

Phuket Gazette

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Full-scale tsunami drill on Monday

THE National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) will stage a full-scale tsunami evacuation drill simultaneously in the six Andaman coast provinces on September 13.

All 127 tsunami warning towers in the region will be sounded from 9:30am to 10:30am.

The 19 towers in Phuket are located at: Mai Khao, Nai Yang, Bang Tao, Kamala, Patong, Kata, Karon, Kata Noi, Nai Harn, Rawai, Ao Por, Laem Tukkae, Saphan Hin, Chalong Bay, Ao Yon, Koh Lon and Koh Racha.

While all 19 towers in Phuket will sound the alarm, there will be only one government-agency co-ordinated evacuation drill: at Loma Park in Patong.

In the other Andaman provinces, evacuation drills will be conducted at the tsunami memorial at Ban Nam Kem in Takuapa District, Phang Nga; at Ao Nang in Krabi; at Ban Bang Ben in Kapur District, Ranong; at Samran Beach in Trang; and at Tanyongpo School in La-ngu District in Satun.

The NDWC encourages all Phuket residents and tourists to take part in the drill.

Last year, a similar drill was held in Patong on August 21. More than 2,000 people took part in the event, led by Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Patong hotels call for price war truce

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

IN A bid to keep many of the smaller hotels and guesthouses in Patong from falling into bankruptcy in the coming months, the Patong Hotels and Guesthouse Association (PHGA) is calling for hoteliers to agree to set minimum room prices.

The informal consortium of hoteliers wrote in its "Letter of Awareness Awakening" sent to members this week: "During the past high season, even on New Year's Eve, hotels were selling good rooms at 700 baht per night. This year, new hotels have opened and I am afraid that due to competition the prices will go even lower than that," the statement said.

"If a solution is not found quickly, for the incoming high season this 'war of prices' will continue and even though the number of customers may increase, lower room prices will not be sufficient to cover all the costs and many hotels will face bankruptcy," it warned.

The Letter of Awareness suggested several "price seasons" and



Cut-rate rooms are killing Patong businesses. Photo: Sitthipong Nongkaew

a basic framework for classifying standard rooms so that minimum prices could be agreed on by any hotel joining the campaign.

However, the letter also recognized the limited impact of the campaign if only a few hotels took part. It also acknowledged that classifying and categorizing rooms

would be a "difficult task".

The PHGA listed a downturn in tourist arrivals, operating cost increases and the strengthening of the Thai baht as contributing factors to the crisis, but it identified the main culprit as oversupply.

Bert van Walbeek, chairman of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Thailand Chapter, sup-

ported the call, but said the campaign was unlikely to garner wholesale support.

"I think working on this terrible price dumping that is happening everywhere is very good. It's a sad story that the hotel rates in Thailand, including Phuket, are 30% less than anywhere else in Asia," he said.

Preechavude "Prap" Keesin, President of Patong Taxi Federation and son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, agrees with having regulated room prices.

"If this problem goes on, it may cause business operators to suffer and ruin confidence in investing in Patong," Mr Prap said.

"The real problem is that oversupply has forced prices down, and I think it would be better if the prices were regulated," he added.

However, Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa disagrees, arguing that the forces of supply and demand should be left alone to do their work, even if there were some casualties.

Foul weather delays oil spill salvage

BAD weather on September 8 delayed efforts to salvage the *Choke Thavorn 6*, which sank in rough seas about 10 nautical miles from Chalong Bay after being damaged in a storm on September 5.

The recovery mission resumed on September 9 and was expected to successfully refloat the boat.

Rear Admiral Nawin Thananet, Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Navy's Third Area Command, explained the salvage effort was being conducted by the vessel's owner and the Marine Department's Phuket office.

"We will just observe the operation and help them if necessary, especially if there is any leaking fuel," he said.

Sorbent booms and chemical dispersants were at the ready and a helicopter on standby, he said.

Time was crucial, as the modified fishing boat resting 40 meters beneath the surface was believed to still contain 25,000 liters of diesel fuel, R/Adm Nawin said.

"It seems the fuel is not leaking, but we are afraid the tanks could hit something and rupture during the salvage operation. Two

navy ships will also be on standby in case anything happens," he said.

The budget for the salvage operation alone was about 100,000 baht, but the cost of the entire operation would exceed one million baht, R/Adm Nawin said.

The work included aerial monitoring of a sheen that appeared on the ocean's surface after the spill. The sheen, which at its peak reached about five kilometers long and nearly 500 meters wide, quickly dissipated. Little was visible at the last check at dawn on September 6, he said. — *Phuket Gazette*



Rear Admiral Nawin Thananet.

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This Week

That sinking feeling

Kayakers boat succumbs to the sea in their first attempt of paddling to California. **Page 4-5**

Flying high on a budget



Familiarize yourself with the coolest cats in the industry. **Page 10**

Education



BIS gears up for the World Expo after their award win. **Page 12**

Construction



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Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. **Pages 25-34**

Sport



Ironmen get ready: The Laguna Triathlon is coming to town. **Page 36**

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Road rescue volunteer dies in horror smash

A VOLUNTEER emergency rescue worker, who used his spare time to help Phuket road accident victims, died early on September 7 when his own car slammed into a power pole on Chao Fa West Road in Chalong.

Chalong Police duty officer Anukul Nuket and fellow officers responded to a call at 1:20am reporting that a black Honda sedan had overshot the curve near the Chalong power substation and slammed into a power pole at the corner of Chaofa Soi 50, also locally known by its old name Soi Taiad.

The driver, 24-year-old Warak Singhabumrung of Nanai Rd in Patong, was dead inside the car.

It took volunteers from the Phuket Ruamjai Kupai Rescue Foundation almost three hours using three "jaws of life" cutters to recover the body of their former colleague from the wreckage.

They were assisted by Wichit Municipality Disaster Prevention and Mitigation officers, who were also called in to help.

The force of the impact pushed Mr Warak's body into the front passenger's seat. His skull was fractured and his neck, arms and legs broken.

Volunteer colleagues and Mr



Rescue workers took hours to recover Mr Warak's body from the wreck.

Warak's family members expressed deep sorrow while watching his body being pulled from the wreck.

"He was very friendly and a good man, willing to help others," said one onlooker.

Mr Warak, a taxi driver who worked the beach road in front of the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa in Karon, had worked many years as a Phuket Ruamjai volunteer.

One eyewitness told police the car was heading south at high

speed before it left the road, reportedly airborne for about three meters before it crashed into the power pole.

Mr Warak's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for examination and storage while funeral arrangements are made.

Family members accepted the accident as Mr Warak's fate. The curve, notoriously dangerous in the rain, has been the site of many serious accidents resulting in injury and death over the years, they said.

— **Phuket Gazette**

Bt126m funding for development projects

THE central government has approved some 126 million baht for Phuket development projects to be carried out during Fiscal Year 2011, starting October 1.

A total of 46 Phuket projects will receive funding, said Prajiad Aksornthammakul, head of the Phuket Provincial Development Strategy Planning Group.

"All 46 projects must be started

in the fiscal year 2011, but local administrations can apply for more budget from the next fiscal year, 2012, if the projects are not completed in the same year," said Mr Prajiad.

Although Cabinet approved the development project budgets last week, it has yet to be confirmed when the money will be made locally available, he added.

'MadYank' Fanelli still in prison

RONALD Fanelli, confessed killer of bar hostess Wanphen Pienjai, has blamed local media coverage for being partly responsible for his decision not to surrender himself to authorities before his arrest.

Mr Fanelli spoke to the *Gazette* briefly on September 2 from Phuket Prison, where he is being held for the stabbing murder of Ms Wanphen, a 33-year-old bar hostess at the Sweethearts bar in Kata at the time of her death.

Appearing healthy, Mr Fanelli said he was under instructions

from his Thai lawyer not to divulge too much information about the case while it is still in the court system. He maintains that the killing



Ron Fanelli

was a "horrible, horrible accident", as stated in a July 19 press conference at Phuket City Police Station.

Although he said he felt media

coverage of the case unfairly portrayed him, generally it was factually accurate in most respects.

He denied reports that he mutilated the victim's body apart from the two stab wound that killed her.

He had no way of knowing the real contents of a Thai-language confession statement he was advised to sign by his lawyer after his arrest.

Mr Fanelli is among some 1,200 prisoners currently detained in Phuket Prison. — **Stephen Fein**

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Senators mull legalizing all alien workers

By Atchaa Khamlo

THERE are about 200,000 illegal alien workers in Phuket, members of a Senate committee meeting in Phuket were told recently.

About 150 government officers, senators and private-sector representatives met at the Kata Beach Resort on September 3 to brainstorm better ways to legalize the estimated 1.5 million illegal workers from neighboring countries, especially Myanmar.

Suvit Mekseruekul, chairman of the Senate committee on labor and social welfare issues, said the government needs to de-

velop clear-cut policies that would give alien workers and the people who hire them better long-term employment prospects.

The meeting tacitly accepted that the "nationality verification process" begun last year has been a failure and that human trafficking in Burmese workers continues. "On the issue of human trafficking, I have heard that some operators buy new pickups on credit to transport the workers in from the border at Ranong. They just abandon the vehicles if they get caught," he said.

Such practices speak to the scale of the business and the profits involved, he said.

Legal registration of all alien workers was the only real solution to the problem. Achieving this would require more cooperation from employers, he said.

"Right now businesses just see that they lack employees [and continue to hire illegal aliens]. If this continues the number of alien workers entering Thailand will be virtually unlimited. We need to get control of the situation by matching the numbers allowed to enter with the number of workers actually needed," he said.

Lampang Senator Peera Manatas, who chairs a sub-committee on administrative

issues related to the registration of workers from Burma, Cambodia and Laos, reiterated there is no way of knowing with accuracy how many workers from those countries are working in Thailand illegally.

Comprehensive registration would solve this problem, afford basic human rights and medical care for the workers, and put an end to complaints from abroad over such issues, he said.

Checks on workers at important border crossing towns in Chiang Rai, Tak and Ranong revealed that only about half of the migrants were registered, he said.



This sign on Pracha Uthit Rd warns: 'No dumping – fine 2,000 baht'.

Rassada Municipality to take out the trash

AFTER months of dumped trash piling up along Pracha Uthit Rd in Rassada, efforts to clean up the mess will start October 1, Rassada Municipality's Director of Public Health and Environment Nichmon Keatmanee has confirmed.

"Pracha Uthit Rd is the responsibility of Rassada Municipality. We have a private company to clean up along the eight main roads in Rassada, but they are not required to clean all of Pracha Uthit Rd," she said.

The area had not been developed much and most of the land along the road were vacant plots, Ms Nichmon said, adding that this makes the area a prime target for would-be dumpers of trash.

The company is responsible for only 2.5 kilometers of Pracha Uthit Rd, from Yaowarat Rd to Prachasamakki Rd, Ms Nichmon explained, adding that the rest of

the municipality's 38 square kilometers must be maintained by just 12 workers.

The problem had not been ignored by Rassada Mayor Anuthin Lienudom, she said. The cleanup will start on October 1, the first day of the budget year, when a new company will be sought to ensure the cleanliness along all of Pracha Uthit Rd, and other roads in the municipality.

Deputy Mayor Chaolerd Jitjumnong also urged residents, "We would like more support from the public with trash separation and to see more common sense in environmental conservation. It would be better if we helped each other, not just let it one organization handle the problem."

– *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

New hospital to open next year: Paiboon

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

THE long-awaited Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) Hospital is likely to open early next year, PPAO President Paiboon Upatising has told the *Gazette*.

The hospital was scheduled to start offering limited medical services last month, but procedural delays have deferred the planned "soft opening".

The PPAO is still waiting for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) in Bangkok to approve a contract to hire medical staff. Contracts have been sent to the OAG several times starting in December last year. Each time the OAG has sent back the drafts with requests for revisions so the approval process is not yet complete, he said.

"The hospital is 90% complete. The only hold-up is with the staff and medical equipment. Once staff are hired they can decide what equipment they need," Mr Paiboon said.

"I have tried very hard to have the hospital open as soon as possible, and it looks like it will open by early next year," he said.



IN THE PINK: The new PPAO Hospital yet to open. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

The hospital, on Sri Sena Road in Phuket Town, was originally built as part of the Phyathai Hospital chain under its former major stockholder Dr Arthit Ourairat, who still operates British International School in Phuket.

However, the building sat abandoned for seven years after it went bankrupt in 2000. The PPAO bought the building from the Thai Asset Management Corporation

for 327 million baht in 2007.

Some 265 million baht is being spent on the refurbishment and a further 200 million baht is being spent on new medical equipment for the facility.

The 10-story hospital will house 217 beds, with specialist facilities including a specialist kidney dialysis center with an admittance capacity of 80 patients per day.

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Tuk-tuk hero spoils drunk thief's getaway

A TUK-TUK driver's bravery led to the arrest of a man who allegedly tried to steal more than 170,000 baht from his employer on September 6.

Phathaphon Phumdee, 34, was driving a fare to Phuket Bus Terminal 1 on Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town when his cell phone rang.

It was his wife calling to tell him that his heavily tattooed, drunken passenger had just stolen a large sum of money from his employer and was trying to make a getaway.

Despite fears that the passenger sitting next to him in the front seat might be armed, Mr Phathaphon bravely turned his tuk-tuk around and drove straight to Chalong Police Station, where officers were waiting.

The officers immediately arrested the passenger, Saichon Kornpho, a 37-year-old construction worker from Nong Bua Lumphu province.

Santi Nasaeng, owner of Santi



Santi Nasaeng (right) hands the 2,000-baht reward to tuk-tuk driver Phathaphon Phumdee.

Phuket Construction Company, earlier reported that Mr Saichon had prised open a door at Mr Santi's office in Kata and fled with 173,460 baht in cash.

Mr Saichon ran to the Kata Palm Beach Hotel tuk-tuk rank and agreed to pay Mr Phathaphon 500 baht to take him to the bus station – as soon as possible.

After his wife called saying police suspected the man sitting next to him had just stolen almost 200,000 baht, Mr Phathaphon started to fear Mr Saichon might pull a weapon on him.

At that moment, the phone rang again. It was a police officer, who told him to drive slowly, turn his tuk-tuk around and drive to Chalong Police Station.

Mr Phathaphon mustered his courage and did as the police asked, which led to Mr Saichon's arrest.

