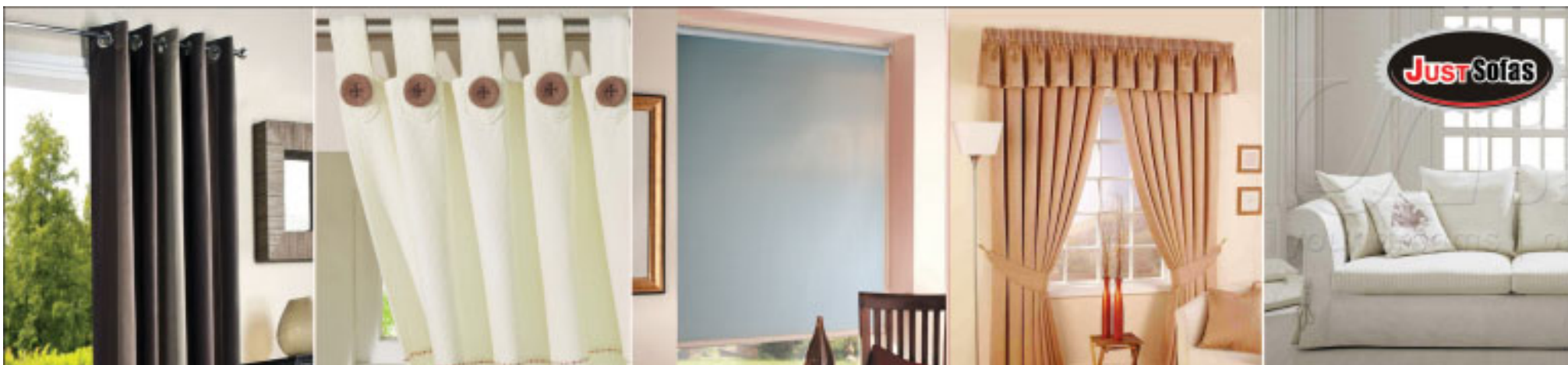
Phuket International Academy Mind Center (PIAMC) is holding an exclusive meditation retreat titled "Four Immeasurables" hosted by Dr B Alan Wallace. Presently accepting bookings, this weekend retreat will consist of teachings, guided meditations, and discussions. Regardless of the participants particular religious beliefs, these practices can be of benefit to 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 at PIA Mind Center. T: 076-376000 E: [mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com](mailto:mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com) W: [phuketinternationalacademy.com](http://phuketinternationalacademy.com)

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# Firefly confident in Phuket with new promotions launch

**I**N a show of confidence in tourism to Phuket, and to Thailand in general, Firefly Airlines on May 25 launched a host of new destination travel packages and a brace of promotional campaigns, including the ability to book tickets through mobile phones.

Angelina Fernandez, Firefly's Head of Marketing & Communications, told a press conference at The Metropole hotel in Phuket Town, "Yes, we are very confident, because of your [Thailand's] products and I don't think Phuket has been affected at all."

She explained that Firefly will maintain its current flight schedule of four flights a week each way between Penang and Phuket, and from October 31 will start operating daily flights to Samui.

"That tells you how confident we are about Thailand," she added. Ms Fernandez said that the load factor, or the number of seats occupied on each flight, currently stands at 65 percent to 70 percent. "We have no directional problems: the number of all leisure travelers and holiday-makers flying from Phuket to Penang compared with those flying from Penang to Phuket is very balanced," she explained.

The new packages, launched under the pre-existing Firefly Holiday campaign, saw the airline greatly expand its range of destinations through more integration with its parent company, Malaysia Airlines (MAS).



**COMPLIMENTS OF THE CREW:** Firefly Airlines' new packages, based on confidence in Phuket tourism, targets more travelers between Penang and Phuket, including those on visa runs. Photo: Firefly Airlines.

To mark the launch, Ms Fernandez announced Firefly is offering round-trip flights from Phuket to Penang for 3,560 baht, and further abroad to Melbourne, via a stopover in Kuala Lumpur, for 33,350 baht, all airport taxes and surcharges included.

Customized packages to cater to wedding trips, adventure holidays or romantic getaways, for example, were also available on Firefly's website, she added.

From a Phuket perspective, the new packages seem pitched directly at tourists already in Phuket to make a value-add trip to Penang to add to their holiday

as well as foreigners in Phuket looking for a getaway or needing to make a visa run.

On whether Firefly were looking to expand their own services, she said, "We simply do not have any more aircraft... We have just completed Phase I of our expansion with seven aircraft and all aircraft are fully utilized.

"We will embark on Phase II when the board of directors and the management of Malaysia Airlines plans to have new aircraft." She added that Firefly currently directly serves eight domestic and 10 regional destinations.

The new packages are also available through Firefly's new mobile phone booking service, also launched on May 25. People can now book from literally anywhere, anytime, said Ms Fernandez.

She added that the facility accepts payment by credit card and also allows people to book and pay for tickets for other people.

To mark the launch of the new service, Ms Fernandez announced that Firefly is now offering a promotional one-way ticket between Phuket and Penang for RM1 (one ringgit, about 12 baht),

— Gazette reporter

## Tourist arrivals up 41%, says AoT

**W**HILE the red shirt protests and government crackdown in the Thai capital saw international passenger arrivals to Bangkok airports fall by 0.6% last month, the number of international arrivals to Phuket in April increased by 41.4%, according to Airports of Thailand (AoT) statistics released by CB Richard Ellis on May 26.

International arrivals to Suvarnabhumi Airport last month fell by 0.6% to 1,184,241 compared with 1,190,820 in April 2009, said the report. The drop represented a 14.9% decrease from April 2008 figures.

However, international arrivals to Phuket International Airport continued to improve despite increasing political tensions in Bangkok.

The total number of international passenger arrivals at Phuket Airport was 120,015 compared with 84,871 in April 2009 — a 41.1% increase.

The total number of domestic passenger arrivals at Phuket Airport also rose, only slightly, from 146,088 in April this year compared with 145,209 in April 2009.

"The April figures were very encouraging taking into account Bangkok's escalating political protests and the closure of many European airports due to volcanic ash," said James Pitchon, Executive Director at CB Richard Ellis Thailand.

— Gazette reporter

# Sponsorship workshops in times of need

**D**ESPITE recent events in the capital, sponsorship specialists Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd, or "PP(SEA)CL", have decided to implement their training workshops again this year, following a two-year hiatus.

Paul Poole explained that resuming the workshops, to be held at The Metropolitan Hotel in Bangkok, is the result of what he called "surprising popular demand".

"We plan on implementing these from September 21-24, and it is our intention to bring over from the UK our industry experts as guest speakers, all of whom are business leaders in their fields, including Intellectual Property specialists, sponsorship lawyers,

as well as sports and arts marketing specialists and sponsors," Poole told the *Gazette*.

The workshops (two for event companies and rights holders, and two for brands and businesses) are targeted at middle to senior management and cost 37,500 baht per delegate, including VAT, breakfast, lunch, two coffee breaks and evening drinks, as well as workshop materials and post-workshop support (on and offline) in both English and Thai.

Industry expert guest speakers include Bangkok-based Richard Haigh, former President of Jaguar Land Rover (Asia Pacific) and currently a consultant to the auto industry across the region, along with intellectual property rights expert Lubna Gem Arielle from the UK.

Poole will be the lead coach in the workshops, alongside UK-based Nigel Jones, Managing Director of The Purple Tangerine Ltd, the UK partner

agency for PP(SEA)CL.

To maximize the learning potential, a limit of 30 delegates per workshop has been set, making 120 delegates in total for the series, with a minimum of 20 delegates per workshop.

A 20 percent discount is being offered to members of the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand and to British Council Alumni. For more information, visit W:paulpoole.co.th.

— Gazette reporter

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# PUZZLES

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID  
OUELLET

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

MOPEDS

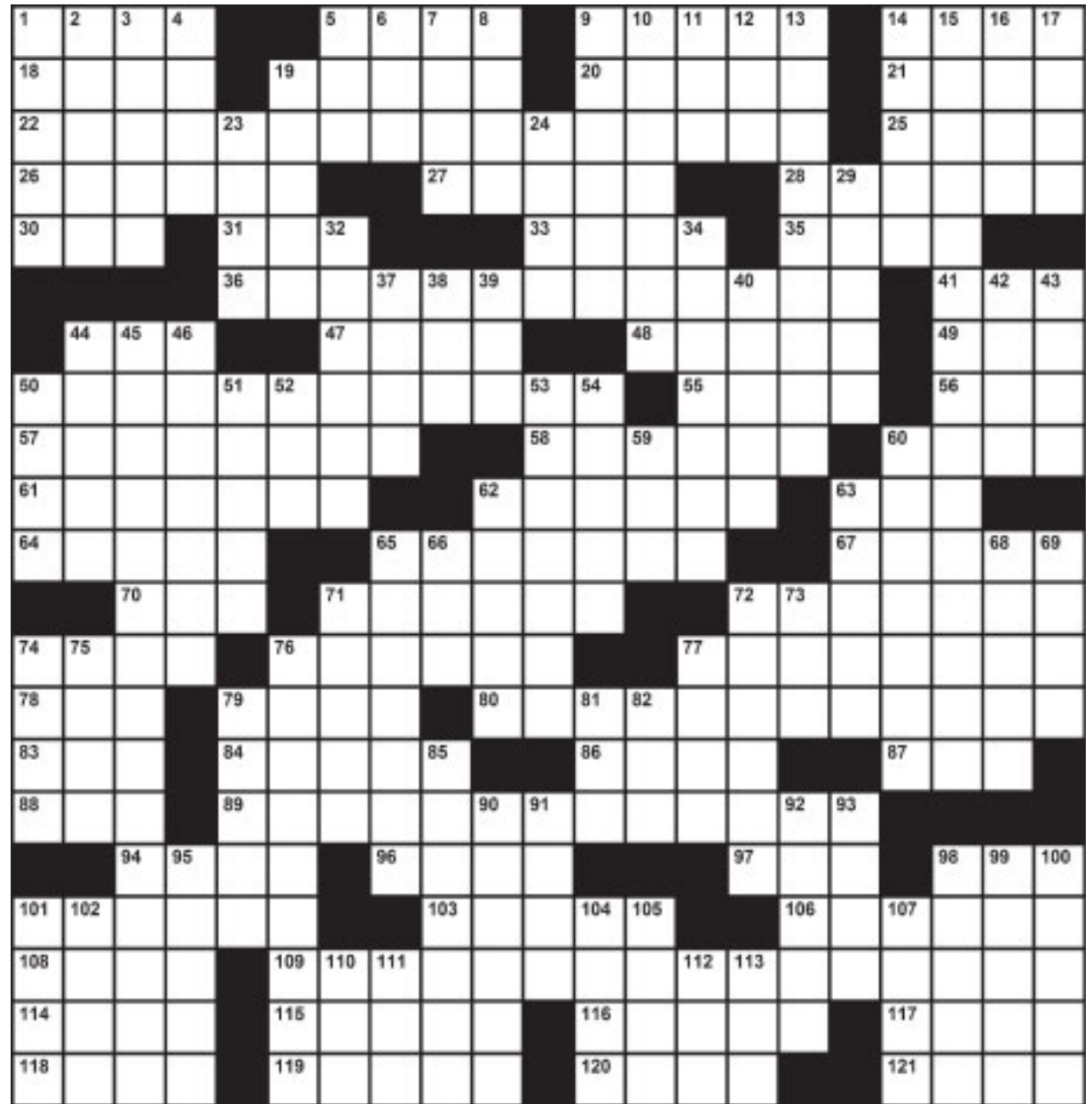
Solution: 9 letters

L K T R A V E L T M I R R O R  
I L R O A D D I O E N I G N E  
G E A A D E R E W O P W O L D  
H U E M P E D A L S H I K S N  
T F R O S D R I V E T C E A I  
S I N V R E N W O A I K S L L  
G D S A C K S U T N I S S E Y  
N S E L H I T R O B A R T S C  
I N K V Z C O R E R O A E S E  
T S A E I P T N D L G E M R L  
F D R S S C E U O C C G L I B  
I N B N E F E C L R O I E A I  
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5/4