Mr Phathaphon said he wanted to show tuk-tuk drivers in a better light and he hoped that his actions would set an example for other people.

After getting his money back, Mr Santi presented 10,000 baht to Chalong Police Superintendent Wichit Intorrasorn in a show of thanks.

Mr Phathaphon received 2,000 baht for giving such good co-operation to the police.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Storm sinks

By Fraser Morton

WHILE paddling nine kilometers off Phuket's southeast coast, two kayakers braced as a wave shattered the support beam holding together their twin-hull sailing kayak. It was just after midday on August 24.

As strong winds buffeted the raised sail, the kayak lopped sideways, seawater gushed into the left hull and the boat began to sink, along with their dream of paddling from Phuket to California.

Frantically bailing out seawater, American Ryan Doran, 26, and Phatum Thani-born Piya Sukunthai, 28, knew they had minutes before their 300,000-baht kayak *Saylee Speck* was fully submerged.

With no other boats in sight, no radio, and their kayak "dead in the water", the two exhausted men knew they had to swim for shore. The nearest island was Koh Mai Thon, about five kilometers away. "I'll come back with help," Ryan promised his friend.

Ryan, the more experienced swimmer, grabbed his fins, broke the water and "swam like hell" towards Koh Mai Thon, while Piya stayed with the vessel, which by now had only one hull buoyant.

Exhausted from paddling for the past four days, Ryan kicked his fins in the rough sea, wincing in pain as jellyfish stung his arms and legs.

After half an hour in the water, Ryan heard the spluttering of a longtail boat behind him. Turning to check if it was heading towards his friend and their idle kayak, he couldn't see Piya, or their boat anywhere. Ryan swam on.

After an hour, his feet touched the seabed and he waded onto the northeastern beach at Mai Thon. It was a beach he knew well. Just two days earlier, the duo had beached *Saylee Speck* there to fix a broken rudder.

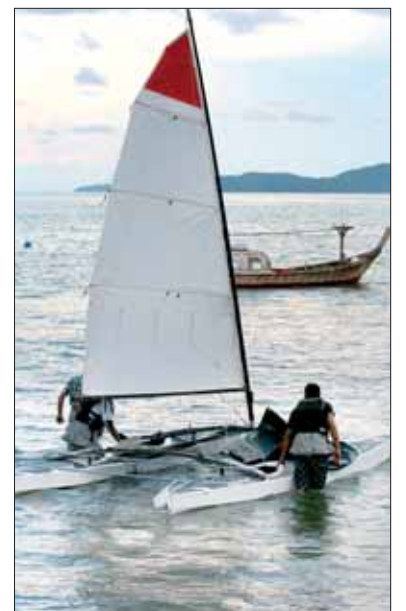
Ryan ran from the beach, through dense foliage and emerged minutes later at a construction site on the island's west coast.

"My friend is in trouble. Our boat is sinking, please help," Ryan said in Thai to a group of construction workers.

Ryan and three men rushed to the nearby pier, ready to jump in a boat to help Piya. But as they



HIGH HOPES: Ryan Doran and Piya Sukunthai launched their sailing kayak Saylee Speck on August 19.
Photos: Fraser Morton and Jim Welch



emerged from the jungle, Ryan stopped dead in his tracks, slumped onto his knees and exhaled a few huge sighs of relief.

A longtail boat tugging a torn section of the duo's kayak was easing into dock at the pier. Piya was waving from the front of the boat.

The other half of their vessel was now at the bottom of the sea, but the two kayakers had made it safely to land.

"What am I going to tell our sponsors," Ryan said to himself.



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kayakers' trans-Pacific dream



DREAM SINKS

Just five days before their boat sank, at a secluded spot on Rawai Beach, the kayakers, one of their sponsors and a few friends watched in silence as boat builder Suphan Changsak blessed *Saylee Speck* and tied flowers to the mast. Minutes later, Ryan and Piya pushed off into the water, embarking on their 10-day maiden expedition. A "test-run" for their planned

14,000 mile paddle from Phuket to California, passing through waters off Indonesia and Siberia, which was due to start in October.

Over the next four days, the duo paddled from Koh Lone to Koh Phi Phi Don, stopping at Koh Mai Thon to repair a broken rudder.

It took 19 hours to reach Koh Phi Phi Don. They arrived just after 1am, slept on the beach and decided to cut short their voyage and head back to Phuket for more repairs.

They left Koh Phi Phi Don just after 6pm on day four of their maiden voyage.

About 18 hours later *Saylee Speck* was snapped in half and sinking to the bottom of the sea.

STARTING OVER

Today, as the scarred remains of *Saylee Speck* languish in a corner of a Nai Harn boathouse, Ryan and Piya say their trans-Pacific dream is on hold.

Ryan told the *Gazette* this week, that when he watched the kayak go under, he saw two years of planning sink with it.

"We are just glad it happened close to Phuket and not in a remote location on our way across the Pacific," Ryan said.

It was in January this year when the duo announced their ambitious plans to paddle through some of planet's most treacherous expanses of ocean for 20 months.

They first planned to paddle in a 20-foot wooden kayak *Saylee* (liberty), leaving on March 10.

Many Phuket residents were quick to slam the pair's plan

as overambitious, dangerous and under-planned. Even their parents branded their trip "crazy", but the kayakers were undeterred.

A "lack of money" halted their March departure, until a sponsor pledged US\$25,000 to build a new, larger and stronger kayak.

Work on *Saylee Speck*, began in May and finished mid-August.

Boat builder Suphan says "we can rebuild" and seems confident he can make a more durable sailing kayak.

Ryan said that after talking with their sponsors, the Phuket-California voyage has been postponed until next year.

But Ryan says he will embark on a solo voyage later this year.

"I am going to do a three month solo expedition in our first kayak, *Saylee*, along both the west and east coasts of Thailand," he said.

He plans to leave by November this year.

"It was never going to be easy, but we will stick it out. The dream will become a reality," he said.



SURVIVOR: After the boat sank, only one hull was salvaged.

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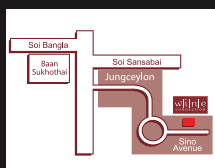


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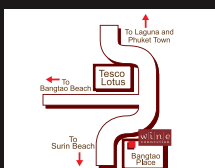
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Bout sparks war of words

A POLITICAL war of words has erupted over a Democrat MP's visit to suspected Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout just weeks before an Appeals Court decision to extradite him to the United States.

The opposition Pheu Thai Party claims Sirichoke Sopha, a close aide to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, interviewed the Russian in April to dig dirt on exiled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Mr Sirichoke admits meeting Mr Bout but denies the interview concerned Mr Thaksin.

On August 27, Mr Bout's wife, Alla, read a statement from her husband at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand in Bangkok.

Mr Bout claimed Mr Sirichoke asked him if a Russian-made cargo plane flying from North Korea, loaded with 40 tons of weapons and seized at Don Muang Airport last year, had been ordered by Mr Thaksin to supply his red-shirt supporters.

Mr Bout said Mr Sirichoke showed him a photograph of Mr Thaksin's private jet and asked him how to "intercept" the plane.

According to the *Bangkok Post*,

AROUND THE nation

the term "intercept" meant "bring down".

Mr Bout also claimed the Democrat MP asked him about Mr Thaksin's health. The Russian denied knowing the former PM.

Mr Sirichoke is also alleged to have asked Mr Bout if he was a KGB agent and asked how many KGB agents there are in Bangkok.

Mr Bout denied being an intelligence officer and pointed out that the KGB had been disbanded even before the official collapse of the Soviet Union.

Pheu Thai MPs Torphong Chaiyasam and Thitima Chaisaeng, both members of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, interviewed Mr Bout at Bang Kwang Central Prison on September 4.

Mr Torphong, who is head of the committee, said Mr Bout told



The Russian-made airplane transporting 40 tons of weapons was seized at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok last December. Photo: The Nation

him that Mr Sirichoke had given him his phone number.

Mrs Thitima said the Russian suspected the Appeals Court's decision to extradite him might have something to do with his decision not to call Mr Sirichoke after their meeting.

In a statement on September 6, Mr Sirichoke hit back at the claims, saying that it was common for the Russian not to tell the truth and that he had probably chosen to tell any story that might minimize his chances of being extradited to the US.

"I don't know why Mr Tor-

phong is acting as Mr Bout's lawyer," Mr Sirichoke said.

Mr Sirichoke promised to attend the House Foreign Affairs Committee meeting on September 8 to defend his own account of the April meeting.

Former PM Thaksin has announced he will sue Mr Sirichoke over his allegations linking him to the arms seizure at Don Muang.

Moscow was angered by the decision to extradite Mr Bout, who is believed to have connections at the very top of Russian government and military intelligence.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Student kills cop in high-speed crash

A UNIVERSITY student lost control of his car and smashed into a police checkpoint in Bangkok September 7, killing a police officer.

Bang Saethong Police Station Patrol Officer Damnoensin Kraichomsom, 27, died instantly in the smash, which happened around 2:30am.

The driver, 21-year-old Natthapol Titithamcharoen, and his passenger suffered minor injuries.

At the time of the accident, Cpl Damnoensin was inspecting a parked taxi at the checkpoint.

Taxi driver Jongrak Najan, 48, said Cpl Damnoensin had just opened the back passenger door when Mr Natthapol's Honda Civic smashed into the back of the vehicle at high speed. Cpl Damnoensin's body was thrown across the road.

Pol Senior SgtMajor Manas Taengkaew said he and five policemen were manning the checkpoint looking for street racers when Mr Natthapol's car sped towards the checkpoint. The car hit the footpath, went out of control and struck a police patrol pickup, Damnoensin, then the taxi.

Mr Natthapol and a female passenger emerged from the car looking drunk, said Mr Jongrak, who was uninjured in the smash.

Police officers found a half empty bottle of whiskey under the driver's seat in Mr Natthapol's car.

Police took Mr Natthapol, a student at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, to Srivichai Hospital to measure his blood-alcohol level.

He will be charged with causing death by dangerous driving and, depending on the test results, drunk driving.

— *Kom Chad Luek / The Nation*

Hordes of elephants devastating crops

ABOUT 80 wild elephants are reportedly terrorizing residents and destroying crops in four villages in Yala Province, *Thai Rath* reports.

The beasts have already destroyed produce in at least 500 rai of fruit and rubber plantations.

The affected villages, all in Bannangsta District, are Ban Phakdee, Ban Santi 1, Ban Chalongchai and Ban Saisurat.

Mohammed Dateng, village headman of Ban Phakdee, said the elephants were gobbling up

agricultural produce including longan, durian, coconuts and rubber saplings.

Causing the trouble were four or five herds of about 10 beasts and one herd of at least 30, he said.

L/Corp Chaiwat In-on, Chief Administrative Assistant (Palad) of Bannangsta District, said he had investigated the problem and established that more than 500 rai belonging to 109 families had been affected.

The District Office had set up a unit of six territorial defense volunteers to work with Banglang National Park and conservation officers, police and other officials to make sure the elephants stayed out of the villages, he said.

L/Corp Chaiwat said it was possible the elephants had formerly lived in the area but forced out when the land was settled by villagers.

The beasts were entering the villages to find new sources of food, he said.



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Road to the future

Hooray for the new convention center, which according to last week's article will be ready in 2014 (*Phuket Gazette*, *Convention center to be ready 2014*, September 4).

It's really nice to see that officials are being proactive in the development of the island.

The new convention center will, no doubt, be a fantastic venue for international events and conferences of the highest order and the 200-room on-site hotel a major bonus as there is no other large scale accommodation in the immediate area.

The article mentioned some concerns voiced at public hearings about access to the facility. Some see the need for a nearby deep sea port, others want to ensure handicap accessibility, while only one even *nearly* touched on the most pertinent issue: roads.

Yeah, it would be great to have a deep sea port so large ships could arrive near the convention center and unload their cargo for large events.

What is most important is how are we, the people who are to attend these conventions, supposed to get there?

Keep in mind that Phuket really has only one main road – Thepkasattri Rd – which, as someone mentioned in the article, needs to be widened.

Widening of that road alone will not solve this issue.

We need better transportation and while locals and government officials cannot even agree on operating a new, poorly placed bus station or putting tuk-tuk drivers on a leash and developers and investors speculate on fantastical light-rail systems and tunnels “through the center of the dragon”, I find cause for

New market trades history for progress

Phuket Gazette

THE soft opening of the new municipal wet market on Ranong Road in Phuket Town last weekend was a major achievement by Phuket City Municipality, one that could be a major turning point in the city administration's ongoing efforts to transform Old Phuket Town into a major tourist destination.

Given months of negotiations needed to lure most of the old vendors into the new market, Phuket Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana and her deputy Watcharapong Anantrakul will have real cause to celebrate at the official opening of the 280-million-baht market.

As with any major new development, there will always be winners and losers. The main winners will be the residents of Phuket Town, who for the first time will be able to shop in a clean, attractive and reasonably-priced wet market, one with its own wastewater treatment facilities, covered parking and a host of other amenities, including a Muslim prayer room.

The contrast between the new market and the one it replaces could not possibly be more stark. The appalling state of the market that operated at the same site since World War II was not just an eyesore, it was a serious public health hazard due to the unhygienic conditions that persisted there.

The location of the market has always been important. While the transformation the island has undergone in recent decades has

spread development across the island and cost Old Phuket Town its title of being the island's commercial hub, Ranong Road will now once again enjoy special status as both important commercial and transport point.

The transport issue is key, because for years the section of Ranong Road in front of the market has been the terminal for public buses and songthaew plying routes on the island, allowing people from all over to get to the market, buy fresh meat and produce, and return the same way – without having to add to the city's ever-increasing traffic problem.

Establishment of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) fleet of “pink buses” further extends this option to more people than ever, not just in Phuket Town, but also parts of Rassada and Wichit.

Among the losers are operators of Western-style supermarkets who will face competition for shoppers, vendors at the privately-run Downtown Market across the street and the handful of holdout vendors either unwilling or unable to meet the terms required to take up places in the new market.

The biggest losers of all, however, no doubt will be the populations of rats, cockroaches and other vermin that once found the area so attractive.

released into the sea on Kata Beach in 2008.”

In fact, the bright green algae pictured is not sewage *per se*, but a by-product thereof. The algae needs nutrients, such as potassium, nitrogen, and sunlight to grow.

That being said, there is no excuse whatsoever for having algal blooms anywhere along Thailand's Andaman coast, given the natural advantages it enjoys over the Gulf Coast.

These advantages include two tides daily, high mixing rate and a relatively steep drop-off to deep water.

If someone could wave a magic wand over Phuket's west coast beaches and stop the flow of these “nutrients” into our most precious tourism assets, algal blooms would disappear almost overnight.

In fact, it wouldn't take an act of magic, just basic sewage treatment of the kind that has been in place in the West for four decades. Come on Phuket, get it together!

*Benjamin Clear
Krabi*

Phuket's charm

You really have to live in Phuket to understand how amazing it actually is here.

There are countless days that are not marked on the calendar, when you will pass by a Thai home and see a handful of people sitting around a table drinking and enjoying.

Often, the people in my neighborhood set up and have meals in the street, which inevitably ends up in a party of sorts.

Always so hospitable and willing to help. It's this that I would miss the most if I had to leave.

*Laura Gist
Kathu*

Get it together, Phuket

I found the picture of the beautiful, bikini-clad foreign woman on Kata Beach simultaneously alluring and repulsive – a truly compelling image [*Phuket Gazette*, *Tough new waste rates*,

August 28]. My compliments to the photographer, Jim Welsh, for “capturing the moment” so well.

At the risk of being a nit-pick, however, I would respectfully like to point out an inaccuracy in the caption which reads: “TREADING CAREFULLY: a tourist wades through sewage

concern.

People will need to get to and from the site, full stop.

Until transportation improvements are made, I see this convention center as a preposterous idea. It's a waste of money. Baby steps, folks.

*Helmut Schneider
Rawai*

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Issues & Answers...

What hours can Bangla bars sell food?

I WOULD like to know if a bar on Soi Bangla in Patong can open from 4am to 7am to sell sandwiches and breakfast. Also, can it be open from 8am to 2am for breakfast, lunch and happy hour?

Simone

Meena Pa-Nun, sanitation director of the Phuket Public Health Office replies:

Bars that are allowed by the Public Health Department to sell food can be open 24 hours a day. Alcoholic beverages, however, can only be sold between 10am and 2am.

To apply for a Public Health Department as an individual you must bring to our office the following:

- a copy of your ID card or passport and work permit,
- a copy of the lease agreement for the facility,
- copies of land ownership

documents if you own the facility and the land,

- a copy of the chef's medical certificate, and
- a 2x1-inch photograph of yourself. If you are applying for a permit on behalf of a company, you must supply a copy of the company registration in addition to the above. You do not need to supply a photograph.

Short-changed at Tesco Lotus

OUR friends were visiting Phuket from the Philippines and went into the Tesco Lotus in Bang Tao. One friend bought two sodas and

handed the cashier a 1,000-baht note. He was sure because he had just got it from the ATM outside and had only three 1,000-baht notes in his wallet. Our other friend witnessed all this.

The cashier gave him only 40 baht change, and when he asked why, the cashier said he had only given him 100 baht to pay for the sodas.

When our friend insisted that he had given 1,000 baht, the cashier denied it.

He asked for the manager but was forced to wait 45 minutes before someone came to talk to him. He demanded that the cashier's drawer be counted and sure enough there was an excess of 1,800 baht. The manager said that the cashier's drawers were counted every hour and according to the log, that drawer was checked only 10 minutes before our friend paid for the sodas. It doesn't take a genius to see the 1,000 baht was from our friend.

But, according to the manager, Tesco has a policy of not returning any money, so my friend's

Preservation is a personal duty

FIRST PERSON

THE sinking of *Choke Thavorn 6* and the diesel spill into Phang Nga Bay was the first incident of its type in the region (see page 1). Vessels from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) were on site to monitor the salvage operation and any possible environmental impacts.

Hopefully, the vessel and the remaining 25,000 liters of diesel in its hold will be salvaged and the environmental impact minimized.

I doubt it will have an impact on Phi Phi Island and other popular tourist destinations in the area. However, the effects on the environment can only be assessed after the successful completion of the salvage operation.

From meeting with the Third Naval Command, concerned organizations and the boat's owner, [we concluded] the rough seas were the cause – it was an accident.

Although the boat used to be a fishing vessel and was modified to carry fuel, it had been approved by the Port Authority and could legally carry 40,000 liters in its hold.

I have been asking a lot about introducing a policy to prevent this from happening again, but at this stage all we can do is urge boat operators to be careful – that's it.

Although the fuel spill has made headlines in the past week, the obvious continuing problem is trash,



Wannakiat Thubthimsang has been Director of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) since 2004. Here he explains why saving the environment is an individual responsibility, including avoiding accidents like the recent sinking of the *Choke Thavorn 6* and the ensuing diesel fuel spill.



The fuel slick stretched up to nearly five kilometers.

which has a great impact on the marine biology in the area.

For environmental conservation, I think everyone has to step up. Every organization should have a section directly responsible for trash management.

The lack of coordination among local administrations plays an important part. For example, there was a campaign for speedboat operators to bring their trash from

day tours back to Phuket, but when they did return with their trash, poor organization meant that not all of it could be collected.

I have also heard people praise tourists for throwing their litter in the bins at remote tourist spots, but after the tourists have left workers just threw the trash back into the sea because they were too lazy to take it to a trash collection point, which was quite far away.



Trash remains scattered along the beach at Mai Khao. Photo: Martin Black

Stop trashing our beaches

Island View

By Martin Black

Do you have an opinion to voice?
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net

AS A regular visitor to Phuket for the past eight years, I am disgusted by the increasing amount of rubbish left or washed up on the beach at Mai Khao. It has become much worse in the past four years and is probably due in part to the increasing development in this area and on the island in general.

It used to be such a beautiful place, but now has become less inviting as more construction sites are taking over the natural surroundings.

My family have always enjoyed their holidays here, but we are now considering other destinations for the future.

If more control were enforced on the excessive building of ugly and unnatural luxury resorts and unfinished projects, Phuket itself would still be marginally attractive to foreign tourists.

It may also be a good idea to invest some money in protecting the local environment, clean some of the filthy beaches and conduct awareness campaigns to teach

people to take care of the once beautiful place where they live.

I estimate that during low season at least 200 kilos of rubbish per kilometer is scattered along Mai Khao beach at any time.

There is visible improvement later in the year, but only because of change in the tides and most of the rubbish is either buried under the sand or is carried away by high tides. This area is rarely cleaned and is much worse every year.

I have received a few minor injuries from nails and broken glass just walking along this beach and seen several dead turtles, many fish and seabirds that have obviously been killed by pollution in the past few years.

Let's consider this issue before it's too late to save Phuket.

...asking the questions that affect you...

effort to claim his change ended in futility.

I hope this will serve as a warning to others, as apparently, this is not an isolated case.

Apple Nuevas
Phuket

Roi-Ed Phattammarong, manager of Tesco Lotus, Bang Tao branch, replies:

The supermarket serves our customers with integrity and we do not intend to deceive them. We have CCTV and cashier managers to take care of all cashier staff. If there is a problem with the customer at the point of payment, we will monitor our employees and review the CCTV footage.

If there is an error on behalf of our employee, we will refund the customer and discipline the person at fault.

If we find that our employee has been disloyal to the customer, they will be punished accordingly.

We are willing to serve every customer and if there are any objections or suspicions surrounding our service, please let us know.

CAT by the tail

CAT informs me that I cannot sign up for total mobile internet access through them in my own name because I do not have a work permit. Can anyone please explain?

Elderly and confused
Phuket

A Customer Service Officer at the CAT headquarters in Bangkok replies:

According to CAT regulations and policies, to have an account for our mobile internet service we require Thais to show the original and give a copy of their ID cards and foreigners to show the original and provide a copies of their passports and work permits.

There are no exceptions. Not even cash deposits are accepted.

However, this month we will launch a prepaid mobile internet service, which will be available to foreigners without work permits, or any one who does not want to sign up for mobile internet account.

When will 'the Nanai' be tamed?

WHAT is happening with the construction site on Nanai Road – I mean the Nanai River, as it is well known.

For quite a few weeks there has been no progress and the unlit, open holes in the road are a major hazard for drivers and pedestrians, especially at night. Are there any plans to complete the project, or do we have to live with the status quo?

Worried in Nanai

Bunyat Horpet, Project Engineer at Engineering Division of Patong Municipality, replies:

The construction site is a project to lay drainage pipe to solve flooding problems and the contract is due to finish by September 30, 2010.

If the contractor is unable to finish within the prescribed period, adjustments will be made in accordance with the contract.

Workers are now in the process of building steel-mesh forms for



concrete to be poured. If there is no heavy rain, the entire project should be completed within the next week.

We will also ask the contractors to take steps to ensure the safety of the people who live in that area.

Baht riding on a 1997 high note

By Anand Singh

THE Thai baht continues to appreciate and may soon hit a level not seen since 1997.

Foreign capital flowing into the region from investors seeking to divert funds from staggering western economies, is likely to allow the baht to continue this ascension.

Although the exchange rate of the Thai baht may be close to reaching 1997 levels in nominal terms, the economic situation is quite different.

Prior to the 1997 financial crisis, the Thai exchange rate system

was fixed, which meant that it did not reflect the true health of the economy.

It was one of the conditions that led to speculation of the baht and eventually paved the way for one of the worst financial crises the region has ever seen.

However, according to a source at the Bank of Thailand, the Thai baht is currently under a managed floating system, which means that the central bank allows the baht's value to move according to prevailing economic forces.

Thailand's economic indicators are much better now than they

were in 1997, which explains why there has been an influx of capital into the economy.

Monetary authorities can only manage the currency's movement so that its appreciation is not too rapid. This stops it from affecting industries negatively.

To actively try to control the baht's value would be going against the much stronger wind of global economic forces and is therefore impractical.

For now monetary authorities can only support the outflow of Thai capital to foreign economies to try and restore some balance.



COUNTING ON THE BAHT: Foreign investors are counting on the baht. Photo: AFP

Charmers in the budget airline market

By Alastair Carthew

PHUKET is served by two airlines that are owned by larger-than-life characters.

V-Australia, owned by flamboyant billionaire Sir Richard Branson, and AirAsia owned by equally colorful multi-millionaire Tony Fernandes. They are both part of a long line of brilliant aviation businessmen.

Sir Richard's Virgin Group has a stake in V-Australia through Virgin Blue, the low cost Australian based carrier, which is now the country's second largest airline.

In December last year V Australia started once weekly flights between Melbourne and Phuket and twice weekly between Brisbane and Phuket.

Tony Fernandes turned Kuala Lumpur based AirAsia, a failed government linked Malaysia airline, into arguably the world's fastest growing and most successful low cost airline.

Phuket is now AirAsia's second hub, after the main Kuala Lumpur base. The group travels to more than 20 countries and continues to expand both short and long haul low cost routes.

Sir Richard is worth around 2.6 billion pounds sterling, or 1.27 trillion baht and Tony Fernandes is worth around USD230 million, 7.36 billion baht.

Both their business models rely heavily on the personal public relations commitment of the founder.

In Sir Richard's case it has involved undertaking highly



ROLLING IN IT: Sir Richard Branson. publicized and dangerous stunts.

The public relations aspect is only one factor contributing to their success. Both men are risk

takers and capable businessmen who know their markets well.

The Virgin group is into everything from its famous superstores, AND F1 racing, to owning a railway company in Britain.

Although Fernandes has not branched out as much as Sir Richard, he did cut his business teeth working for Richard Branson's Virgin Records as financial controller in London from 1987-89.

He also worked for Sir Richard's first airline venture Virgin Atlantic as an auditor, so he knew a lot about the Branson modus operandi before taking the plunge with AirAsia. And they, in turn, looked to great aviation pioneers for their own inspiration.

In Sir Richard's case it was Sir Freddie Laker, a British entrepreneur who founded Laker Airways in 1966. After going bankrupt Sir Freddie launched Skytrain in 1971, the first daily trans-Atlantic, low fare scheduled service between London and New York. The airline made its last flight before bankruptcy in 1982.

But the visionary Sir Freddie had seen the way ahead for low cost carriers.

Southwest Airlines, headed by Herb Kelleher, of the United States

began as the only budget carrier of its day in 1971 and continues to prosper to this day.

Others to follow much later were Ryanair of Ireland, headed by another airline celebrity Michael O'Leary and easyJet, founded by the equally outrageous Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, who also established a set of multiple "easyJet" branded businesses in the Virgin mold.

The July court case between O'Leary and Sir Stelios illustrates the extent of the "business characters" that they have grown to become. In it, Ryanair ended up paying 50,100 pounds sterling in libel damages for running a picture of Sir Stelios with a Pinocchio nose in an advertisement accusing him of suppressing easyJet's on-time performance, calling on him to "stop hiding the truth."

All of these great businessmen have one thing in common: they saw the potential of the low cost carrier boom and, with many such carriers going out of business, have managed to stay in business and thrive.

So next time you are on a V Australia or an AirAsia flight flying in or out of Phuket, remember the pioneering entrepreneurs who made it all possible.

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Biofuel to save on imports

By Anand Singh

THE Energy Ministry and the Basic Education Commission will jointly promote research schemes to help increase the production of biofuel crops in the near future, *The Nation* reports.

The research program will support national policy to increase yields of biofuel crops that could contribute to future energy supplies.

At present biofuel consumption accounts for only 2.6% of total oil consumption.

The government aims to increase this figure to 14% within the next 20 years, which could result in huge savings for the country in oil imports according to Twarath Sutabutr, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency.

Demand for biofuel has been increasing significantly in recent years as concerns over energy use and climate change have made biofuel alternatives a priority.

Different crops can produce ethanol and biodiesel, including sugarcane, cassava and oil palm.

Government sponsored research will also focus on non-agricultural methods of producing ethanol using sea algae since increasing production of biofuel crops will put pressure on prices of food products as more agricultural land is diverted to growing fuel crops.

According to Khun Watcharee Doungkaew, a spokesperson for the Phuket Agricultural Office, palm oil is grown on approximately 1,009 rai of land in the province, yielding a total of 2,758 tons of palm oil in last year.

This is considered quite a small amount compared to yields from other provinces.

Khun Watcharee says that the government sector has tried promoting the growing of oil palm in this region, by encouraging farmers to grow palms in abandoned or degraded rice fields.