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## ACROSS

- 1 Act the rat  
5 Banish  
9 Expectant parents' choices  
14 "\_\_\_ boy!"  
18 "Peyton Place" actress Wood  
19 Invisible emanations  
20 Clear cassettes  
21 Unstable lepton  
22 Controlling things  
25 Dry  
26 Quickie portrait  
27 A maternal relation  
28 How some things are veiled  
30 Sorrowful  
31 90 deg. from vert.  
33 Dijon denials  
35 Put great weight on  
36 Seagoing scientist  
41 Commerce cousin of "aka"  
44 "School of thought" suffix  
47 "Boy, am I tired!"  
48 Bums around  
49 Young child  
50 Accomplishments  
55 Cry of anticipation  
56 A son of Noah  
57 Daily Planet employee  
58 Relating to the eye  
60 New York pro team  
61 Ahead  
62 Wires on a bicycle wheel  
63 Cul-de-\_\_\_  
64 \_\_\_ in the right direction  
65 Emulate Porky Pig  
67 Takes the edge off?  
70 Abbr. on a can of motor oil  
71 Braided cordage used on ships  
72 Shaft of light  
74 Yanks' third baseman, familiarly  
76 "The Thinker," for

- one  
77 Struck out, in a way  
78 Harry Palmer creator Deighton  
79 Spurious imitation  
80 Readiness  
83 Majors of "The Six Million Dollar Man"  
84 Spelling and Amos  
86 "Better \_\_\_ than never"  
87 "\_\_\_ we there yet?"  
88 Admission requirements, perhaps  
89 Beyond hope  
94 Gold-covered  
96 Not imagined  
97 Vote of support  
98 British bombers of WWII  
101 Cinco de Mayo party  
103 Pretentious poseur  
106 Flowering plant with healing properties  
108 By word of mouth  
109 Receive permission  
114 Apple center  
115 Become accustomed (to)  
116 Olympic racing sleds  
117 Stretches the truth  
118 "Meet Me \_\_\_ Louis"  
119 Battle of the \_\_\_ (men vs. women)  
120 Young Frankenstein's assistant  
121 Taro root

## DOWN

- 1 Misery's opposite  
2 Sri \_\_\_, formerly Ceylon  
3 Kicked off the poker betting  
4 Thailand monetary unit  
5 "It is the night of \_\_\_ dear Savior's

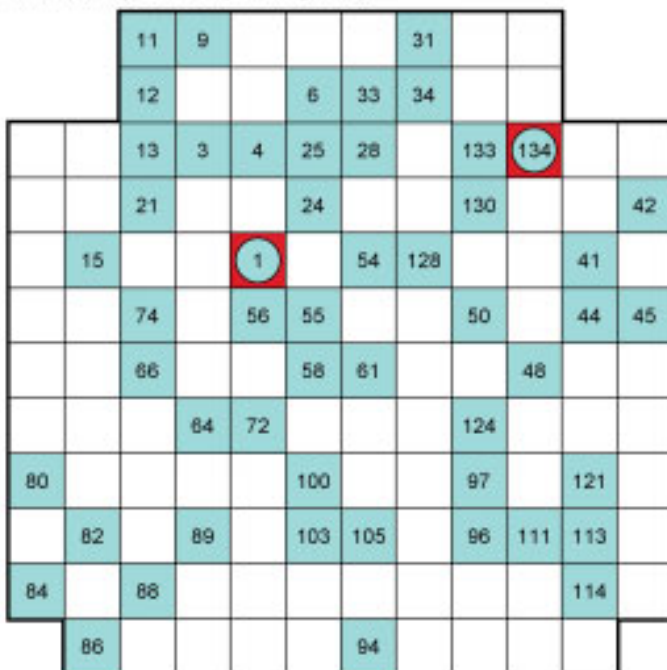
- birth"  
6 William Tell's canton  
7 "The Love You \_\_\_" (Jackson 5 hit)  
8 Young voter  
9 Counselor to the Greeks at Troy  
10 Ammo depot  
11 Sultry West  
12 That girl, in Spain  
13 Accept after negotiation  
14 Sondheim's "Everybody Ought to Have \_\_\_"  
15 Started toward profitability  
16 Put in long hours  
17 Tennis star  
19 Type of committee  
23 Sound effect in a cave  
24 Told, as a bell  
29 Excessively stringent  
32 Evangelist's exhortation  
34 Program that manages print jobs  
37 "Alas!"  
38 Birth name indicator, for women  
39 "A League of Their \_\_\_"  
40 A few laughs  
42 Gravy \_\_\_ (serving piece)  
43 Cash dispensers  
44 Computer screen symbols  
45 Moves in a different direction  
46 Formed a wrong opinion of  
50 Inter \_\_\_ (amongst other things)  
51 Wed without warning  
52 Moving vehicle  
53 A-one  
54 "Rob Roy" author  
59 Hawaiian guitar, for short  
60 Tennis great  
Navratilova or

- Hingis  
62 Crack of dawn  
63 Burn with hot water  
65 More sordid  
66 You can get a bang out of it  
68 Bel \_\_\_ (cheese variety)  
69 Pink Floyd's Barrett et al.  
71 Last name in drummers  
72 As a result, in a contract  
73 Palindromic Dutch municipality  
74 "\_\_\_ want for Christmas ..."  
75 Woodwind item  
76 Inventory problems  
77 \_\_\_-tat (snare drum sound)  
79 Pink-legged wading bird  
81 \_\_\_ Lilly and Company  
82 Popular cooking spray  
85 Royal staff, to a Brit  
90 Batters on lids  
91 Away from the wind  
92 Isn't quite erect  
93 Viscount's superior  
95 Key in the sea  
98 Uncompromising  
99 Hurt all over  
100 Ernest Borgnine in "From Here to Eternity"  
101 Convergence points (Var.)  
102 Remove wrinkles, in a way  
104 Wrinkly citrus fruit  
105 Prescription product  
107 Egypt's river  
110 Houston-to-Virginia Beach dir.  
111 Affair wear, informally  
112 \_\_\_ trip (self-indulgent activity)  
113 Suffix with "puppet"

## HIDATO®

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 134 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



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# Moving the slum within

**M**Y friend Fardley Nerdwell and his girlfriend Noy recently moved into a new condo. This event was not without traumas, as Fardley revealed afterward over several beers:

**Fardley:** There are lots of inter-cultural differences between the foreign male and the Thai female that the books don't tell you about. For instance, the *farang*, if he's buying a condo, wants to use a *farang* realtor. The Thai woman wants to use a Thai realtor. Each of them figures his own nationality is more trustworthy.

**Tsow:** And they're both wrong.

**Fardley:** Well, the average *farang* in Thailand is paranoid about being cheated, especially

when buying property. And considering the number of scams you hear about, that's not surprising. But Noy insisted we use a Thai realtor. And as usual, Noy won.

**Tsow:** Not hard to see who wears the pants in this family. So did you get cheated?

**Fardley:** Not so far. Of course, it helps that the realtor is Noy's cousin.

**Tsow:** Ah. Never underrate the family factor. Still, being in the same family hasn't stopped some people I know of from trying to cheat each other. And it's usually over property.

**Fardley:** Then there was the difference in our priorities. I wanted a place near my favorite bars. Noy wanted it near her favorite shopping mall. I didn't want to move at a time when I would miss Happy Hour. Noy didn't want to miss her favorite Korean soap opera on TV. I wanted to have a big housewarming party I could invite my mates to and we could all get stinking drunk and baptize the place by urinating on

the threshold. Noy wanted to have a ceremony where a chapter of monks would come in and bless the place.

**Tsow:** I presume that would not be happening at the same time you were urinating on the threshold.

**Fardley:** Presumably. It was on moving day that the nightmare began. I belong to a subspecies called Man the Accumulator. During my sojourn in Thailand I have accumulated enough junk to fill several warehouses. You know the story about Hercules cleaning the Augean Stables? Well, Hercules only had to *clean* the stables. I had to *move* 'em.

**Tsow:** Well, accumulating stuff is one of the major failings of our species. But it's usually not a problem till you have to move it.

**Fardley:** The movers were a jolly gang of muscular Thais who threw everything into boxes, moved the boxes into the condo, and departed. Horror show! The boxes were all stacked on top

of each other. I couldn't find anything. For five days I couldn't find my toothbrush. You can imagine how stinky my mouth was.

**Tsow:** Fard, you can buy a new toothbrush in 7-Eleven for 15 baht.

**Fardley:** Not while you're busy unpacking boxes. Once we got everything unpacked, reality hit me. Before, I had been living in a slum. Now I had moved to a posh new condo. And you know what? I was still living in a slum. The slum had moved with me.

**Tsow:** Ah, the slum within. We all have one.

**Fardley:** This particular slum engulfs my entire condo. Such is the tragic fate that befalls Man the Accumulator.

**Tsow:** There's a cure for this condition. It's called "throwing things out".

**Fardley:** Man the Accumulator is incapable of making such a traumatic transition. All of this stuff has sentimental value.

**Tsow:** Then the only solu-

tion is to have Noy throw it out. Women are genetically programmed to throw out everything men hold sacred. Thai women are notoriously unsentimental in this regard. They have a visceral antipathy to anything old.