He added that the agricultural office also encourages production by providing farmers with good quality palm seeds.

"However farmers in Phuket are generally not interested in pro-



DIRTY BUSINESS: The Energy Ministry is looking to help biofuel farms like this Cassava plantation in Khorat. Photo: Neil Palmer from The International Center for Tropical Agriculture.

ducing palm oil so the existing farms have not expanded in terms of agricultural area", Khun Watcharee concluded.

He explained that the agricultural sector in Phuket is diminishing because land is expensive in the province.

Often the tourism sector is able to provide far greater returns to land usage than agriculture, so it is unlikely that more land will be set aside for growing palms in the province.

Government sponsored research could however be used

to provide existing farmers with more efficient planting techniques and other useful information.

This would help them to increase crop yields and reduce costs even if they do not wish to expand their plantations.

Tops boost brand

CENTRAL Food Retail, operator of Tops Supermarket, plans to triple the market share of its own brands in the next three years, senior vice president Chiranun Poopat says.

Central Food Retail currently operates 124 outlets, four of which are Central Food Halls located at Central Chidlom, Central World (to reopen September 28) and Central Festival in Phuket and Pattaya.

The company also operates three wine outlets, 36 Tops Markets, 56 Tops Supermarkets and 25 Tops Daily outlets.

Some months ago, the company launched its "My Choice" sub-brand, covering products from small and medium sized enterprise (SME) vendors as well as the One Tambon One Products (Otop) Project manufacturers.

The company expects a 40% surge in sales this year in this brand.

The company wants to increase the proportion of its own products

sold from the current 3% to about 10% in the next three years.

She said Central Food's brands would be differentiated from other mass brands, making Tops' a "destination supermarket".

Central Food Retail has three brands of its own, namely: "My Choice", which covers ready to eat products, "Cooking for Fun", which covers speciality products such as olive oil and organic rice and "Tops", which covers premium consumer products.

"We will focus on expanding our Tops Daily outlets, which have been positioned as mini supermarkets and will be opened in smaller catchment areas, such as community and neighborhood malls.

"Tops Daily will be less than 300 square meters and will be different from Tops Market, which should occupy a retail space of between 1,000 and 2,000 square meters" Chiranun said.

— *The Nation*



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BIS heading to the World Expo

By Fraser Morton

THE British International School (BIS) will represent Phuket at the Shanghai World Expo this month, following the school's win at the Prime Minister's Export Awards.

On August 23 in Bangkok, PM Abhisit Vejjajiva presented BIS headmaster Dr George Hickman with the award for the Best Provider of International Education 2010.

"This award belongs to every student, teacher and staff member, as well as the students' parents," Dr Hickman said.

In his sixth year as headmaster, Canadian Dr Hickman said the award is a "great honor" for BIS and is the culmination of years of hard work.

Factors leading to BIS winning the PM's award was the school's accreditation from the Council of International Schools and membership of other internationally recognized organizations, its overseas marketing strategy, community outreach programs, educational service standards, facilities, curriculum, financial stability and development, to name a few.

Dr Hickman said his "dedicated teachers and their commitment to excellence" was a pivotal factor in winning the award.

In the weeks ahead, BIS representatives will look to capitalize on the school's recent success by attending the Education Showcase at the Shanghai World Expo from September 13 to 19.

Over 100,000 visitors are expected to attend.

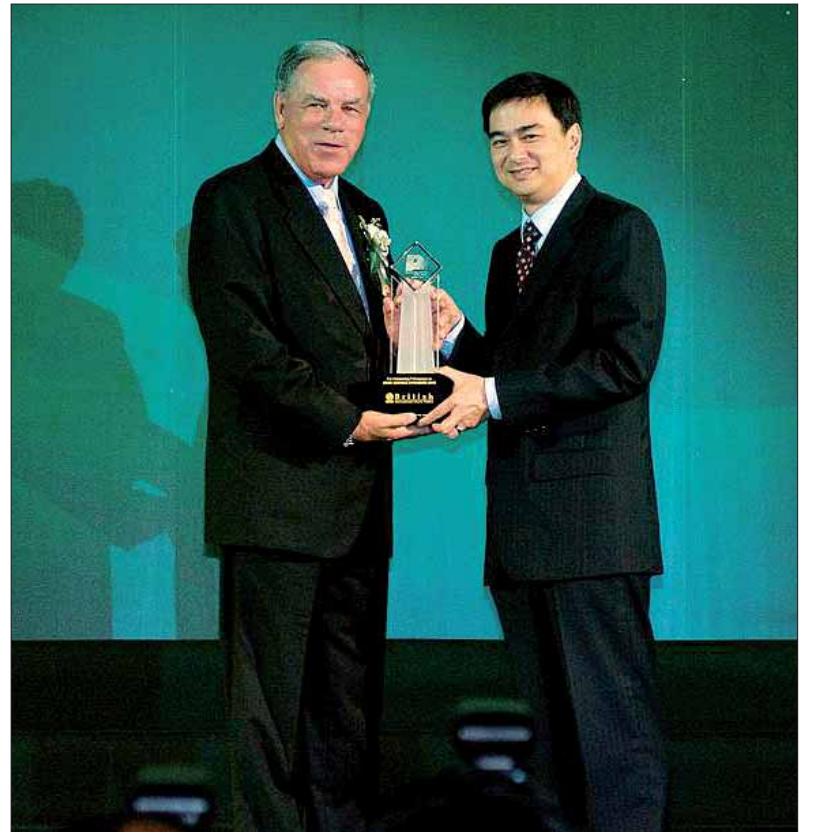
On September 5, PM Abhisit visited the Thailand Pavilion at the World Expo, where over four million tourists have reportedly attended since May this year.

PM Abhisit said the level of interest in the Thailand Pavilion was encouraging as the government is bidding for the right to host the World Expo 2020.

Meanwhile, Dr Hickman said BIS presence at the expo will afford the school an opportunity to showcase its services to Chinese and international markets.

It is also hoped the expo can attract new international students to the school.

A spike in BIS student numbers from 691 in 2005, to 929 in the 2009-2010 academic year, is a sign of the school's service standards, according to Dr Hickman.



TOP HONORS: Headmaster Dr George Hickman accepts the award for Best Provider of International Education from PM Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Last year, BIS students recorded their highest International Baccalaureate (IB) results in the school's 14-year history, which exceeded the world aver-

age in all subjects.

"Our education standards are as high as those at any international school in the world," Dr Hickman added.

Professionalism: Don't leave home without it

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

MANY TEFL course applicants wrongly believe professional expectations in Thailand are substandard. But the reality is, landing a good job here, hinges on the same high standards as they do in the West.

Professionalism begins with your CV. Errors on CVs are very annoying, but unfortunately, very common, says Darasamuth's head teacher Stephen Brady.

A five minute proofread can make all the difference.

Thai employers will ask that a photo be submitted with your CV. This should not be misinterpreted as an opportunity to show off your new knock-off Ray Bans or your well-defined chest.

Your photo should resemble your passport photo. Don't use cropped party pics; facial hair should be trimmed if not completely shaved and piercings for

both men and women should be kept to an absolute minimum. Good lighting and clear resolution also go a long way.

Unlike in the West, it's a good idea to personally deliver your job application to schools.

Joey Ho, a senior teacher in Satee Phuket's English Program says, "I've seen men walking into the school, dressed in shorts, flip flops and a typical Hawaiian shirt thinking it's Ok."

When preparing for your big interview, Stephen sums up the issue best.

"A professional appearance is essential for teachers to be taken seriously, especially in Thailand

where much emphasis is placed on how things look," he said.

Somjate Srirabai at the Prince of Songkla University approaches the issue in the same manner.

"We expect applicants to come to our interviews as prepared as they would be in any western country."

Neck tie, smart shoes, ironed shirt and trousers for men, and for women, covered shoulders – low-cut tops left at home – and knee-length skirts are expected.

What you say during the interview is just as important as what you wear. Thai employers are keen to hear answers that reflect dedication and aptitude for teaching.

Stephen suggests you point out your desire to teach, not just to find a job to keep you in Thailand.

Before being hired, it is often necessary to deliver a model lesson. Ask for a topic suggestion and get as much information as possible. You'll need to know about the lesson's duration, students' age and language levels as well as available teaching tools. This shows you're interested in the needs of the students and the school.

From CVs to model lessons, remember to take things seriously so that you will be taken seriously. As so many of us experienced teachers often ask ourselves when coming across new applicants, if it's something you would never do at a job interview at home, why would you do it here in Thailand?

If you have a TEFL or TESOL issue you want addressed, contact Eric at kru.phuket@gmail.com

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Red vision grips Kata

If you like tasty Thai food served in minutes and with a smile, then Red Chairs is a choice you won't regret.

On the Menu

By Fraser Morton

THERE'S no dress code at Red Chairs, which might be why half-naked, dripping wet surfers caked in sand feel so at home here. Or it might just be because the food is so good. Either way, customers come in droves.

On any given night (Monday-Saturday), low-and-high seasons, this bustling little Thai restaurant is packed to the rafters.

The clientele is a pretty fair cross-section of Phuket locals and tourists, Thais and foreigners: Board shorts and button down col-

lars, sandals and dress shoes, Thai newspapers and *International Tribunes*, Leggy dark-haired ladies and not-so-young foreign men, tourist couples with their *Lonely Planets* and weathered expats all occupy the restaurant's red chairs – hence the name.

The diversity in the Red Chairs fan club is also echoed in the menu. And while 90% of the hundreds of dishes on the glossy photo menu are Thai, many have been diluted to suit a western palate.

The *Tom Yam Goong/Ghail Moo* (80 baht) is an example of this. Glowing orange, steaming, slightly creamy, but with a zesty spring, the dish is flavorsome, vibrant and not overly spicy.

Spice tolerance is obviously subjective, but Red Chairs' spice level would be a medium-to-low grade on the national "spiceometer". Put it this way: Dishes won't have you seeing red and grasping for the complimentary water jug (0 baht) on every table.

Spring rolls (50 baht), fish cakes (60 baht), banana fritters (50 baht), mixed tempura (100 baht) are all good choices to start.

For mains: Try the fish and you'll come running back again. The steamed fish with lemongrass, or with garlic and pepper (250 baht each) are both choices that you'll be happy you made.

And there are other dishes worth a mention. Curries – all nine of them

on the menu – are stupendously good and cost under 150 baht. Green, red, yellow – and the rest – all come served in fair-sized bowls in under five minutes.

Speed of service at Red Chairs is quite remarkable seeing how it's always packed. But in all my years of eating here it still impresses me how fast the three cooks can rustle up an entire table's order – at the same time – and have you gorging yourself in less time than most places take to serve your drinks.

Speaking of drinks: There's the usual favorites but at modest prices (beers 60-90 baht, soda 20 baht, coffee 30 baht). And the fruit shakes are underpriced at 30 baht. Have the *manao* (lime/lemon) shake and you'll be glad you did. Have the watermelon shake after and you'll be glad you had that too.

Run by charming Isarn native Tean Wanawong, Red Chairs opened in 2003, but under the name *Guay Jab* (Chinese noodle) by which the restaurant became well-known in the Kata community.

In 2007, one of Khun Tean's regular expat customers told her that he and his friends had started to call her restaurant Red Chairs. The reason was two-fold: He couldn't pronounce *Guay Jab* and all the seats in the restaurant were red.

Shortly after that the Red Chairs name was adopted, and last year Khun Tean opened Red Chairs Plus across the road.

Managed by Khun Tean's friend, Somporn Piarum, Red Chairs Plus serves European food and is fast becoming a popular spot with locals too. We hope it can succeed as Red Chairs has.

Eating at Red Chairs is a safe bet. A sure thing. A place where you always know the food will be good, and cheap.

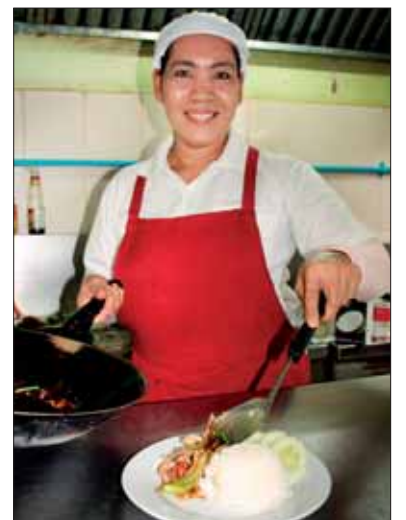
If you live in Kata, then you



MAKING KATA GREAT: Somporn Piarum and Tean Wanawong.



Red Chairs regular Luisa Scarpa.



Red Chairs Head Cook Khun Nid.

know Red Chairs. If you don't, then head to Kok Tanod Road.

It's the small winding back road that links the south end of Kata to the Patak hill road over to Chalong. Simple really. Well, actually, no it isn't. Keep your wits about you or you might miss it. Aside from a sign, Red Chairs' exterior is not memorable.

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Alastair Carthew

ALASTAIR Carthew has had an impressive career as a top flight journalist in his native New Zealand, working for 20 years as a reporter and editor, 12 of them in news and current affairs for Television New Zealand.

He has also been the New Zealand correspondent for America's *Newsweek* magazine and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

He came to Thailand in 2001 as Director – Corporate Affairs [Asia Pacific] for Star Alliance. He opened the Bangkok office, traveled the globe, and managed Star Alliance's global environmental partnership.

Born in the farming town of Feilding on New Zealand's North Island, where his family ran the country's oldest family owned bookshop, Alastair gained a journalism diploma before spending four years on the *Hawera Star* and the *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*.

He headed to London in 1972 and later acquired diplomas in management and direct marketing.

"It was an exciting time when many young people went to England for adventure.

"We went by boat, which took five weeks. I was lucky to quickly land a job with the Westminster Press in Fleet Street, where I learned some tricks of the trade from some great journalists and characters."

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

After traveling around Europe, Alastair and his wife Lyn headed to South Africa where he worked on the *Durban Daily News*, then an agricultural newspaper in Perth, before returning to New Zealand and a job at the *Napier Telegraph*.

In 1974 he began his long association with the Parliamentary Press Gallery, first with the South Pacific News Service and then with Television New Zealand as a political reporter.

In 1980 he was elected chairman of the Press Gallery. He also became Chief Parliamentary Reporter for TVNZ, in 1987.

At TVNZ, Alastair worked as Wellington editor for a nightly current affairs program, *Eye Witness News*; produced a weekly current affairs show, *This Week*; and edited a studio interview show.

He lectured in journalism and public relations at several NZ universities, and was a founding member of the Int'l Association of Business Communicators [IABC] in New Zealand and in Bangkok.

After three years at Air New Zealand, he was seconded to Star Alliance in Bangkok.

"I've moved in my career every few years because I enjoy the challenges of working in different environments."

Since moving to Phuket, Alastair has continued to work as a consultant to clients in the hospitality, airline and luxury yachting industries, and has contributed to two books and a website on the media in Asia.

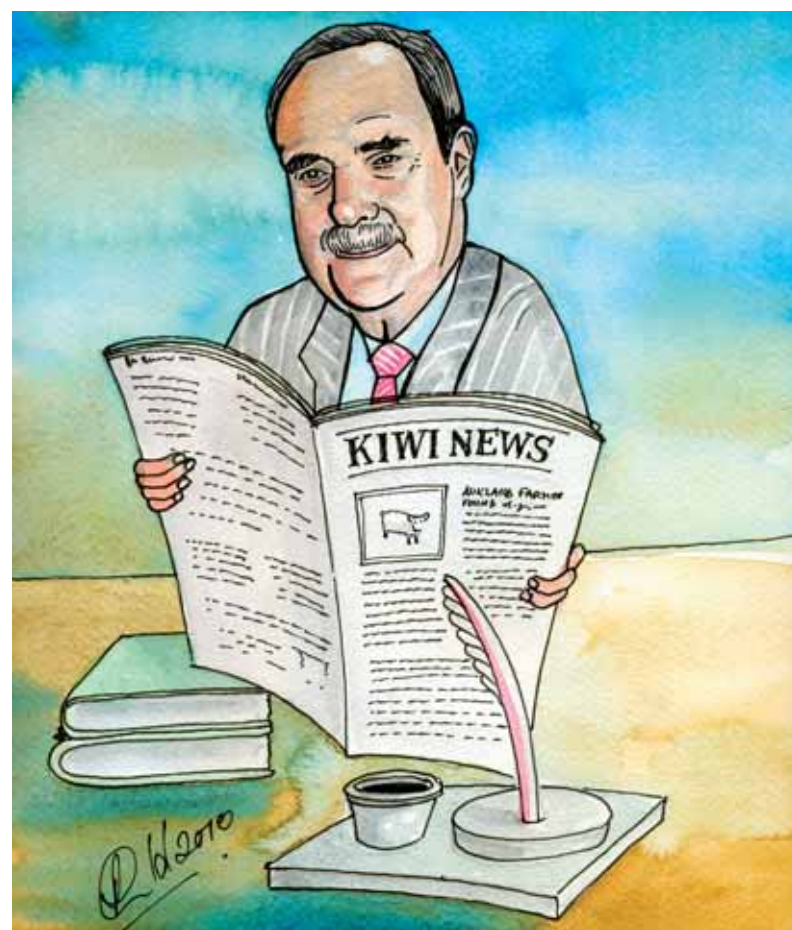
He has also authored columns on aviation, including those in the *Phuket Gazette*, and contributed to a local radio station's weekly sports show.

He is a co-founder founder of the Phuket Public Relations Network and a regular supporter of both the Soi Dog Foundation and the Phuket International Women's Club.

As if the above activities and responsibilities were not enough to keep him happy, Alastair is toiling on his version of the Great New Zealand novel.

"I've finished 194 pages so far. It's about politics, rugby, nuclear power, genetic engineering, one crazy Prime Minister, and, of course, sheep.

"It has lots of humor, sex, drugs and – yes, rock and roll."



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

by Benz Chaengwattana

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Shootings, sex boxes and fish blunders

TAMMY Sexton from Mississippi was shot in the head by a .38-caliber handgun, she then carried on making a cup of tea as if nothing had happened.

Her husband, Donald, shot his 47 year-old wife in the forehead, which passed through her brain and exited the back of her skull. Realizing his blunder he despondently retired to the porch and fatally shot himself.

Jackson county Sheriff, Mike Byrd found Tammy holding a rag to her head and muttering.

"She was conscious, but she was confused about what had happened. She made herself a cup of tea and offered me something to drink."

As a helicopter ambulance winged her away to safety, Sher-



crazy fool's newsround

iff Byrd disparately concluded, "You just don't hear of something like this; somebody gets shot in the head and they're dead."

TINTED SUPRISE

WHEN an Ohio police officer pulled over a vehicle with illegal tinted windows, he got more than he bargained for when he opened the driver's door. In the front seat

he found Colondra Hamilton with her trousers open, using a sex toy and watching porn on a laptop, which her friend was holding. She was promptly arrested for being in control of a vehicle with inappropriate alertness.

SWISS SEX BOX?

A LOCAL council board in Zurich have erected "sex-boxes" in a down-town car park after complaints from neighbors.

The six-foot high square boxes deny unwanted views from an ever despondent public. One member said, "They get up to all sorts in broad daylight, and we're sick to death of looking at it."

Policeman Reto Casanova (real name) said, "We can't get rid of prostitution, so we have to control it."



FISHY SUSPECT:
A Kayaker has reported a fish hitting him in the head. The fish is still at large.

FISH TO THE HEAD

LONG distance kayaker Brad Pennington had to retire hurt from the Missouri River 340 endurance race after a fish hit him on the head.

The 30-pound Asian Silver Carp are known to panic when vessels approach. He said, "It felt like a brick hit me." Tracy Hill from the US Fish and Wild-

life Services said this is a common occurrence. His workers even wear hard hats when attending to the river, "It's extremely serious. These things can kill you."

See www.cfnr.co.uk for more of Crazy Fool's rants and takes on this week's news and sport.

Depraved squid maniac caught on camera

Tsowndings

By S. TSOW

A MAN in Wales was recently caught having sex with a dead squid, it has been reported.

The photographer, who was apparently not the same person who had sex with the squid, was arrested and charged with possessing an extreme pornographic image, "which portrayed in an explicit and realistic way a person performing an act of intercourse with a dead animal, namely a squid, which was grossly offensive, disgusting or of obscene character."

This is a delicate and morally complex issue fraught with pitfalls, but I propose to address it with my customary tastefulness, wit, and grace.

Yes, the world will be shocked

and disgusted. But we must have truth, however ugly it may be.

This particular offense, technically called "squid-bonking" has many intricate ramifications which we must explore in erotic detail; for it casts a new and cruel light on the sewage that suppurates in the dark and hidden corners of the human mind.

First we must consider the legal status of the participants. Were they married? If so, in what faith?

Pope Benedict will surely have much to say about this, as will the Reverend Al Sharpton and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

It is also almost certain that the Muslim Ulema is already crafting a sulfurous fatwa. The Dalai Lama, in his wisdom, will likely remain silent.

Next is the problem of the victim's condition. The squid was dead. She cannot file a complaint.



It is left for brave humans to take up the cudgels on behalf of this hapless creature.

As she was unable to resist the her violator, or even to demur verbally, this is a case of rape.

Is it a greater crime to rape a dead victim, or a living one? As creatures of reason, we must acknowledge that the latter is a far weightier crime. For a living victim can feel pain and shame, whereas a dead one cannot.

If the court should ever bring the rapist to justice, the posthumous condition of the victim should function as an extenuating circumstance.

We may feel disgust at the thought of a man raping a dead creature, but we must also admit that nobody got hurt in the process. The squid, being dead, felt nothing.

The man, depraved though he undoubtedly was, must have felt at least a frisson of pleasure; otherwise he would never have consummated his act of love.

On a loftier level, this is a sad blot on the reputation of our species. Is there no perversion or atrocity of which we are incapable?

As the dominant species on this planet, do we not have a sacred duty to guard, protect, and defend the lower, more helpless species that fall beneath our sway?

He who abuses this responsibility disgraces all mankind, bringing shame, opprobrium, and condemnation upon us all. You won't catch squids raping

humans—especially not dead ones.

Who then is the higher species here? It is the lowly and innocent squid. Here she was, minding her own business, lying dead and harmless on the beach, with her relatives out at sea mourning her sad condition.

Then along comes this vicious psychopath to assault and defile her, leaving her no shred of dignity even in death.

Inhuman succubus! Irredeemably degenerate vampire and cannibal! The wrath, fury, and outrage of the entire global community of creatures must surely be arrayed against him.

We also wonder why he couldn't get a girl.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stow@ymail.com, regarding the atrocity against the late Ms. Squid.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 11. Adult Futsal League – Season 5

The Adult Futsal League (AFL) will kick off every Thursday, starting September 2 at 6pm. Only 700 baht per team, over 18s only. The Veterans Futsal League (VFL), for over 40s only, will start September 6 at 6pm. Only 600 baht per team. Games take place at the PIA Sports and Leisure Club (PIASLC) in Thalang on a FIFA-approved astroturf football pitch. Contact football@PhuketInternationalAcademy.com or visit W: PhuketInternationalAcademy.com T: 076-336000 for more information.

September 18. Art Village Weekend – Royal Phuket Marina

Royal Phuket Marina and BMS Organization proudly present the famous "Art Village Weekend". The weekend includes several kinds of art and music, such as Paintings, Sculptures, Mixed Media, Handmade Products, Batiks, Postcards, Tattoo, Performance Arts, Shadow Puppet Shows, Local Music Band Shows and various other arts from talented artists. Live the experience and join them for a night of "Art". Dates: September 18-19. From: 5pm to 10pm. Venue: Past the Les Anges restaurant, at the far end of the marina boardwalk.

September 11. Surf Lifesaving Carnival



The Phuket Lifeguard Club will host a full day of beach and water events from Under-15s to Over-50s age groups. All are welcome to join the fun and compete. Registration from 8:30am, events start at 9am. Official opening by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation is at 10:30am. The *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* are sponsors of this event. Contact Jayne MacDougall E: lifeguard@PhuketLifeguard.com or visit W: PhuketLifeguard.com

September 20 – RPM contest closes

Royal Phuket Marina's "discover us" competition closing date is on September 20. Enter the free contest on their Facebook page at W: facebook.com/royalphuketmarina. All you need to do to win the grand prize of a half-day boat trip to Phang Nga Bay and dinner for two at Les Anges (15,000 baht value), is to "like" their Facebook page and guess what the picture they are uncovering is (in the picture's comments section). There are also many consolation prizes! For more information contact Michael Forrest on

T: 081 958 8159 E: michael@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W: royalphuketmarina.com.

September 16. Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

This month's lunch will be held at The Holiday Inn, Patong. All are welcome. Members: 450 baht; Guests: 600 baht. Prior registration is essential as this is always a popular event. From 10:30am-2pm at The Holiday Inn hotel in Patong. For further information contact Carole. T: 085-7821332 or 076-271727 E: info@phuketiw.com W: phuketiwc.com

September 17. Curry Fridays

Every second Friday is "Curry Friday" night, where you get the chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, very spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs,

chickpea curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 399 baht. Draught Beer by the glass for just 50 baht. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7pm-11:30pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4. For other information contact Mr Seemant Raju. T: 081-629 5063 E: sm@karonseasand.com or visit W: karonseasand.com. The next Curry Friday will be held on October 1.

September 18. Twin Palms 6th Anniversary

Come and join the 6th Anniversary Celebration of Twin Palms Phuket! Complimentary blue margaritas and mai thai signature cocktails from 8pm to 10pm. Complimentary lamb on the spit, Cold Seafood & Oyster Bar, chicken kebab & satay,

roast beef carvings, Japanese specialties, creme brulee and tiramisu. International DJs. Dress code: White, smart casual. Contact the sales office on T: 076 316 500 E: sales@twinpalms-group.com or visit W: twinpalms-group.com.

September 19. Phuket Yacht Club 'Wet and Wild' race day

Come along to the Phuket Yacht Club for a fun day of swimming, food and good company at the "Wet and Wild" race and family day. RSVP for catering if you intend to come. If you are interested in racing tasars or dinghies and would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Andrew at 081-894 1530 or email andrew@leemarine.net. From 9am-4pm in Ao Yon Bay. For more information contact Donna Stephens. T: 086-1200752 E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com W: phuketyachtclub.info

October 1-3. Asian Hospitality & Travel Show

The Asian Hospitality & Travel Show will bring together suppliers and exhibitors in industries from all over Asia and will offer professionally coordinated business appointments between sellers and suppliers. Over 2,000 visitors are expected. From 11am-8pm at the new Häfele showroom on the bypass road. Contact Simon Samaan for more information. T: 084-768 0536 E: simon@events-thailand.net W: eventsthailand.net

October 23. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Khao Pansa)

On this day, the three-month rain retreat for Buddhist Lent (Khao Pansa) is over for the monks.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday

This holiday commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

Free Computer Clinics

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

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September 19, 26 – Chalong

October 3 – Patong

October 10 – Laguna

October 17 – Chalong

For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

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Email: sunparasol@gmail.com



FEELING THE BREEZE: Events Thailand hosted an industry night for hospitality and travel sector professionals at Breeze nightclub in Patong on September 4.



FAREWELL FEAST: Floyd's Brasserie Sous Chef Manit ensured the restaurant's final brunch was unforgettable. The venue at Burasari hotel in Patong will be converted into the Maugthy Radish Salad Bar and is set to open later this year.



RIDING HIGH: Kata Beach Resort & Spa recently won two first-place awards at the Food & Beverage Show 2010. Pictured above are the proud recipients of the awards with General Manager Andrew Swatdipakdi (right) and Executive Chef Soonthorn Ratchapol (left).

Central's fash



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Union forest

NATURE WALK:
Thai models Rujira 'Khem' Chuaykue and Rangsit 'Auan' Sirananon (left) take to the catwalk in some of the bizarre outfits on show.

**YOUR
Phuket**



MAKING IT HAPPEN: Central Festival Phuket celebrated its sixth anniversary recently with a Tropical Dance show and Tropical Forest fashion show. Organizers pictured above are Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising (2nd from left); Anuphas Group President Narong Hongyok (3rd from left); Central Festival General Manager Wilaiporn Pitimana-aree (3rd from right); Central Retail Corporation Acting VP Lertvit Pumipitak (center) and Central Festival Store Manager Panat Pookpho (2nd from right). Photos: Pimwara Choksakulpan



Hats off to AoT

HOWDY: Airports of Thailand (AoT) held a "Cowboy and Cowgirl" media night in collaboration with Phuket Air Traffic Control Center on August 30 at the Phuket Merlin Hotel. Pictured left are Cowgirl, Kanlayanee Sripang and cowboy Somsale Muenthai, AoT Fire and Rescue Officer.