**Fardley:** Don't I know it! I had a favorite pipe I used to smoke in college. One day I noticed it was missing. Noy said, "Oh, it was old, and you never use it". She'd thrown it out. My pipe! My favorite pipe! The memories of collegiate debauchery associated with that pipe were to sustain me emotionally in my dotage.

**Tsow:** I understand. One of the things I value most is the old rubber ducky I used to play with as an infant in the bathtub. Were I to lose my rubber ducky, it would be like losing my life.

**Fardley:** You've got a rubber ducky too?

*S. Tsow can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's playing with his rubber ducky.*

## Horoscopes



Isla Star



**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Geminis' ability to make hay while the sun shines is forecast to raise the fun to be had in June. Travel is highlighted to open your eyes to more possibilities with work and more money should allow you to pay off debts. Lucky days for money matters are Monday and Tuesday. If your birthday is in the coming week, expect the year ahead to be one well worth remembering.



**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): You will be more motivated to boost your earning power

in June. Aries can be a source of inspiration this week, but be-ware becoming too involved too quickly. Romance with an earth sign becomes more serious, but those still playing the field receive a wake-up call this weekend. The number four can bring good fortune on Monday.



**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Your energy picks up as June begins, but the problem

could be in knowing where to direct it. Friends and family are forecast to make plans without consulting you first. Sunday is a good day to point out that you

want to be kept in the loop. The stars suggest that business will be more successful towards the middle of the month, but useful contacts can be made this week.



**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You will have no trouble combining work with pleasure this

month. There are signs that those who recently changed jobs will enjoy spending leisure time with new colleagues. Romance could also be sparked off. Aquarius is waiting for the right moment to confess their attraction to you. Tuesday is auspicious for contacting a fire sign who owes you money. The number 7 is lucky this weekend.



**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): You are forecast to cover great strides along your career path in June. Learning new skills is positively highlighted and this could involve travel. Spreading your wings will show there is much to be gained by moving away from your usual environment. This weekend, you learn that an earth sign is more generous than you thought. Tuesday is luckiest for romance.



**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): June is forecast to be mainly positive for Scorpios, although

your health could be susceptible to sudden changes in the weather this week. The stars suggest that your tendency to feel responsible for everything needs to be redressed this month. An air sign can be particularly supportive over a demanding domestic situation. Wearing amber will help promote inner harmony.



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): The archer has a strong focus on adventure in the month of June. Those

who have been thinking of breaking away from a dull routine will see an escape route this week. Romance is subject to a rocky start this month. Words not from the heart will be used against you. The stars suggest that single Sagittarians will start to enjoy that unattached status more.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): June mostly revolves around

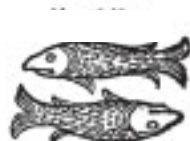
improvement for Capricorns. Business activities become more fruitful and there is scope for further development of old ideas. You could be reunited with an air sign this weekend and the stars suggest they have a riveting tale to tell. Romance with a water sign finally gets off

the ground, but another earth sign's heart is spoken for.



**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): A heated conversation this weekend could highlight a need

ed a break from a friends hip. Relating to other air signs forecasts problems in the first half of June. Socializing with fire sign friends ensures you have fun in your free time. Work will be demanding this week. The stars indicate that faults in a new project will come to light.



**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): You will be on the right side of those with

influence in early June. However, your willingness to do the work that others find boring is in danger of being taken advantage of. Set reasonable limits for yourself to prevent burnout. Those feeling blue due to a failing romance are forecast to recover quickly when they meet a new flame this weekend.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Excitement is the keyword in June. You will accomplish

much by doing not a lot more than

usual. Business colleagues focusing on the other side of the coin should come round to your way of thinking this week. In social circles, there should be no shortage of invitations – or admirers. The number 8 can be lucky this weekend.



**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): An event in June that you've been anticipating with a sinking heart proves to be a drop in the ocean. The outlook is mostly positive for this month, although romance remains in a grey area until mid-June – a water sign is growing tired of your indecision. Regarding finances, Libra has interesting tips on boosting your earnings.

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## Only red lights at the end of the tunnel

Public debate has intensified in recent weeks as road projects that have been talked about for years appear closer to becoming reality in Phuket.

Despite the recent chaos in Bangkok, the number of tourists visiting the island continues to grow. Airports of Thailand (AoT) reported over 120,000 international arrivals at Phuket Airport in April 2010, a 41% increase year-on-year. AoT expects this trend to continue, as evidenced by its Bt5.7bn expansion plan to double passenger capacity there to 12.5 million by 2013.

With ever more people coming here, passenger car sales remain brisk. Sales increases of around 40% year-on-year have been reported by many dealerships for the first quarter of 2010. The increase has been buoyed by sales to foreigners, who account for up to half of all sales at some dealerships, as well as Phuket's well-documented lack of reasonably priced public transport.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop has worked hard at improving the island's road network, coming out in support of a plan to bore a pair of tunnels beneath Patong Hill to facilitate transport between Patong and Kathu.

The *Gazette* does not necessarily oppose the tunnel, but continues to insist that the only long-term solution to the traffic problem in Patong will have to include a drastic reduction in the number of taxis and tuk-tuks, introduction of a bus or *songthaew* system, improved drainage and expanded public parking.

Another key issue is poorly regulated developments in the few areas not already covered in concrete, including along Phang Muang Sai Kor Road and along Phra Barami Road, where property values could soar if the tunnel becomes a reality – a fact not lost on the project's supporters. As monsoon conditions intensify in coming months, it will be interesting to see just how effective the municipality's efforts to combat chronic flooding problems in several areas will be.

Along the bypass road, there are plans to ease traffic congestion at the Samkong and Darasamuth School intersections by building underpasses and one flyover. Much like the situation in Patong, these measures will do little to ease congestion in the real trouble spot – where Chao Fa West Road narrows just south of Wichit Songkram School and remains constricted all the way to the Phuket Software Park intersection.

While there will be some benefit to east-west traffic, all the underpass is likely to achieve on this stretch of the bypass road is to get motorists to the bottleneck more quickly. Once again the only credible solution is one that encourages people to leave their car at home – or not buy one in the first place.



## Letters

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

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

### New World Order

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airport dismisses 'chemtrail' video, May 22*

The issue of chemtrails is a life or death matter. Think this just happens in the USA? Think again.

A few days ago this happened in the skies over Phuket [see video linked to in the article].

These chemtrails are causing droughts for sure. By spraying aerosol metals in the upper atmosphere, they are causing higher temperatures because the metal particles absorb radiation from the sun and heat the ionosphere.

They are finding temperatures in excess of 100F 30,000 feet up, where it should be well below freezing. Clouds are not rising (warm air rises) and cooling to cause condensation because the temperatures are too high.

In normal systems, clouds cool as they rise and water particles aggregate until they become so heavy that they fall to earth.

Nowadays, if we get any rain at all, they are just whimpy little sprays.

There are chemtrails above every raincloud passing over Maui – intentionally placed, I believe – creating a drought and causing serious damage to crops and livestock.

A comment from a video on YouTube about chemtrails says, "Famine will be the method of population control. Think and see the connection with these metals in destroying our food supply. We die while the elite hide in their underground habitat. When the population is culled, they come out and start a new world. Scary hey! But it's becoming more real to me as time goes by." **Aya Kiawe Maui, Hawaii**

### As Bangkok burns

If you believe that Phuket's image as a destination for late night entertainment is lacking, or that there is an honest feeling amongst folks here that there just isn't enough fun to be had after hours, you would probably subscribe to the drivel splattered across last week's issue of the *Gazette* [Phuket Gazette, New 'entertainment zones' mulled, May 22].

Although I disagree with the plan, I'll accept the fact that it is newsworthy that the Ministry of Interior is considering the inclusion of new areas as 'entertainment zones' and that they claim it will "stimulate the tourism economy."

What I cannot accept is the fact that the editor actually believes and promotes this nonsense [Phuket Gazette, Entertainment zone changes for the better, May 22]. I hardly think that any reasonable person would see that Phuket's nightlife needs a kickstart; if you were talking about Baghdad, I could understand.

Phuket already has a thriving nightlife, which is famous around the world. No-one would notice an increase in entertainment zones except those adversely affected by hordes of drunken tourists invading new areas.

And, lastly, need I point out the absurdity of the *Phuket Gazette* devoting its editorial to entertainment zones at the very time Bangkok was engulfed in flames?

**Carl Johns Rawai**

### Not worth the ink

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airport dismisses 'chemtrail' video, May 22*

Garbage like this isn't just ridiculous, it's embarrassing. It

doesn't deserve the ink and should be left for the tabloids. I feel it attracts headcases and is just not worthy of the *Gazette*. I just hope that printing stories like this doesn't become a habit.

**Randy Hodge Kata**

### Which Phuket?

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket airport arrivals up 41%, May 26*

These articles are entertaining with the same old spin and fluff of the numbers. For your information, Airports of Thailand: the serious trouble in Bangkok happened in May and not April.

The hotels have low occupancies, the restaurants are empty and so are the shops. So the April numbers are meaningless and we need to look at the numbers now, after the burning of Bangkok in May.

As a life-long hotel guy, I really can't see where you get this stuff. Your Phuket 'numbers gurus' must be in a different Phuket. Stop spinning the numbers and work on solutions for business to return to Phuket. Start with lower airfares.

**Tommy Gazette forum**

### No sympathy for the drunk

*Re: Gazette online, Patong to get 'drunk center', May 26*

I was horrified to read about the drinking problems caused by foreigners in the country we love. I hope the local police use every method at their disposal to eradicate this behavior and maintain the peaceful Thai way of life.

**Keith Blizzard UK**

**The Phuket Gazette**

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# Grand plans for Phuket Airport



## FIRST PERSON

Prateung Sornkham has been director of Phuket International Airport for just over a year. The 56-year-old Chiang Mai native earned a master's degree from the Faculty of Economics at Chiang Mai University before joining Airports of Thailand (AoT). He has been with AoT for almost 22 years and served as the director of Chiang Rai Airport for three years before coming to Phuket. Mr Prateung talks with the *Gazette* about expansion plans and the role of AoT and Phuket International Airport (PIA) on the island.

Aside from Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Phuket International Airport is able to handle the largest number of passengers in Thailand with about 25,000 passengers a day and 6.5 million a year. We can handle these numbers now, but our forecasting predicts more and more passengers each year.

We now have a 5.7-billion-baht budget for our expansion plan. The project is in the design stage and construction is set to begin this year. We hope to have everything finished by 2013.