Above: Phuket Air Traffic Control Senior Management Assistant Wanasin Santhanakul (left) with her colleagues. Photos: Pimwara Choksakulpan



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES Land & Houses Park Phuket



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Ladachon

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

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Pruerk-Pailin	80	5,680,000	100,000	2,740,000	2,840,000
Pruerk-Ampai	111	6,570,000	100,000	3,185,000	3,285,000
Ladachon	100.72	6,980,000	100,000	3,390,000	3,490,000

- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
- * 2-year-free use of the club facilities except spa and restaurant
- * The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

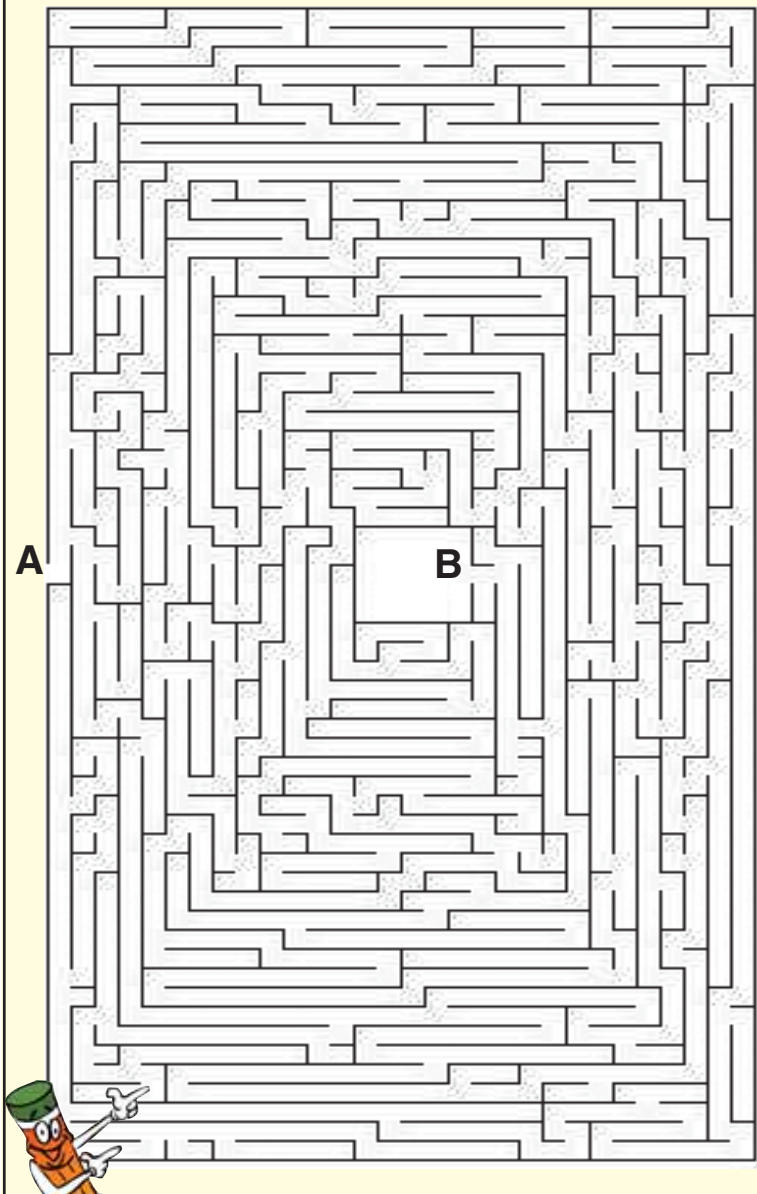
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Location Map



A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in two minutes. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

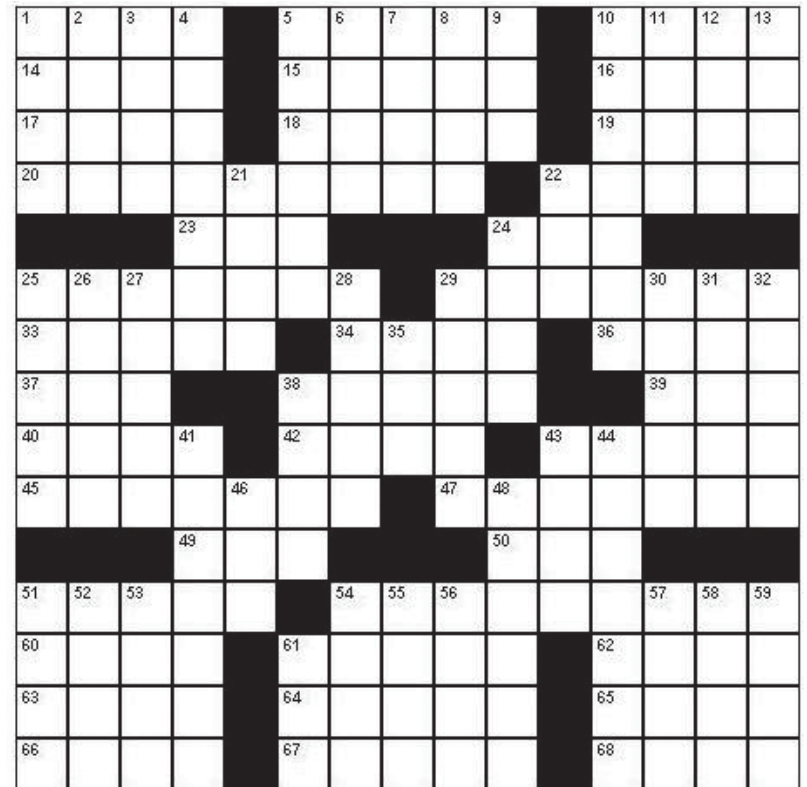


Across

1. Heroic adventure tale
5. Flight of steps
10. Yeah, right!
14. Ages
15. Yellowish brown color
16. Allot
17. Fruit-filled pie
18. Concert venue
19. Crown of the head
20. Emotional burden
22. Loose fiber used for caulking
23. Anger
24. Delivery room docs
25. Secretly
29. Shake
33. Bay
34. Baseball's Sandberg
36. Zeno's home
37. Become an ex-parrot?
38. ____ at the office
39. Surgery sites, briefly
40. Burden
42. Pith helmet
43. Love, Italian-style
45. Confide
47. Situated at the limen
49. Clean air org.
50. "As if!"
51. Head lock
54. Region in W Africa
60. Lubricates
61. Forest makeup
62. Pace
63. Fashion mag
64. Viscounts' superiors
65. Dies ____
66. Scorch
67. Dwelling
68. Reddish-brown gem

Down

1. Bristle
2. Asian sea
3. Clothes
4. "Silk Stockings" star
5. Gazes fixedly
6. Edible corm
7. Amazes
8. Hostelrys
9. Handwoven Scandinavian rug



10. Cover with a viscous substance
11. Bill
12. Famous last words
13. Abound
21. Horse's gait
22. Japanese sash
24. Arch type
25. Move like a crab
26. Conjunction
27. Sheep cry
28. Slang
29. Smith's block
30. Crazy as ____
31. Earth
32. Art supporter

35. Mouth, slangily
38. ____ boy!
41. Sock site
43. Latin love
44. Karyokinesis
46. FedEx rival
48. Actually existing
51. Digits of the foot
52. Anger
53. First name in scat
54. Cancer's critter
55. Dynamic beginning
56. Blend
57. Other, in Oaxaca
58. At hand
59. Raced
61. Beverage commonly drunk in England

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 29

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



Many Virgoans will be the envy of their friends and colleagues at the moment. The stars suggest that your outlook is rosy, with emphasis on job satisfaction. This week a stranger could have positive influence on your finances. Those celebrating a birthday this week will find it easier to take charge of their lives during the year ahead. Wear dark chocolate to enhance your romantic charisma.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



An earth sign could need a tactful reminder of a forgotten promise. Librans should aim for a private conversation on Tuesday as the stars will support smooth communication on that day. Romance brings happiness – those who are single discover that a fire sign is more interested than they thought. If you are in a committed relationship, expect your partner to have important news this weekend. Wear silver to encourage more wealth to flow towards you.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Those born under the sign of Scorpio who have been feeling the heat at work could decide to take a short break mid-month. The stars suggest that recharging your batteries now will help you end September on a more

productive note. Your luck in love is better starred this week – another water sign is ready to get to know you more intimately. The number eight can bring some good fortune this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



The scent of success is strong for Sagittarians involved in business, with emphasis on contracts being completed this week. While it may be tempting to become involved in new projects, the stars suggest waiting until the end of September. Your domestic life will require extra input of energy as there are signs that family members are about to spring an unwelcome surprise. Wear charcoal to encourage a diplomatic demeanor.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



Information you receive midweek can pave the way towards a new business project. Those born under the sign of Capricorn who are ready to take up a new career are forecast to consider relocation. Money matters remain rocky during the coming days – a partner's ideas about economizing clash with yours. If you are single and seeking, a meeting with Leo looks promising this weekend. Wear tomato red to encourage livelier energy.



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



Missing pieces of a jigsaw puzzle should appear this week. Those Aquarians who have been waiting to move forward with a business project will be relieved to see the green light. Your luck during the last weeks of September increases, particularly concerning money matters. An investment you thought had gone downhill proves to be worth more than you thought. Romance with Cancer is well-starred, but finding love with a fire sign is a dead-end street.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Pisceans are advised to remain alert this week. The stars indicate that someone is aiming to palm you off with less than you deserve. If this relates to a property situation, a Sagittarian contact can give the support you need. Romance can be like a game of hide and seek – an air sign seems determined to lead you up the jungle path. Those already in a relationship grow tired of their partner's constant need to socialize.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Arians are advised to check that legal documents are ship-shape before signing on the dotted line. There is a slight chance that a water sign may be less than honest at the last moment. Your powers of observation will be sharpest on Wednesday and Thursday. Romance spins in a new direction when an ex-flame indicates that they won't give up without a fight. A new partner could find this too hot to handle.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Those Taureans whose social life has been spiraling downwards lately will start to enjoy themselves more when an old friend turns up out of the blue. Your romantic outlook also improves – those who want to get to know an air sign better have chance to do so this weekend. Money matters are positive during the second half of September. Adding to your nest egg becomes easier when an unexpected bonus arrives midweek.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Geminis will need to build some bridges where business is concerned. There are signs that a recent disagreement with an earth sign could have long-lasting effects if you don't address the matter quickly. Tuesday is the best day for discussing what went

wrong. Your luck in love becomes stronger during the last part of September, but rushing a relationship with an earth sign is inadvisable. The number four is lucky this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



The world of work appears brighter for many Cancerians. The stars suggest that a colleague's sudden departure this week will be the opportunity you have been waiting for. Personal finances are predicted to improve during the second half of September, although your tendency to overspend could cause problems this week. Those in a committed relationship should listen more to their partner's ideas about economizing. Wear the color pearl pink to encourage a wiser outlook.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



You are advised to make a long story short and to the point when dealing with bureaucracy early next week. The stars indicate that confusion could be added to an already complicated situation. Those Leos who have been low on energy since the start of September will get helpful advice from an earth sign this weekend. Minor changes to your lifestyle could have major benefits. The number six can bring good luck.

PROPERTY Gazette

News | Construction | Gardening | For sale | For rent | Classifieds

Blue Dahlia takes root in Patong's heart

By Nicky Vermeulen

CONSTRUCTION work on the new four-star Novotel Blue Dahlia hotel in Patong started on August 9, following a 1.2 billion baht loan approval from Kasikorn Bank in June this year.

Blue Dahlia developer Pobchai Javisitnon, 31, said the soft opening is set to take place on December 20 next year, and so far, work is on schedule.

Mr Pobchai said he wanted the hotel to be ready for business by next high season, but accepted that unforeseen delays have to

be factored into the schedule.

Bangkok firm Built Right are carrying out construction work on the project.

Set on 10-rai of land just off Rath-U-Thit Road, the site was previously home to the Patong Bayshore Hotel which was demolished in May this year.

Blue Dahlia will house seven contemporary Thai-designed buildings. Five of these have been allocated for the hotel's 305 luxury rooms.

Building six, the nearest to the main road, will house the main lobby, restaurant, spa and business



UPRISING: A concept image of the Novotel Blue Dahlia. The hotel is currently under construction.

and fitness centers.

Building seven has been set aside for the hotel staff accommodation.

So far, building work on the hotel's foundations is well under way and the contractors are confident they can complete

structural work on the four priority buildings in time for the soft opening by the end of this year.

An on-site office, workers accommodation area and show-room of one of the hotel rooms has already been set up.

Mr Pobchai says the main allure for tourists will be the 1,900-square-meter swimming pool in the middle of the hotel. Straddling the pool are 14 poolside rooms, which have personal Jacuzzis connected to the main pool.



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No sight of pie in long-haul skies



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

RECENT media accounts over Virgin Blue's decision to stop their V Australia flights between Phuket, Melbourne and Brisbane have provided many a good headline. But one can't help but wonder if there is more to it.

While none of us want to live perpetually "underneath the rainbow", perhaps, for a moment, we should take our pet dog Toto out for a walk into the real world of tin-man aviation economics to see sense or cents as it were.

While Americans and Europeans drive to their mini-break destinations, Asians fly to theirs. Over the past few years the underlying storyline for the island's success has been a continued increase in airline seats.

Keeping planes in the air, and connecting the dots to fill empty seats remains the industry's continual challenge given the volatility and risk associated. With challenging margins, fuel prices, labor issues, terrorism and erupting volcanoes it all adds up a business model that could best be termed as "oingo boingo". Increasing competition from low-cost and no-cost airlines only fuel the fire of uncertainty.

Analyzing Virgin Blue's rationale, one has to look at comments made by CEO John Borghetti who was quoted in the press as saying "The Phuket service is also sub-optimal for our Boeing 777-300 ER given our configuration".

This move coincides with the airlines link-up to Middle East carrier



HUNGRY: With so many low-cost carriers, the slices of pie gets smaller and carriers are left hungry. Photo from Flickr

Etihaad and news that the Boeing aircraft will be deployed on long haul flights from Australia to Abu Dhabi. It's important to note Virgin Blue's subsidiary carrier Pacific Blue will continue to fly between Phuket and Perth but with a smaller Boeing 737.

Compare V Australia's Boeing 777-300 ER which seats 363 passengers and Pacific Blue's 737-800 with a capacity of 192. That is a very big difference in seats for sale.

The once friendly skies are no longer so welcoming, as political obstacles, such as landing rights, often border on sovereign issues but in the end come to back pocket economics. Hence, over the years airline alliances, joint ventures and code sharing have all been compelling issues to connect networks and tap into the larger catchments to fill seats.

At the end of the day the Virgin

Blue service is more about man and machine. A mismatch between size and the trend in Asia which focuses on smaller Airbus crafts, use of multiple hubs, spokes and a customer driven need for frequency or times.

Getting aboard the magic bus today means seeing low-cost and regional carriers use Airbus A320s which in many cases use one class of service with 180 seats. What is

becoming apparent though, is that tourism will be both a driver and a passenger on short-haul destinations served by smaller aircraft.

Unfortunately this is not entirely a good thing, as anyone who operates a business knows about the need for healthy market segmentation, which in many cases are slices of pie cut up between a large hungry family. If suddenly, part of the family opts for a

low-carb diet, out goes their appetite for pie and you end up with leftovers.

Part and parcel of the global financial crisis was an incredible decline of long-haul seats. Even today the numbers remain stunted. By now, the pie has turned chunky and one has to worry if the remaining pie-eaters of the family will become ill. The entire lifespan of a pie presents some or other danger.

So yes, Phuket's tourism future remains firmly entrenched – with flight times of eight hours or less – in the shadow of giants such as India and China who are looming in every hotel's marketing plan.

Even the recent announcement of a new budget carrier launched by Thai Airways and another low-cost carrier – Tiger – boasts three hours or under as their Never-Never Land.

But the question that remains is if smaller and closer is better than bigger and far away?

For those wanting answers, perhaps a glance up to the skies is the best indication of things to come.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through www.c9hotelworks.com.

In brief...

Surat Thani wants Phuket action

NEARBY provincial neighbor, Surat Thani, is taking a growing interest in its goal of becoming a strategic trading hub in Southern Thailand.

Central Group recently announced a three billion baht retail complex tagged Central Plaza Surat, which will open in 2012. A 62-rai site is seeing the development – which will be the south's second largest retail project – trailing only Phuket's Central Festival in size. With the new fast ferries plying the Donsak – Samui route

and a property boom for ocean-front land in the nearby Nakhon Si Thammarat province, investors Khanom and Sichon are starting to take note of the activity on the opposite coast of the Gulf of Thailand.

Take me to the Hilton

THE Hilton brand name is undergoing a corporate makeover with "& hotels" being added to the name.

The new name represents the brands growing emphasis on leisure properties which should come as no surprise to those who know the Kata branded property. Expect more affiliated sub-brands from

the Hiltons such as Doubletree by Hilton and Waldorf Astoria to arrive on Phuket shores in the coming years ahead.

Blue, green and Indigo

WHILE indigo is often described as the convergence of colors between blue and violet, the name is now moving towards green.

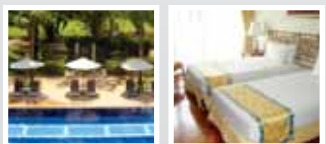
Well known Nai Yang resort Indigo Pearl has embarked on two new environmental initiatives. First is a partnership with non-profit organization "Sustainable Smiles" and two local schools who have 150 students attending classes that aimed at increasing sustainability concerns. While a second program is paired with "Seedlings of Change". Indigo has joined hands with the nearby Dewa Resort for daily beach cleaning on its nearby Nai Yang oceanfront.

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

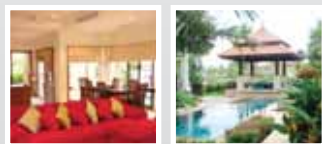
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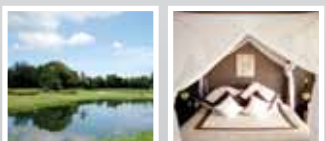
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- golf course view

2 Laguna Village Townhomes THB 21.3 M



- 2-storey 4 beds 3.5 baths
- partly furnished
- lagoon view • leasehold

3 Laguna Townhome THB 24.5 M



- 2-storey 4 beds Townhome
- fully furnished • private pool
- golf course view

4 Laguna Village Residence III THB 27.5 M



- 4 beds 3 baths Residence
- maid quarter
- private pool • lagoon view

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BACK OF THE NET: The Orang Laut Cultural Center in Rassada won the BCI Asia's Green Leadership award.

Local architects net design prize

By Nick Davies

THE eco-friendly "fish trap" design of a contemporary cultural center planned for the Orang Laut tribe of sea gypsies in Rassada has won its architects this year's BCI Asia Green Leadership award.

Designed by Phuket-based architecture firm Able Architects, the cultural center's winning concept comprises two transparent buildings formed to imitate the handmade fish traps traditionally used by the sea gypsies.

The sleek, eco-friendly design of the cultural center earned Able Architect's concept first place in the BCI Green Design Award's Institutional category.

Conceived with sustainability in mind, the innovative architecture combines high-tech and natural construction materials to create curved roofs, which are strategically positioned to allow for natural ventilation so the building requires no artificial cooling in the tropical climate.

Natural architectural elements include the use of hemp materials to create the fishnet roof pattern

and bamboo poles to make the walls.

High-tech elements of the architecture include transparent high solar protection polycarbonate tiles, which make up the durable skins of the buildings.

The tiles provide natural lighting while filtering the sun's rays. Metallic particles in the tiles partially reflect strong sunlight and trap heat energy.

Flexible photovoltaic strips called Microcrystalline film is incorporated into the roof design to supply the center with renewable energy.

Expected to be complete next year, the cultural center will serve several purposes.

It will be a tourist attraction showcasing the villagers' traditional way of life, and will provide a sheltered area for the Orang Laut tribespeople to prepare for and perform traditional ceremonies, such as an annual boat-making festival.

The entire site of the project covers 2.5 rai (4,000 square meters). The center's two main buildings; an exhibition area and an activities building are surrounded by water and trees,

providing more natural cooling and shade.

The larger 182-sqm exhibition building includes a "life exhibition" a library and a reception and souvenir area.

The 144-sqm activities building, including a stage and waterscape, will be an area where the villagers perform traditional ceremonies.

On the BCI Green Design Award panel of judges were: Dr Deo Prasad, the Director of Sustainable Development Program at the University of New South Wales, Australia; Dr Nirmal Kishani, an esteemed educator at the national University of Singapore and authority on "green" designs; and Kevin Hydes, former Chair of the US Green Building Council.

Submissions for the Green Design Award had to fulfil at least two out of four evaluation criteria: Resource Loops; Well-being; Community; and Adaptation.



WINNING TEAM: Able Architects with their award.



MODERN VIEW: The center is 'environmentally responsible architecture'.

The "resource loops" criteria looked at the resources required for the project, taking into consideration the use of recycled materials and how waste is kept to a minimum.

"Well-being" refers to physical and psychological comfort. "Community" examines urban integration of the design, among other factors, and "Adaptation" looked at the future energy needs of the design.

The Orang Laut Cultural Center design scored highly in all the evaluation criteria and judges presented the Green Leadership award to the Able Architects team in Bangkok on May 25, recognizing the company's

"innovative and environmentally responsible architecture".

"This award is for everyone involved in the project, especially the members of the Orang Laut community who have wholeheartedly embraced the concept of the project," said Managing Director Pakhin Aunggulsant upon receiving the award.

With 10 million baht in local government funding already approved for development of the center, the Phuket Department of Public works and Planning is seeking another another 10 million baht in order to go ahead with construction of the center, which is expected to be complete by late next year.

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Walking the garden path

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

LAST week we looked at the advantages of using Japanese holly, or *Chaa* in Thai, as hedging shrubs.

This week we will move on to discuss some other shrubs which deserve mention as subjects for formal hedging.

More specifically, plants that have a tendency to climb upward, and lack the dense woody characteristics of the Japanese holly or the privet.

One that is readily available in Phuket is *excoecaria cochinchinensis* or *bicolor*. Familiarly known as the Chinese croton, it belongs to the *euphorbia* family which means it exudes a poisonous milky sap.

It has glossy, ovate leaves – green on top and red underneath. In Thai conditions it will grow rapidly provided it has enough water.

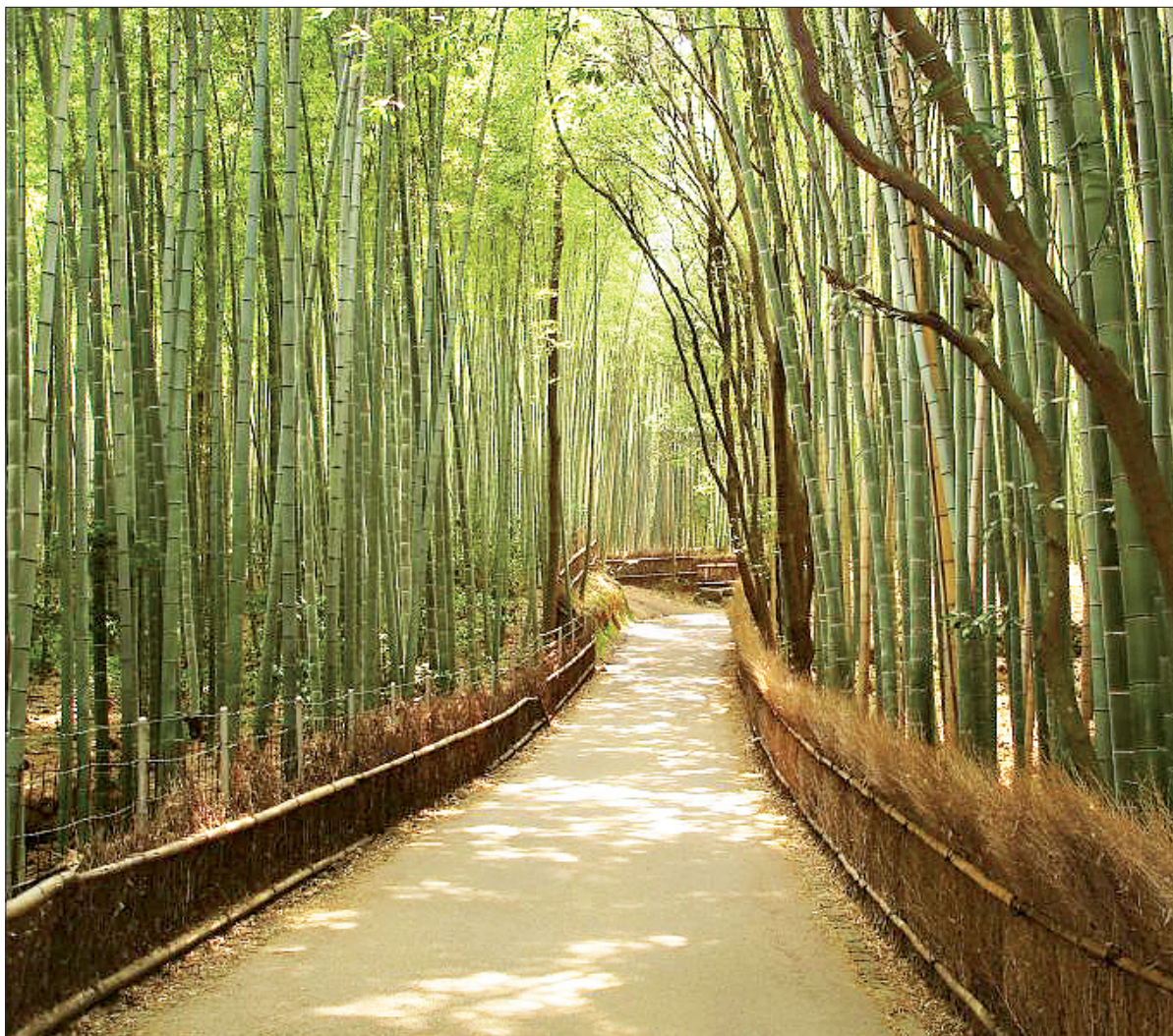
More open in structure than other hedging shrubs, it has an upright habit, and is often clipped into a column shape.

Despite the fact that there has been little research on the shrub, and even though it is ignored in most books about plants, it is nonetheless found in garden centers throughout Phuket.

Of course many plants, not usually associated with straight borders or hedges can be, and are, pressed into service.

Oleanders and bamboo are more often used as tall screens, and will adapt to more severe pruning if required. Both will thicken up with clipping.

Both can be invasive if not kept under control, and bamboo presents a problem with leaf drop.



STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Bamboo being used as tall screens is becoming popular with Thai gardeners. Photo: Flickr

If you are considering using bamboo as a hedge in a small garden, go for one of the dwarf varieties such as Fernleaf.

All this is miles away from topiary, a horticultural procedure which takes formality in the garden to a new level.

Topiary has been described as the training of live perennial plants by clipping the foliage of trees and shrubs to produce and maintain clearly defined shapes.

A form of living sculpture, it is the ultimate expression of formal gardening, an art that requires patience, an artist's visual sense, and a horticulturalist's awareness of what plants will or won't withstand.

If its origins are indeed Roman as believed (Pliny the Elder referred to its presence in his Tuscan garden), it was later perfected in two quite different parts of the world, namely Neo-Classical Europe and modern Japan.

Inevitably, the Japanese tradition has impacted more forcefully on South East Asia.

It is not difficult to see this influence at work in Phuket today, where there appears to be a burgeoning interest in the topiarist's art, especially in the creation of so-called cloud formations.

These are trees which have long been trained to produce spectacular globes of foliage which looks as though they are

suspended from the boughs.

They are a feature of the Royal Palace parks in Bangkok, and also much nearer to home in Chalong.

There is a superb example of

such artistry along Chao Fa East Road where trees with massive trunks and "clouds" of foliage front a restaurant appropriately named "Bonsai."

The plants that come into their own when topiary is discussed are two shrubs; *ilex japonica* and *ligustrum*, also referred to as tonsai or Japanese privet.