The plan is to make the current airport building our domestic terminal and to build an international terminal with a corridor linking the two. We will construct six more gates, giving us a total of 21, meaning we will be able to handle 21 flights an hour. We're also going to build a five-story parking garage to hold 1,000 vehicles. Right now we can only accommodate 300.

Once everything is finished, the new airport will be able to handle up to 12.5 million passengers a year. That's almost twice the capacity we have now.

There are only a few airports in the world that are as close to the ocean as Phuket International. This makes maintenance of our buildings and equipment more difficult because of damage from salt from the ocean. We have to repair and replace things more often than other airports,

which makes maintenance costs quite high.

For example, each runway light costs 40,000 baht. Think about how many of those we have on one runway. At an airport further from the sea, these bulbs can last for over 10 years, but here we have to replace them every few years. And that's only light bulbs. What about everything else?

That said, I am not worried about running the airport, as I know how to fix almost all of the problems. But remember that AoT works according to government procedure which means that every single budget request we make needs to be approved. This can take quite a long time, and most of the time the response is not as fast as we would like.

I am quite happy with our 220 permanent staff members and around 300 outsourced staff who help each other in taking care of the airport and passengers. I am pleased with the quality of service we provide.

We do sometimes receive complaints about our airport, but that is normal because nothing in the world is perfect and we accept that. We listen to every concern so that we can make plans to improve. Most people understand and support AoT, especially Phuket businesses and locals, and I really appreciate that.

Regarding the situation in Bangkok, I really want to confirm to all tourists that our security is well prepared and the airport is



Airport Director Prateung Sornkham says PIA will double in capacity by 2013.

safe. Phuket is quite lucky as it rarely has conflict and people don't fight that much. I would like all people in Phuket to help and tell tourists that it is safe here.

One way to look at it is like Phuket being the Hong Kong of Thailand and Bangkok being like mainland China; Phuket is an island, far away from the troubles of Bangkok, so we are safe and are always able to welcome tourists.

A big issue for AoT is the taxi concession fees [*Phuket*

*Gazette*, First person: Fix transport, end uncertainty, May 8, 2010]. I want to explain that everyone involved in business needs to make a profit. Based on profits that taxi companies make, I think our concession fees are fair.

I would like people to be more open minded and try to understand our point of view. The fact is that we only get 700 baht per passenger in airport taxes. Think about how much they will spend on taxis, hotels, restaurants

and elsewhere in Phuket. It is not only the AoT that benefits from tourism, but everyone in Phuket.

I want people to think of the airport as belonging to everyone and to help each other take care of it because it is good for Phuket. As long as tourists are coming, we can all benefit together.

Phuket is a good place to do business and make money, but when I retire I don't think I will stay here. I plan to go back and live in Chiang Rai.

## 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, Thepkasattri Rd., T. Koh Kaew, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-615240, or submit your issue at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

## How much are lottery tickets meant to cost?

What is the price supposed to be for a lottery ticket? They have '40 baht' marked on them, so two tickets should be 80 baht. However, some of the sellers want 120 baht.

At that price, if they sell five tickets, they have made a full day's wage. Surely, this is not right. Do the ticket sellers receive a commission from the lottery office?

Name and address supplied

An officer at the Government Lottery Office replies:

The price for the two tickets should only be 80 baht. We do give them a commission, so if they are charging more than 80 baht you can tell the police in your area or call to complain at 1466 or 02-345-1466.

For more information contact the Government Lottery Office: 3 Ratchadamnoenkrang, Talad Yod, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok 10200. T: 02-281-1611, F: 02-281-9011

## What can I do about crazy truck drivers?

I cannot count how many near-death experiences I've had with crazy truck drivers in Phuket. They drive as if oblivious to anything else on the road. These trucks are huge but drive like rally cars. In the US, we often see stickers on large trucks that say "How's my driving?" and a phone number to call. I have never seen this in Phuket, so what can we do?

Dan Mackey  
Chalong

An officer at Phuket Provincial Police replies:

Normally large trucks operate on schedules dictating when they can drive in the city and how fast. If you see someone driving dangerously, you must note when and where it happened, the license plate number and the company name on the truck. Then, call 191.

For more information contact Phuket Provincial Police: 1 Chumpon Road, T. Talad Yai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-212115 or 191. E: [mgphuket@royalThai.go.th](mailto:mgphuket@royalThai.go.th), W: [muang.phuket.police.go.th](http://muang.phuket.police.go.th)





**WHAT HANDICAP?** Golf lovers Prayoon 'Noy' Sawang, Ratree 'Tog' Masadee and Anosha 'Nun' Kongsut. Photo by Nicky Vermeulen

## Taking up The Challenge

The hunt is on for Phuket's best golfer

**D**UST off your clubs, work on your short game and get to the nearest driving range for some last-minute practice – because the hunt for Phuket's best amateur golfer is on.

Teeing off on June 9 at the Laguna Phuket Golf Course, the Phuket Amateur Golf Open will pitch the island's best young – and old – golfers against each other over 10 competitions until the Masters final next April.

Organizers say they have been inundated with registration applications and that the field has been capped at 144 golfers.

Mission Hills, Loch Palm, Red Mountain and Phuket Country Club join Laguna as the host golf courses for competitions, but the Masters venue has yet to be confirmed.

In the Masters finale, 80 players who make the cut from the starting field of 144 will vie for the coveted title of Phuket's best golfer. The open will comprise three handicap categories for men and women: scratch to nine, 10 to 18, 19 to 24 (19 to 30 for women).

Entrants must produce a valid handicap certificate along with their 3,000-baht fee per competition, which includes green fees and a caddy.

Prizes for first, second and third place in each category will be up for grabs at all 10 events, along with Masters.

Golf lovers Prayoon 'Noy'

Sawang, Ratree 'Tog' Masadee and Anosha 'Nun' Kongsut from the Phuket Starfish in Bang Tao are spearheading operations for the open.

Behind the ladies, British expats and single-figure handicap golfers Jon Bishop and Neil Taylor are also working hard behind the scenes to make the open a success.

While Neil maintains that the standard of golf on the island is already high-caliber, he is hesitant to tip a winner of the open.

"We expect the overall winner to be of a very high standard and all those who compete will no doubt improve their abilities, too," he said.

Frustrated high-handicappers unable to enter the open are invited to watch the competitions, as the organizers aim for the open to inspire more on the island to take up the game.

The *Phuket Gazette*, Fenix golf and Gift and Golf Phuket are event sponsors along with the host venues.

Entry forms are now at all participating golf courses as well as at Peppers and BB's bar in Cherg Talay, the Golf Guru Driving Range and the Arena Bar in Bang Tao and Phunaka Golf Course in Chalong.

For more information contact Neil Taylor at T: 082-280-3486 F: 076-621567 E: phuketamateurgolfopen@gmail.com

– **Fraser Morton**

## Rising Thai stars to play Merc Masters at Laguna

**S**OME of Thailand's best young golfers will be in Phuket this week, vying for the top prize of US\$9,750 in the Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand to be played at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club from June 2-5.

The Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand was last played in 2008 when it was the season-ending Tour Championship. Malaysian Danny Chia took the title. The US\$60,000 Laguna tournament will be the fourth event of this year's 10-leg circuit.

Leading the charge for Thailand among the full-field of 144 players will be Thanyakon Khrongpha, who won the third leg of the tour, the Kariza Indonesia Championship, held in Jakarta May 5-8.

Thanyakon, 20, won by holing a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18<sup>th</sup> hole – the first play-off hole – to leave Jay Bayron from the Philippines in second place for the third successive Mercedes-Benz Tour event.

The Thai golfer turned professional only in January, but stormed through on the final day with a six-under-par 66.

"There was no way I thought I would win this week. Playing with the professionals is such a different game. I was very nervous today especially on the front nine," said Thanyakon.

He started the day four shots behind the leader Juvic Pagunsan from the Philippines. A bogey on the fourth hole suggested it wasn't going to be his day but then he caught fire and made seven birdies, including five on the back nine.

He also birdied the 18<sup>th</sup> in regulation play while Bayron, playing in the group behind him, holed a brave par putt on the last



**TOP FLIGHT:** Namchok Tantipokhakul eyes a putt at the first leg of the Mercedes-Benz Masters Tour in Manila. Photo: Courtesy of Mercedes-Benz Masters Tour

from 10 feet to draw level.

Thanyakon's victory in his rookie season will perhaps not surprise many because last year he enjoyed a stellar season on the amateur circuit winning the Malaysian and Thailand Amateur Championships.

He also helped Thailand win the gold medal in the team event in the SEA Games, where he took the bronze individually.

However, Thanyakon will be keeping a close eye on fellow Thai Udon Duangdech, who won the second leg of the tour, the Singha Pattaya Open, held April 29 to May 2.

Chasing Thanyakon and Udon's accolades will be Wisut Artjanawat, last year's winner of

the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Masters Philippines, and compatriot Namchok Tantipokhakul, winner of last year's Order of Merit title.

Namchok won twice on the Mercedes-Benz Tour last year and recently became the first player to benefit from a new opportunity whereby seven players from the Mercedes-Benz Tour earn berths in this year's Barclays Singapore Open.

The course to be played on at Laguna is an 18-hole, par-71 course designed by Max Wexler and David Abell.

For the Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand the course will be par-70.

– **Gazette reporter**

## Badgers back for Rugby 10s title

**T**HE 12th Overgaard Phuket International Rugby 10s will kick-off at Karon Stadium on May 28, launching Phuket into a three-day melee of rucks and mauls, drop-kicks and line outs.

The annual event will start on May 28 with the "Coffin Dodgers Vets Tournament" for senior rugby players.

The two days of main competition matches, however, will get under way 8:30am on May 29 as the Brisbane Vulgarians

from Australia take on Thailand's Thonburi University.

The 20 teams in the tourney, arriving from South Africa, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bahrain and Dubai, will play in five groups of four, with matches on the first day of play being two seven-minute halves.

Last year's winner the Kukri Badgers from the UK will be back to defend their title, while former champs and runners-up last year Moorabbin Rams from Australia and the Kriel Roosters from South Africa, winners of the 2009 Plate tourney, will be eager to make up for last year's disappointment.

As for the Coffin Dodgers tourney, a crowd favorite, Rugby 10s organizer Patrick Cotter said, "We can expect some strong competition from local side the Thai Legends and a strong Moorabbin Rams side from Melbourne, Australia and of course the old favorites Phuket

Vagabonds will be along for the ride."

The event's social calendar, often one of the main inspirations for the touring sides to come to Phuket for the tourney, features its usual strong line-up of a welcome party each for the Coffin Dodgers players and the main competition teams, with all welcome to join in.

"Saturday night (May 29), we will be holding the fourth Annual Tour Virgins Beauty Pageant, so get the makeup kits out and the thongs 'prepared' for those unsuspecting tour virgins," jibed Cotter.

He added that the tournament will once again be raising funds for the kids scholarship fund at the Asia Center Foundation, a cause the Phuket International Rugby 10s has consistently well-supported over the years.

For the full schedule of matches or more information, visit [www.phuketrugby10s.com](http://www.phuketrugby10s.com).

– **Gazette reporter**



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# Phuket gold at BIS swim meet

**B**IANCA Goetz of the British International School Flying Fish swim team and former BIS pupil Gavin Lewis, now a swimming coach for the Phuket International Academy (PIA) Silverfinz, both scored gold medals at the second Flying Fish Invitational Swim Meet held at BIS last weekend.

The meet attracted 340 children from throughout Asia. Students from as far afield as China and the Philippines were joined by a large contingent of local swimmers. Representing Phuket were the Phuket International Academy Silverfinz, the Phuket Country Home Swim Club, the Phuket Swimming Club as well as 70-student-strong BIS Flying Fish team.

The Flying Fish finished second in the overall team rankings for the meet with 1,139 points, behind team winners Orchid Country Club, who amassed 1,549 points.

Orchid Country Club also dominated the medal tally, win-

ning 34 gold, 19 silver and 13 bronze medals, ahead of the Flying Fish again in second place with 11 gold, 10 silver and nine bronze medals.

The event was not just about elite swimmers winning silverware, though. Several children found they thrived under competitive conditions and posted personal best times. Amongst them were Jae Min Hyun, 10, and George Taffs, 11, of the Flying Fish team who both broke their own personal records.

Both boys knocked two seconds off their previous personal best times: Taffs in the 50-meter breaststroke and Min Hyun in the breaststroke leg of the medley relay. Min Hyun, 10, believes that swimming in front of his friends and family inspired him to be at his very best.

"I was really pleased to beat my personal best, before it was 52 seconds, but today I did it in 50 seconds. I think I was faster because all the Flying Fish were cheering for me. We came sec-



**DIVING IN:** Competitors start one of the hotly contested races at the BIS swim meet. Photo: James Goyder

ond in the medley relay and we are going to get a silver medal," he said.

Cyrus Crews, BIS Flying Fish head coach and the organizer

of the meet, was delighted with the event and with his team's performance, "This is our second year running the event and it has been a great success. I am also

very happy with my team, who came second overall behind Orchid Country Club from Singapore," he said.

— James Goyder

# Singapore lift Henrik Lorenz trophy

**F**OR the first time in the history of the Henrik Lorenz trophy, Singapore Cricket Club has emerged victorious over annual adversaries Hong Kong FC. The city-state squad of veteran players beat their Hong Kong rivals by 3-1 in the annual Henrik Lorenz Memorial Match played at the Youth Football Home (YFH) in Thalang on May 22.

The two teams meet every year at YFH in memory of Lorenz, who passed away in 2006. Lorenz founded the charity football institution, which provides housing and education to children of impoverished backgrounds from all over Thailand, who show exceptional footballing ability.

He also started an orphanage in Nepal and had close ties with both the teams.

This is the fourth year the fixture has been played. The inaugural match resulted in a draw and Hong Kong FC won the next two.

Hong Kong were off to a good start at this year's match



**Sweeping change:** The veteran players vie for the ball as Singapore swept to victory. Photo: James Goyder

when Pete Hyns scored with an impressive long-range, left-footed volley.

Yet, Singapore fought back and Boon Quek capitalized on a goalkeeping error to grab an equalizer.

The pace slowed considerably in the second half as the after-effects of a party in Patong

the night before took its toll on the aging limbs of the veteran players.

Andy Hunter came close to giving Hong Kong FC the lead and he was unfortunate to see a speculative long-range effort cannon back off the crossbar.

The woodwork soon returned the favor for Hong Kong when Bruce Loggie's free kick from the right touchline eluded the Hong Kong FC keeper before rebounding off the bar. The ball was eventually cleared after an almighty goalmouth scramble.

With minutes remaining and the scores level, the fixture seemed destined to end a draw,

but it was Singapore CC who finally made the breakthrough when Henry Turner was played through on goal and finished with aplomb to put his side 2-1 ahead.

Any hopes of a fight back by an exhausted Hong Kong FC were swiftly dispelled when Singapore CC scored a decisive third goal in the dying seconds. Jon Duffy played an intelligent through-ball and Jim Redfern poked the ball past the onrushing keeper and into the empty net to give Singapore CC an unassailable 3-1 lead.

Peter Schott, an old friend of Lorenz, said that divine intervention may have played a part

in his team's unprecedented victory. "I think Henrik was looking down on us and decided it was our turn to win. I have played for Hong Kong FC and I am a member of both clubs and I think this match is a fitting tribute to Henrik's memory because he did a lot for kid's soccer," he said.

Hong Kong FC reluctantly handed the Henrik Lorenz trophy to Singapore CC in a ceremony after the game.

A slightly less begrudging donation was made by Singapore CC, who handed over 25 pairs of brand-new football boots to the children at YFH.

— James Goyder

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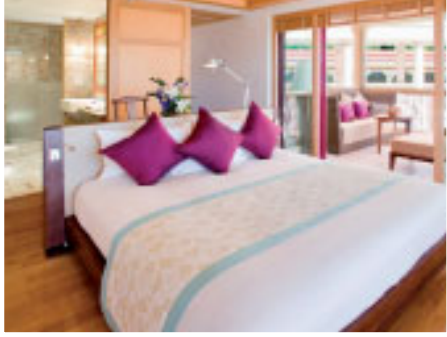
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# Centara's Bt 1.9bn project on the up



Centara Hotels and Resorts are on schedule to open their fourth establishment on the island. The Centara Grand Beach Resort is currently being developed on the beachfront sands of Karon and will boast 262 guestrooms.

**P**LUNGING occupancy rates throughout Thailand has not affected the Centara Hotels & Resorts' plan to open their latest Phuket resort in November this year, just in time for the start of the next high season.

The 1.9-billion-baht Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket will be the group's fourth location in Phuket – and its largest.

Centara's Director of Group Marketing Communications, Kanokros Sakdanare, said that

while recent events in the capital were a cause for concern it was important for the group "to keep moving forward".

Construction of the five-star Sino-Portuguese-styled hotel, hunkered down between the beach in Karon and the Nakkerd Hills behind, began in 2007.

Housing 262 rooms and villas, there are 108 deluxe rooms, 81 deluxe spa rooms, 45 premium pool rooms, 18 pool suites, six one-bed pool villas and four two-bed pool villas in the resort.

Guests staying in the villas, pool suites and pool premium rooms will enjoy the hotel's club privileges, which includes access to the resort's Private Club Lounge with 200 square meters of indoor and outdoor terrace and five complimentary meal servings per day.

Leisure facilities will include four swimming pools, a tennis court, a water-sports center, a 144sqm fitness center and the Cenvaree spa, with 10 single and double treatment rooms.

According to Khun Kanokros, several corporate bookings have been made already at the resort for later in year.

In keeping with the groups' family-friendly ethos, the new resort will offer a range of services for children, including children's swimming pools, a children's playground and two playrooms, one fitted out to entertain children between four and 10 years old and another to cater to 10-to 16-year-olds.

Dining and entertainment at

the resort will consist of Italian, Mediterranean and Asian tapas style food.

Bars will include the Beachcomber Beach Bar, a Splash Pool Bar and the sea view Lobby Lounge & Bar featuring live piano music in the evenings.

The Centara Grand Ballroom will be able to cater to 600 people seated theater-style and versatile enough to be sub-divided into two smaller rooms with 300 people in each.

– Nicky Vermeulen



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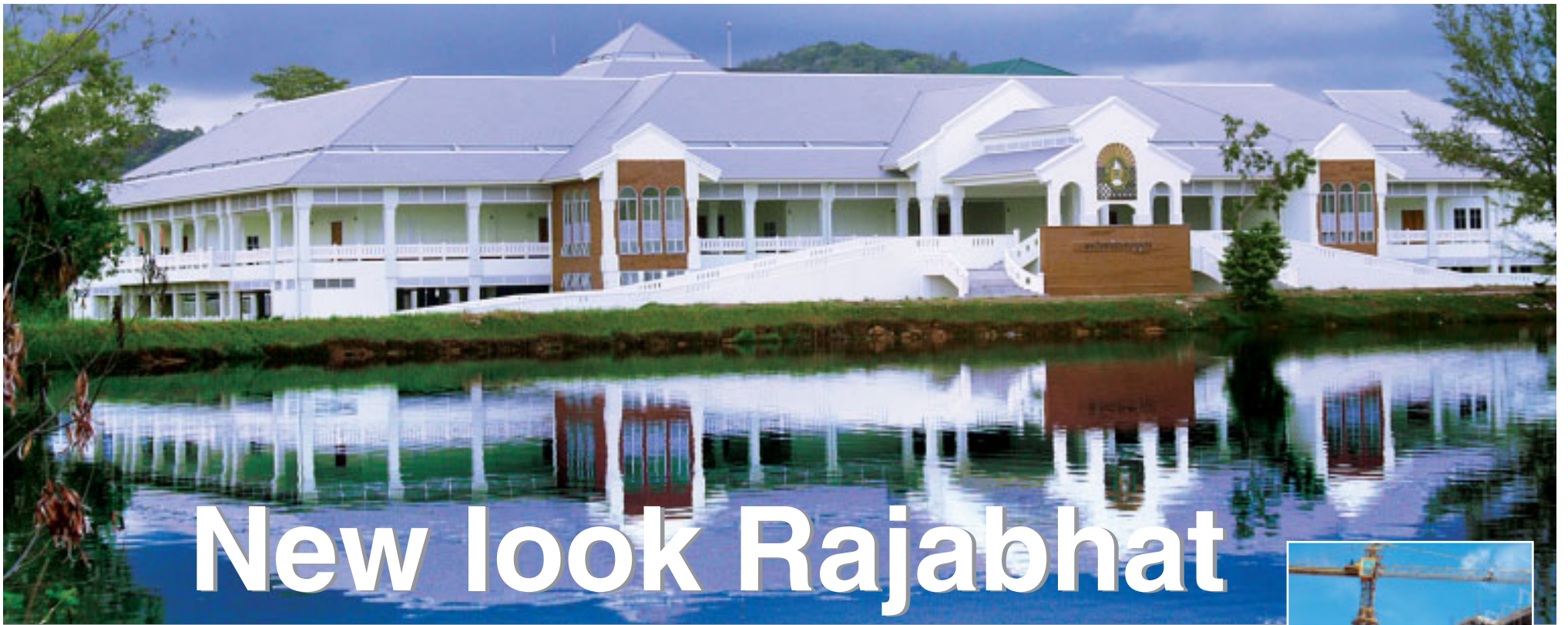
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# New look Rajabhat

ONE of Phuket's oldest higher education institutions, Phuket Rajabhat University, is currently undergoing a huge upgrade, with six new buildings under construction in a project with a total budget of 395 million baht.

Located in Rassada on the north side of Phuket Town, the establishment was first named the Phuket Rajabhat Institute in 1971, but was elevated to university status in 2004 and renamed Phuket Rajabhat University.

Thirty years ago, the institution had about 100 teachers and only a few buildings. Today, staff numbers have grown to more than 200 teachers supported by a further 200 staff. All working in more than 40 buildings.

The expansion project of five new faculty buildings and a new auditorium aims to accommodate the needs of the growing number of students and staff on campus, which occupies more than 354 rai.

The project is situated on

11 rai dedicated expressly for the new buildings, not including the new auditorium. Construction of the auditorium is almost complete, with workers now fitting the decor.

The venue, which can seat 2,200 people for a single function, is slated to be open by the year's end.

Construction work on the entire project began four years ago and is scheduled to be completed by early 2012. Of the new buildings, the new main

building stands nine stories high and has an interior area of 10,000sqm. The building, now in its final stage of completion, can house about 3,000 students at any one time.

Four other three or four story high buildings are also under construction and due to be completed by 2012: a Language and Computer Center, Industrial Technology Building, Health Education Building and Science Education Building.

– *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*



**UNIVERSITY UPDATE:** The 395 million baht construction project at Phuket's Rajabhat University will include five new faculty buildings and a 2,200 seat auditorium.



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# Taking time out from the media glare

FOR much of this year, Thailand has been in the harsh, bright light of the media. Instant images showing all sorts of mayhem have been beamed on TV around the world, posted on news websites, blogs and YouTube, delighting thrill junkies everywhere.

Anyone who has ever checked into a luxury hotel, gone into their spacious bathroom and looked at themselves closely in one of those cosmetic mirrors bordered by blinding lights can vouch that under harsh scrutiny every single flaw and imperfection is magnified into ugly clarity.

While money has been set aside for promotions, advertising and all manner of glitz and glamor to revitalize the ailing tourism sector; there exists serious damage to 'brand Thailand'.

Enter crisis management. Base cases in crisis management range from disasters such as Tiger Woods' affair unraveling to the well-handled David Letterman extortion plot, which he overcame very openly in spite of having affairs with his own staff.

Here in Thailand, the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) storming Chulaongkorn Hospital may have been a turning point for the entire country, if the incident sparked an intense media outcry. But it didn't.

A few months ago, many people in Phuket thought the island could somehow distance itself from the politically charged area of Bangkok. Tourism could continue to thrive and business would go on as usual. How very wrong the optimists were.



**TAKING THE WEIGHT OFF:** A police officer in riot gear rests outside a coffee shop in Bangkok last month.

Once the travel warnings were upgraded to include the entire country, the bottom fell out of hotel bookings and on an island that relies on tourism, this is serious business – or lack thereof.

We can always point to the likes of Cebu, in the Philippines, whose patrons worked hard to separate their identity from the post-Marcos turmoil in the late '80s.

Likewise for Bali. When riots broke out in Jakarta and strongman Suharto fell, the island worked hard to put on a brave face to show the world.

Three degrees of separation may work for the Kevin Bacon school of a connected universe, but severing the umbilical cord between tumultuous Bangkok and the peaceful remainder of the Kingdom looks to be an Everest-sized challenge.

Luckily for Phuket, there are several efficient, creative, top-shelf professionals who have been working their mojo in Phuket's hotel and property sectors for years.

Bangkok's Mark Arsmiden and David Johnson of Delivering Asia Communications have continued to build extensive credentials and kudos, including their high-profile work with Raimon Land.

Phuket itself features AC Counsel, led by Alastair Carthew, who honed his skills working with the Star Alliance international airline program. Infinity Communications' Chanut Nawnarong has starred with key product and

always figured into the mix with Singapore's Lee Sutton, who handled the recent glitzy Andara launch for Allan Zeman, and over in Hong Kong is Susan Field's Impact Asia.

There remains little doubt at the moment that all the promo baht in the world may be better spent being flushed into a bottomless pit, but at the same time setting up a long-term proactive communications plan has never been more relevant to businesses that rely on a steady stream of travelers.

Crisis planning is today becoming a near-daily event and, frankly speaking, my heart starts to beat just a little faster on these mornings when I make an early start to the day and download the news, be it 'tragic' or 'panic' news, or even on those seemingly less frequent quiet days.

I miss the sound of silence, but for tourism and commerce in Phuket the reality remains that positive PR is looking to play a pivotal role in the days and months ahead. Those who have been to rehab know they remain odds-on favorites for relapses, and for those who can't afford a permanent suite at a Betty Ford Clinic, perhaps retaining a PR firm may be the next best thing.



## 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.

event launches for the Absolute Group.

Other Phuket notables include former Laguna PR star Natasha Eldred, who recently rolled out the new firm Shine, and long-term player Alasdair Forbes, former *Phuket Gazette* managing editor and Hong Kong newspaper veteran.

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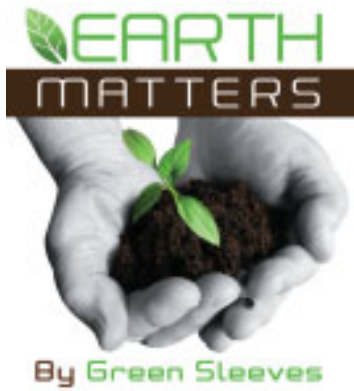
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# Branching out to ornamental gardens



SOME trees in Phuket impose their presence on the observer only when they burst into flower, usually in the dry season. One such tree is the tabebuia.

This tree is widely used in hot weather gardens and is a member of the Bignoniaceae family, which includes the Tecoma stans or yellow trumpet tree, which it superficially resembles.

Tabebuia blooms in pink or yellow, but produces its clusters of dramatic chrome-yellow flowers only after it has shed its leaves. The result is a stunning display of unalloyed blossom.

These trees can be seen dotted around the island, all displaying their blooms in the current dry weather. They may be a bit large for the average garden, but they are oh so pretty.

The same is true of the Delonix regia, or poinciana or *hang nok yoong* in Thai, sometimes given the highly descriptive name of flamboyant or flame tree. If one ornamental tree epitomizes the tropics, it is the poinciana.

Like the tabebuia, its brilliant, scarlet blooms ignite the Phuket landscape in April. Similar to the tabebuia, the flame tree's five-petaled flowers appear only after it sheds its fern-like leaves. Delonix regia has a distinctive umbrella shape, but it will need space. Nonetheless, the flame tree is relatively easy to grow, enjoys hot conditions and does particularly well in the dual seasonal climate of Phuket.

Flame tree saplings usually sprout around the roots of mature specimens. As the tree is a member of the Leguminosae family, these germinate from large black seed pods, and offer a way of saving a few baht for some new trees.

Another ornamental tree



A few of the trees that can enhance a garden's aesthetic appeal are, from far left: A brilliant yellow Tabebuia Caraiba, a deep red poinciana tree, a white jacaranda tree. Jacaranda trees are most commonly seen with purple flowers. Below left: A Hong Kong Orchid tree's alluring pink flowers, a vermillion orange Royal Poinciana and a picturesque pink Tabebuia.



that enjoys seasonal change and full sun is the bauhinia.

Coming from the same genus of Leguminosae as the flame tree, the bauhinia exists in many varieties, including a dwarf form. Almost all have characteristic twin-lobed leaves and widely spaced, delicate, five-petaled flowers.

The varieties most likely to be found in nurseries in Phuket are Bauhinia variegata, also called mountain ebony or *sieo dok khao*, which has white, pink-veined or lavender blooms, and the Bauhinia blakeana, commonly known as the Hong Kong orchid tree, whose purple flowers bear more than a passing resemblance to, well, orchids. If a bauhinia becomes a bit straggly, it can be pruned into a neater shape. Moreover, most have a sweet smell.

Talking of perfume, Cananga odorata also grows in Phuket. Although they look more like "shrubs" when they are only two meters tall, they can grow into substantial trees, even if sprouted from a hardwood cutting.

Also known as ylang ylang, or *kratang ga yai*, the plant has distinctive narrow, yellow flowers that hang claw-like from the ends of evergreen twigs. It also has smooth gray bark and grows in a pendulous form, but is probably best known for its unique

perfume much used in commercial fragrances.

In this regard, the ylang ylang rivals the Michelia champaca, or *champa* or *champoo*, a member of the magnolia family whose buds are used in traditional Thai garlands.

Another specimen to con-

sider is the champaca and its glossy light green leaves and flowers that shade from cream to apricot. It is much venerated by Thais, who grow it as an ornamental plant and believe it brings good luck.

The flowers are long lasting and profoundly fragrant. Also,

once established, the tree will survive any number of dry days. A must for a Thai garden.

If you are the proud possessor of a Phuket garden you would like featured in this column, call 085-7827551 or email [pcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:pcampbell@gmail.com). Photographs appreciated.

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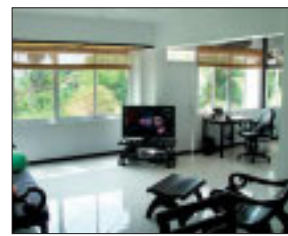
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for sale in Supalai Hill, near Heroines Monument. 55sqm, 3 beds, 2 baths. Call K. Aree for more info. Tel: 083-649 1218.

### 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

### 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](http://www.amphaiseabreeze.com)

### 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

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

### 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

### LAND AT PAKHLOK

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.

### PANORAMIC SEAVIEWS

Seaviews from every window. Located in Nai Harn/Rawai. Long leasehold, 150sqm, 2 bed apt, pool, 50sqm private roof terrace. Price: 4.8 million baht or 105,000 Euros. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

### 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

### PAY IN 10 YEARS NO INTEREST



Sale of condominium for 1 million baht. Furnished, kitchen, cable TV, ADSL, 150m from sea. Location: central Rawai. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### 1/2 RAI CHANOTE LAND

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

### 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](http://www.phukethome.ws)

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# Property Gazette

## 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

## VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

## SURIN BEACH

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

## KRABI, AO-NANG POOL VILLAS

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

## 2-STORY 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

## CHEAP PATONG POOL

Villa with a seaview, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 2 kitchens. Quick sale. Price: 6.4 million baht only, sold before at 12 million baht. Tel: 087-053 6016.

## 300M BEHIND MAIN STREET

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

## 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.

## BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrun 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.

## 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

## 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

## 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).

## 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](http://www.kkaowyairesort.com)

## TOWNHOUSE 2 STORIES



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

## 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

## 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>

## 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.

## 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

## 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

## 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>

## 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

## NEW TOWNHOUSE



in Phuket Intervilla project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 aircon 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.

## 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

## PORNSAWAN CONDO

Studio condo. 1.35 million baht. 63.72sqm, 1 bedroom, 2 bathroom, living room, 2 aircons, kitchen, furniture built in. Tel: 081-676 4195.

## THE ROYAL PLACE

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

## NEW CONDO PATONG

Brand-new, fully furnished, 1-bedroom condo. Freehold. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

## 1 RAI IN PASAK

Chanote title, 3 phase power. Land located in Pasak Soi 8. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

## NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



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

## LAND 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

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# Property Gazette

## PAY IN 5 YEARS, NO INTEREST



92sqm apartment, furnished, ADSL, CATV+CCTV. 30-year lease. Price: 2 million baht. Location: Rawai Beach. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

## SEAVIEW LAND IN AO POR



For sale. 2 rai, 90sq wah with Chanote title. In Laem Thong, Ao Por. Sale price: 6 million baht. No agent! Tel: 087-270 9093.

**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.

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

## PAY IN 6 YEARS, NO INTEREST



Sale price: 12 million baht. 648sqm of land, bar/hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, furnished, WiFi. Location: Rawai Beach. Contact. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

[www.Phuket-Villa-Property.com](http://www.Phuket-Villa-Property.com)  
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## 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

## 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

## 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.

## 5-STAR CONDO

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

## 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](http://www.awphuket.com)

## LAND AT PA KHLOK

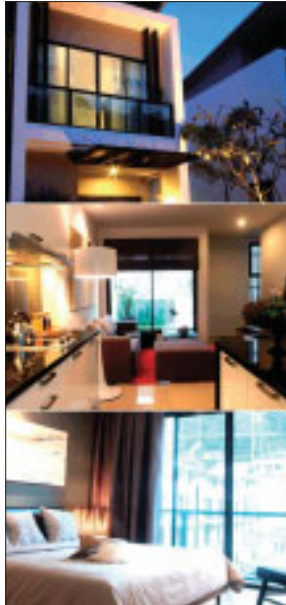


49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-180 2143.

## HOUSE & 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

## BAAN BAI MAI



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

## 90 WAH LAND NANAI ROAD

For sale. Mountain and ocean views. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

## 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

## 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

## RAWAI CONDO

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

## PATONG TOWER URGENT SALE

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

## 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

## 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

## 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

## LAND FOR SALE

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

## SHOPHOUSE AT SURIN BEACH

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

## 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

## 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS HOUSE

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

## 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.

## QUICK SALE HOUSE IN CHALONG

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

## FREEHOLD FINISHED CONDO

2 bed, 1 bath, 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

## 2 HOUSES IN PATONG



for sale. Live in 1 and rent the other or sold separately. 5.1 million baht each, fully furnished, well kept, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen. Center of Patong, 2 minutes to Jungceylon. Contact owner at Tel: 087-279 3312. [www.phukethouseapartment.com](http://www.phukethouseapartment.com)

## 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

## POOLSIDE APT, RAWAI

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

## 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

## SPECIAL OFFER LAST 2 PLOTS

Private pool villa with 2 bedrooms, aircon, built-in furniture and kitchen. Price: only 8.8 million baht. Tel: 081-968 3760 (English & Thai). Email: admin\_kye@twovillas.com

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## 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

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## SCHIONNING POWER CAT 42'

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

## 60' MOTOR YACHT

60' motor yacht 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

## DIVE BOAT FOR SALE/LEASE

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

## CHOLAMARK RIB 3.8m

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

## 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.

## FORMULA 353 FASTEC

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

## 23M BOAT

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

## DUNCANSON 30 (1996)

Cruising & racing sails. 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

## SWAN 42 (1982)

Scandinavian quality yacht, full racing sails, Price US\$139,950. See our web site at www.boatshedphuket.com

## URGENT IMMEDIATE SALE



Urgent immediate sale to highest bidder (need some repairs). Contact 084-712 7451 for inspection and bid.

## NAUTA FLEXIBLE FUEL TANKS

Model FT915180, 200 liter. 5 available: 2 new, 3 used but in fair condition. Tel: 081-894 1994. Email: tom@freedom surfing.com  
Price for new: 13,000 baht.  
Price for used: 6,500 baht.  
Price for all: 38,500 baht.

## JOUET 1280 KETCH

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

## 23M BOAT FOR SALE

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

## JEANNEAU 35 (2003)

Equipped, ready to sail away. For more details. www.boatshedphuket.com

## SEADOO JETBOAT 215HP FAST

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

## 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.

## OUTBOARD WANTED

25-50Hp outboard motor wanted. Tel: 081-892 4804. Email: gordon\_asia@hotmail.com

## NEW 15HP YAMAHA

15Hp Yamaha outboard, never been on the water. Quick sale! Price: 45,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 4804.

## PEARSON COUNTESS (1970)

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

## MOTORSAILER

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

## PESCOTT 11.8m (2000)

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

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To ensure clarity, please attach a photo of the card. Do not Fax!



# Island Job Mart

## Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project

### SEEKING EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES FOR COMMUNICATION LIAISON POSITION

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to improve the lives of coastal populations through better management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

The BOBLME Project will soon be based in Phuket. We want to establish a local presence, encourage a sense of ownership among stakeholders in the eight participating countries; promote BOBLME as a major source of information and advice; and communicate the results and progress of the project to stakeholders, especially to people in the coastal communities. One of the major tasks in 2010 will be to set up of media liaison outlets in each of the countries partnered with the project. These outlets will convey the project messages in appropriate language, and actively seek communication opportunities locally.

We are looking for an individual or company to take a leading role in the implementation of our communications strategy over the next four years.

For more information on the role and responsibilities, please see our website; [www.boblme.org](http://www.boblme.org).

Interested individuals or companies should send a CV or company profile together with a covering letter outlining your professional competence to the Regional Coordinator Dr Chris O'Brien on [chris.obrien@fao.org](mailto:chris.obrien@fao.org) by June 11, 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

## CLX ASIA

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

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

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

### Production Supervisor (1 position)

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

#### Requirements:

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

### Assistant Production Supervisor (5 positions)

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

#### Requirements:

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

### Retouch Operator (15 positions)

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

#### Requirements:

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

#### Requirements for all positions:

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

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

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

Premedia JOBS



### Sales Executive

We are looking for a Thai national to join Phuket's fastest growing and most exciting internet based property company.

#### Benefits include:

- A great career opportunity,
- an annual salary in excess of 400,000 baht, plus potential commissions of over 1,000,000 baht,
- a company car.

#### The ideal candidate will:

- Have 3 - 5 years experience in Phuket's property industry working in sales,
- communicate well, take initiative, act quickly to close the sale,
- have excellent English skills,
- be an outgoing person, a team player and fun to be around,
- be PC literate.

Please send your CV to [info@phuketproperty.com](mailto:info@phuketproperty.com)

## 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. 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](mailto:info@twovillas.com)  
[www.twovillas.com](http://www.twovillas.com)

### 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: [mmanderson@streamscale.com](mailto:mmanderson@streamscale.com)

**TELE MARKETING JOB**  
Native English speaker, top rates. Working in Patong. Tel: 086-479 4027.

### NEW INT'L PRIMARY SCHOOL

in Rawai. Following the IPC is seeking to appoint a head teacher. Must have PGCD and minimum 5 years experience. Be a leader with passion to inspire and motivate both staff and pupils. Please send your CV to: [careers@palmhouseprimaryschool.com](mailto:careers@palmhouseprimaryschool.com)

**SALES STAFF WANTED**  
Full time, Thai national. English is a plus. Tel: 081-537 6866.

### APARTMENT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national, able to speak & write English, Multi tasking and dependable. Start on 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-288 8696 (English & Thai). Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### SURVEYORS WANTED

Male or female wanted to assist with survey's. Must understand basic English. Good basic salary plus commission. Contact Jay. Tel: 084-851 7529. Email: [jamerward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jamerward@yahoo.co.uk)



Sai Taan is a fast growing property developer based in Phuket. Due to continued expansion we are looking for an ambitious, hard working finance manager/controller.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the financial operations of the company
- Work with management team to develop tax planning
- Develop and monitor cashflow plans & company budgets
- Provide weekly and monthly financial reports
- Manage current book keeping staff.

#### Key Qualifications:

- degree from recognised, leading university
- excellent spoken & written English is a must
- at least 6 years experience
- willing and able to learn necessary accounting regulations related to property business
- hard working & ambitious
- able to take initiative and work independently
- ideally some experience with a real estate development company.

We are looking for someone capable and ambitious to join our small team. This is an opportunity to join a small team and make a real contribution, while learning the details of the property development business. Competitive salary for the right candidate.

Please email to [info@sai-taan-phuket.com](mailto:info@sai-taan-phuket.com) enclosing a resume, recent photo and details of your current salary.

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# Island Job Mart

## Positions Available at West Sands Phuket

Join us to be part of the new "West Sands" Resort and Splash Jungle Water Park. West Sands is located on Mai Khao Beach with 48 acres and 500 meters private beachfront on one of the finest locations in Phuket.

West Sands provides 426 prestige residences with luxury villas and residences, the Splash Jungle Water Park, a spa and fully equipped fitness center, and Food & Beverages outlets.

Join a young and enthusiastic team in one of the newest and most exciting projects in Phuket. If you have experience in the positions below, and are motivated and eager to be part of our fast growing family, you could be the professional we are looking for:



### Finance & Accounting

- Personal Assistant to Finance Director 1
- Accounting Manager 1
- Cash Controller 1
- Credit Controller 1
- Accounts Payable 1
- Accounts Receivable 1

### Food & Beverage

- Sous Chef (Western) 1
- Dim Sum Chef 1
- Demi Chef De Partie (Western) 3
- Commis I, II, III 11
- Steward Supervisor 1
- Food & Beverage Attendant 3

### Human Resources

- Human Resources Manager 1
- Senior HR & Training Supervisor 1

### Legal

- Legal Manager 1
- Senior Lawyer 1
- Legal Administrative Assistant 1
- Corporate Social Relations Executive 1

### Information Technology

- Assistant IT Manager 1
- IT Support 2

### Front Office

- Guest Services Agent 2
- Guest Services Attendant 1

### Housekeeping

- Public Area Supervisor 1
- Linen & Uniform Attendant 1
- Housekeeping Cleaner 2

### Water Park Operations

- Shuttle Bus Driver 5
- Life Guard 7

Interested applicants are invited to apply in person at West Sands site, Mai Khao Beach. Alternatively, send your application with full resume/curriculum vitae by stating the position applied for with your qualifications, experiences, expected salary and enclosed a recent photo by email to:

**Human Resources Department - West Sands Phuket**

Contact person: Khun Orravadee Santamano Email Address: hr@west-sands.com or orravadee@west-sands.com Website: www.west-sands.com  
Telephone Number: 076 372 000 Facsimile Number: 076 372 017 Address: 65 Moo 4, T. Mai Khao, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand

### LOOKING FOR NANNY

To take care of my 18 month old son. Must love kids. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-874 6170.

### 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

### EARN 40,000 BAHT PER MONTH

Young outgoing English speakers required, work permit + visa, assistant given + full training. Email: podgetto@hotmail.co.uk

### KRABI ENGLISH SPEAKERS NEED

- Project Manager  
- Site Foreman  
- Reception Manager  
- Housekeeper Supervisor  
Tel: 081-375 6234. Email: pbs@tharaheights.net

### THAI SALESPERSON

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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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. Email: nannyfrance@yahoo.com

### 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

### 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

### NURSERY TEACHER

Native English, teach 3-7-year-old kids in Rawai. Tel: 084-714 4104. Email: motherandchild.rawai@yahoo.com

### WANTED

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

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

### 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

### 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

### FARANG LIVING IN PHUKET

is looking for part-time secretary with computer knowledge Thai-English, if possible with driving license. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

### Employment Wanted

#### EXPAT ENGINEER

Looking for employment in Phuket, male, various experiences, management, commissioning etc. For further details, please contact at tel: 088-399 5073 (English). Or email: job-phuket@hotmail.com

#### NEED A MAID?

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

#### NANNY AND HOUSEKEEPER

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



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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## GUESTHOUSE/BAR & RESTAURANT

for sale in Karon. Huge European-style kitchen, 5 letting rooms plus office and staff room. Seating for 50+ people. Price includes Thai regulation company, car, 2+3 years on lease stock, fittings, furniture, and website. December 2010, rooms nearly are fully booked. Still plenty of potential to grow. 100% Turnkey operation. Only genuine buyers. Lease price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 084-842 0340.

## BAR IN SOI TIGER

Very well-known bar for sale, on Bangla Road, Patong. Prime location. Tel: 089-908 8856.

## HOTEL SALE/LEASE

12 years + company, 15 fully furnished rooms. Price: 125,000 baht per month or 32 million baht. Tel: 081-271 8923.

## HOTEL FOR RENT

Nice, 4-story hotel with 20 fully furnished rooms, restaurant, Jacuzzi, rooftop, garden, Nanai Rd. Magnificent view of Patong. For rent (4+half years). Tel: 081-693 9642.

## INTERNET CAFE FOR SALE

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

## ROXY BAR

Phuket Town's popular Roxy Bar is for sale. Price for 3-year lease: 1.5 million baht. No negotiable. Contact K. Nuno for further info. Tel: 081-397 0033. Website: www.roxybarphuket.com

**TSBA** *going concerns*  
**BUY OR SELL A BUSINESS**  
 Tel: 086-268-6090  
 Email: ference@tsba.info  
 www.tsba.info

## SHOP UNITS

For rent. 5/6 single and double shop units. One of the double units has kitchen attached. In Patong Inn Plaza on Patong beach front. 128 Thaweewong Road, between Banana Disco and Patong Seafood. Tel: 076-292545 (Thai or English) for more info or to view.

## ENTRANCE TO LAGUNA STORE

Located next to a Queen Air Tour Agency and 7-eleven (opening soon). Rent: 13,000 baht per month plus key money. Email: kornkamonat21@yahoo.com

## BEE MASSAGE

For sale. Excellent location in Saiyuan Rd, Rawai. 2 air cons, 2 foot-chairs and equipment included. Price: 702,000 baht. Tel: 082-284 5682.

## 150 MILLION BAHT PROJECT

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

## SHOP HOUSE IN KATHU

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

## BEAUTY SHOP PATONG

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

## PATONG GUESTHOUSE/BACKPACK

Patong Banzan. 11 guest rooms, sleeps 28, with 2 extra staff rooms. Solid internet bookings, been open 3 years. Rent: 100,000 baht a month with yearly lease. No key money, buy out is an option. Tel: 076-344405, 089-474 6670 (English & Thai), 086-022 2275 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344405. Email: seanthepilot@hotmail.com

## BEAUTY SALON AND MASSAGE



for rent, Patong beach. Key money 500,000 baht. Rent 25,000 baht per month, 3-year contract. Contact Mr Ben. Tel: 081-958 6741.

## POOL BAR/RESTAURANT

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

## NEW SALON FOR SALE

Promenade Plaza, Nanai Road. Fully equipped, new everything 179,000 baht. Rent 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-828 7505.

## 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

## GUESTHOUSE KARON

12 rooms, well furnished with spacious bar/restaurant with pool table, 2 Plasma TV's, projector screen, quality sound system, etc. Located on main road, close to all amenities. Freehold sale 20 million baht. Includes Chanote land title. Tel: 081-891 9461. Website: www.phuketdir.com/coconutgrove.

## 500,000 BAHT GUESTHOUSE

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

## IDIOT PROOF BAR PATONG

Long lease, low rent, well equipped and nicely decorated. Excellent return on investment. Sale price: 580,000 baht. Tel: 084-064 6590.

## BEST GUESTHOUSE PATONG

Looking for a guesthouse. Call Real Pro Co Ltd. We have it! 12 rooms + restaurant. Rent: 69,000 baht/month. Profitable and in a great location. 86 Nanai Rd, Patong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (English). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

## UNIQUE!

Beauty & Massage Salon in Chalong for rent at 8,500 baht per month. Full equipment for sale. 150,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 085-785 7036 (English), 086-272 5967 (Thai). Email: marcello\_auf\_reisen@hotmail.de

## SALE SHOP PATONG BEACH

Sale fashion shop, in front of 4-star hotel, 40sqm, fully furniture, aircon, light. 3-year contract. Rent 40,000 baht per month include 3 month advance and key money. All total 600,000 baht. Location: "The Kee Plaza" 50 meters after Savouy Restaurant. Tel: 02-863 6013, 086-548 4111 (English & Thai), 087-365 0670 (English). Fax: 02-860 4196. Email: zabede@gmail.com

## APARTMENTS FOR SALE

Stunning new development. 3 floors, 8 apartments plus 3-bedroom penthouse. Fully furnished, freehold land. Private parking, BBQ, landscaped, full security, elevator, swimming pool, 5 minutes to Naiham Beach. Asking Price: 52 million baht. Tel: 076-289122, 087-887 7133, 084-848 7474. Fax: 076-289121. Email: kasina\_navamachiti@yahoo.com Website: http://theroyalpalmresidence.com

## RESTAURANT 145,000 BAHT

Kamala everything ready, no key money. Rent 15,000 baht per month, 2nd floor. Tel: 087-888 1327.

## EXPLODING WORLDWIDE

DubLi explodes. New customers get FREE 500 Travel Vouchers, or start your own unique home-based business. Tel: 089-288 7294. Email: alan.samui@gmail.com Website at: www.dub-global.com

## KAMALA RESORT

7 Thai bali style villas with 14 apartments containing 28 rooms. Large landscaped garden with pool. Close to beach. Leasehold 25 million baht. Freehold 55 million baht. Tel: 080-146 2536 (English & Thai). Email: admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.thaisunshinedevelopments.com/for\_sale\_detail.php?id=159

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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

## PATONG MASSAGE SHOP

for sale. Included 7 motorbikes and spa products. There are many repeat customers. Excellent write up in the Lonely Planet Encounter's Guide. Good location near major hotels, long lease. 44,000 baht per month rent on 4 story building, no key money. Price 2,300,000 baht. Tel: 089-475 3220.

## PATONG BAR RESTAURANT

Prime location, fully furnished bar for outside eating, good conditions. Tel: 081-124 8051 Email: mingrestaurant@hotmail.com

## SHOP + 2 FURNISHED APTS

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

## FURNITURE SHOP

270sqm. Price: 2.5 million baht. Very nice opportunity. Tel: 082-803 0356.

## FREE OXYGEN BAR GENERATORS

Seeking an established biz to set up an oxygen bar at no cost to owner. Tel: 088-449 8490. Email: camnet@ymail.com

## FOR SALE PHUKET KARON BEACH

Front hotel, 11 rooms+ restaurant pizzeria. All furnished, 4 year contract. Price 1.75 million baht. Tel: 081-894 7273.

## Business Products & Services

## TEACHER TRAINING

TEFL TESOL TTT School. Ministry of Education Visa. Course begins May 31. For further details, please see our website at: www.ttt-tefl.com

## ENGLISH RESOURCES

Hospitality training, E-workbook, English/Thai PDF. Website: www.besolutionsintl.com

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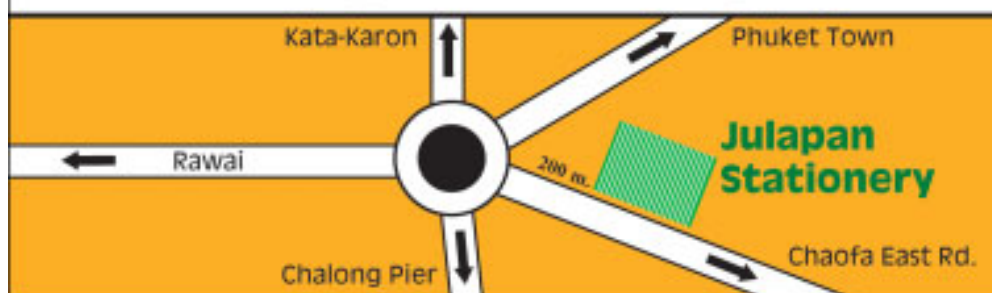
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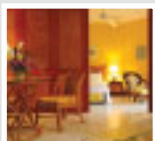


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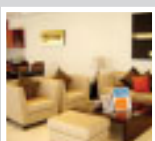
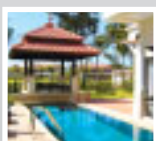


- 1 bed 1 bath Apartment
- rental pool
- golf course view

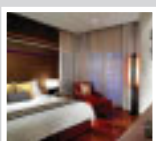


- 2-storey 2 beds Villa
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3 Laguna Village Townhome II THB 19.5 M

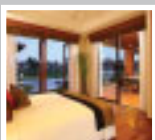


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- maid's quarter
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5 Laguna Village Residence I THB 33 M



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