Their virtues are tolerance to pruning, attractive, dense and hardy evergreen foliage, and, in the case of *ligustrum*, a smooth grey bark which complements the greenery to perfection.

A number of plant nurseries in Phuket are beginning to stock smaller examples of topiary, perhaps as a response to increased demand from resorts and hotels.

Most are transportable since they are in large containers.

Usually Japanese in style-witness for instance, those on sale at a garden center next to Tesco Lotus, others are fashioned into birds, animals and so on in a style more European in inspiration.

One nursery in Chalong has a number of these pieces. If you look closely, you will see that the shape is formed over a wire framework.

This could be considered cheating, but it is nonetheless useful if you are unsure of your prowess with the shears.

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured, please email pcampbell45@gmail.com.

Tip of the week

More trouble with fertilizers

CARE needs to be taken with inorganic fertilizers since they are extremely concentrated, and over-application will result in leaf burn and dehydrated roots.

In essence the plant cannot cope with this nutritional excess, since it will be unable to take up the mineral salts in such a strong solution.

Technically speaking, it reverses the osmotic process. So sprinkle the granules sparingly around your plant, and don't leave fertilizer on the leaves.

All inorganic preparations are not only much stronger than natural or organic nutrients, but are also more rapidly absorbed by the plant's root system.

A way around this problem is to use either slow-release fertilizer in the form of tablets or sticks buried in the soil, (ideal for container plants) or a liquid fertilizer that has already been diluted with water to the correct strength.

Both these alternatives are however, more expensive.


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Properties For Sale

HOUSE IN ANUPHAS GOLF VILLE



for sale or rent. Kathu, 3 bedrooms, maid room, aircon, small swimming pool, Chanote title. Reduced to 7.5 million baht. Tel: 081-854 0061 (English), 087-395 7301 (English & Thai).

CONDO AT SURIN SABAI VILLA



for sale or rent. Price for sale 5 million baht, or for rent 25,000 baht per month. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-588 8818.

BEACH RESORT NORTH SAMUI

10 years under current management. 11 bungalows, restaurant, pool, owner's accommodation, 50 meter beachfront. 20 year lease, 60,000 baht rent or for sale at 6 million baht keymoney. Email: m_rombaut@yahoo.com

PATONG LOFT CONDOMINIUM

44sqm with fully new furniture for sale in Patong Loft. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-891 5932.

LAND MISSION HILL



Opposite clubhouse, overlooks a lake. 4 rai, 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-417 8187. Website: www.phuket-estate.com

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Located in north Patong, freehold, top floor, 2 bedrooms. Price: 9.7 million baht. Renting also possible. For photos call 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET CONDO

for sale. Beautiful pool and ocean views 195sqm. Best offer. Tel: 086-883 9815.

NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



in Heritage Project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maidroom. 234sq. wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-8920190 (Warit), 089-6464823 (Rattana). Email: prayoon_jp@hotmail.com

2 HOUSES IN PATONG

for sale. Live in 1 rent the other or sold separately 5.1 million baht each. Fully furnished, well kept, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Center of Patong, 2 minutes to Jungceylon. Contact owner. Tel: 087-279 3312. For further details, please see our website at www.phukethouseapartment.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAKEVIEW HOUSE



3 bedrooms house in Chalong. Partner or sale. Tel: 087-417 8187.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

at Ao Makhham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

1-story house on land. 1.5 rai, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished at Tai Muang, Phang Nga. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Gor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

for sale. Each building has 3 floors. On big road at Kamala Beach, near Krungsri Bank. Price 20 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

KATHU LUXURY POOL VILLAS



2 and 3-bedroom villas, near golf course, 12 minutes from Patong. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Email: julienmayard@me.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-cottages.com

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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

BRAND-NEW CONDO

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

URGENT SALE



New detached house in Phanason 3, Thalang. 253.25sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, furnished and landscaped garden. 2.8 million baht. Contact Phing. Tel: 087-278 0067. Email: sweetpinkylive.co.uk

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

3 or 4 bedrooms. Fully airconditioned, private pool. Fully furnished. Great rental price. Sale starts from 9.9 million baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

KATU GOLF PENTHOUSE CONDO

Freehold 135 sqm. 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, 1 big living room, Western kitchen, terrace with nice golf course view. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



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

PHUKET PROPERTIES

Phuket properties for sale & rent. Tel: 076-385292, 081-892 5649 (English), 081-893 1360 (Thai). Fax: 076-221448. Email: noi@phuketinvestments.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketproperties.com

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

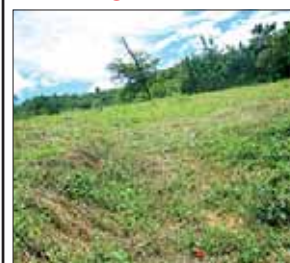
2 story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. No agent. Tel: 081-956 2406.

PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG



New condo. 1 km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



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

URGENT SALE SEA VIEW PLOT

Super sea view land 139 square wah. 76 meters from sea level. Nor sor 3 gor. 2 minutes from Patong bay. Can be accessed via concrete road and has electricity supply. Urgent sale for 8.2 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7050. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

2 minutes from the beach, 2 bedrooms + car park. 2.3 million baht. Contact at K. Nam. Tel: 089-472 5162.

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4-BED HOUSE KATHU



Kitchen, living room, TV, 3 bathrooms, maid/store, UPVC windows, nice gardens, 110sq wah. Includes Chanote. Tel: 087-4178187.

VERY SPACIOUS EUROPEAN



Villa in quiet area in Rawai. Quality building by Dutch constructor. Large living area and huge terrace. 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 en-suite bathrooms, 1 separate guest toilet. Western kitchen, garage, beautiful garden, laundry, True Visions TV. 650sqm plot with Chanote title. Price: 9.8 million baht. Please contact Paula. Tel: 084-844 1486. Email: meeuwissen paula@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

3.9M NEW POOL VILLA RAWAI

166-186sqm, 2-3 bedroom villas with pool for sale in Sai Yuan. Price: 3.9 - 4.5M baht. Tel: 083-594 9273 (English). Email: info@intravillas.com Please see our website at www.intravillas.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.

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.

SUPER SEA VIEW VILLA PATONG

Luxury villa, overlooking Patong bay, 3 bedrooms, Chanote title, 1 office. Price: was 23 million baht, now 21 million baht or best offer. Tel: 086-982 2888. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://awphuket.com>

PATONG BEACH CONDO

Freehold studio, 58sqm, 8th floor Western kitchen, balcony, big pool, nice view. Price: 3.7 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

2 minutes from the beach, 2 bedrooms + car park. 2.3 million baht. Contact at K. Nam. Tel: 089-472 5162.

2-STORY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view. 50 Pi Road, 49sqm. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

REDUCED PRICE- SALE STUDIO

New condo in Patong: 46sqm, pool, fully furnished. 2.75 million baht freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

BANG TAO BEACH HOUSES

for sale. From 3 million baht to 10.5 million baht. Big pools, 2 and 4 bedrooms. Bang Tao Beach. Tel: 084-851 6121.

HOUSE IN KAMALA



for sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sqm. 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

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

1,000SQM LAND

for sale. Near Nai Harn and Chalong. Flat, quiet and residential. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 082-420 3134. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

SURIN BEACH

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

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Kata Beverly Hill 3 Bedrooms
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Kata Residence 140 sqm. Apartment
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- FREE 1 Year insurance

For info (English) 081 788 8280, (Thai) 089 874 2960, Email: wawa.phuket@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE KOH YAO

Prime location, Phuket view. 10.5 rai, ready to build on, with road access and electricity. Nor Sor Sam Gor. 1 million baht per rai ONO. Tel: 089-874 0304 (English), 081-871 7887 (Thai).

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

Ban Leam Sai (near airport). Newly renovated. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 084-710 4847.

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO POR



For sale. 2 rai, 90sq wah with Chanote title. In Laem Thong, Ao Por. Sale price: 7.5 million baht o.n.o. No agent! Tel: 087-270 9093.

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

KATHU HOUSE



for sale. Single house: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, nicely decorated. 2 minutes to Phuket Country Golf Club. Rent 25,000 per month. Sale 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-440 0101.

CONDO, COUNTRY CLUB

Condo at Phuket Country Club. 132sqm. 1 bedroom. Call for more info and pics. Tel: 081-922 4045 (English). Email: sebasver@hotmail.com

RARE GIANT TEAK PALACE

Exotic fantasy mega-mansion, dream trophy-home on 5 rai of tropical palatial estate in Chiang Mai. Only 45 million baht. Call 081-816 2066. For further details, please see our website at www.thegoldenteakpalace.com

KATU GOLF PENTHOUSE CONDO

Freehold 135sqm. 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, 1 big living room, Western kitchen, terrace with nice golf course view. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

44sqm with fully new furniture for sale in Patong Loft. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-891 5932.

PRIME SEAVIEW



Land in Mai Khao with fantastic panoramic view over Phang nga bay. 79m ASL road access & utilities. 4 rai, can be split: 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-417 8187. Website: www.phuket-estate.com

3 OR 4 BED VILLAS

Rawai private pool, quiet area, fully furnished. Full aircon. Sale or rent. Tel: 087-893 8747.

LAND IN KATHU

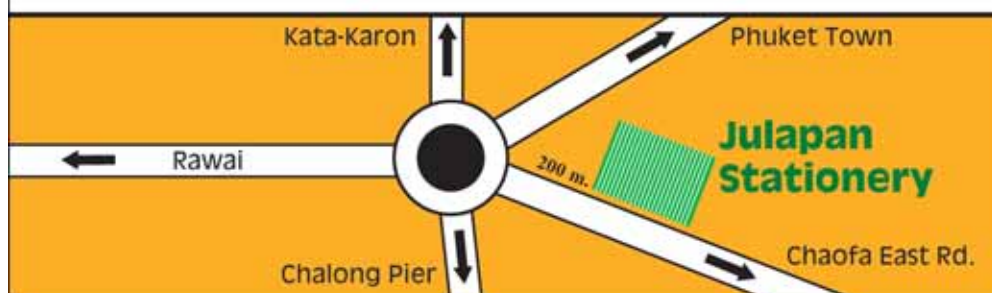
for sale. Baan Bang Tong area, Kathu, near main road. Includes Chanote title, 83sq wah. Price: 2.3 million baht. Tel: 087-889 5656.

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.

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► **Redman 45 (2007)**

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REDUCED

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Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
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Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260
Email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
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CHRIS CRAFT 216 (1992)

Cuddy cabin and 200Hp Mercury with low hours. Price: 900,000 baht. Visit website: www.boatshedphuket.com

PERSHING 46 (2010)

As new, Twin 800Hp diesels. Full aircon, 3 cabins. 26 million baht. Please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

4.5M RUNABOUT

GRP Bimini top, 30Hp Yamaha. Great little boat at 175,000 baht. Visit website: www.boatshedphuket.com

WHARRAM TIKI 30 (2009)

Professional build and nearly new. 4-stroke O/B. Price: 2.15 million baht. Visit website: www.boatshedphuket.com

WANTED

22-24ft Bowrider, crownline or similar. Maximum budget: 1 million baht. Contact Kim. Tel: 087-275 5563.

ONAN GENERATOR

Onan MDL3 Marine Generator 12kVA at 1,500rpm, 2,600hrs. Excellent condition. Recently underwent major service: new engine mounts, water pump, hoses, etc. Includes sound shield and muffler. Tel: 081-821 1812 (English), 081-819 5152 (English & Thai). Email: leigh@glslithotripsy.com

19FT ELITE RIB



100hp, 4 stroke engine. Trailer. Price: 679,000 baht. Contact Kim. Tel: 087-275 5563.

CUMBERLAND 44 (2006)

Professionally maintained power cat. Sale price: 430,000 euros. For further details, please visit our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

2 CRUISING CATAMARANS

55', 6 double cabins, 1.5 million baht. 38', 4 double cabins, 480,000 baht. All in composite. Tel: 087-461 8089.

BAYLINER 245HP (2009)

Like new. 300Hp Mercruiser includes air berth. Price: 2.7 million baht. For further details, see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

PANCA 18' (2009)

Yamaha 40Hp, only 60 hrs, use c/w trailer. Price: 325,000 baht. For further details, please see our website at www.boatshedphuket.com

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POLYESTER MOTOR SAILOR

6 meters. 28Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 260,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

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Yamaha 40Hp. Chalamark Hypalon. 2 years old. Perfect island hopper. Price: 199,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

BENETEAU OCEANIS 351 (1995)

Great condition. Awlgrip paint job. Price: US\$ 89,950. For more information, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

8M SAILING CATAMARAN

Open bridge, wood, epoxy, fiberglass composite. 15 HP Yamaha. All 2 years old, anti-fouling new in 2010. Good condition and ready to sail. Equipped to fishing with 6 rods holder. 2 cabins and storage place. Thai registered with book. Price: 440,000 baht. Tel: +49-33-22293 0210. Email: stier@net-print.de

MOTORSAILER



Neptunian 33. Bluewater cruiser. New paint and varnish, inside and outside. Sailed single-handed from UK. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

SPEED BOAT



35ft Yamaha 200 6V 25 people with big sound system and 2 engines. Included: life jackets, fins, masks, snorkels, banana boat that fits 3 people & all security items. Price: 1.25 million baht. Call for more details. Tel: 087-035 9241 (English), 083-102 5444 (English & Thai). Email: yellowsharktour@hotmail.com

LAST NEW SEADOO JETSKI 255

Special hot price, NEW 2008 Seadoo RXP-RXTx 255Hp. 70mph++. Price: only 480,000 baht! Contact tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@hotmail.com

SEA RAY 23 OVERNIGHTER

Mercury 250Hp, approx 20 hours since rebuild. 1.3 million www.boatshedphuket.com

NEW BOAT SUNNAV 18FT



for sale. Highest quality with trailer. Price: only 270,000 baht. No engine. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940, 076-377577. Contact for more details, email sales@sunnava.com or visit: www.sunnava.com

SWAN 42 (1992)

Successful, local racer. Reduced to only US\$129,950. www.boatshedphuket.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	S	A	G	A	5	S	T	A	I	R	10	I	B	E	T
14	E	R	A	S	15	T	A	W	N	Y	16	M	E	T	E
17	T	A	R	T	18	A	R	E	N	A	19	P	A	T	E
20	A	L	B	A	21	T	R	O	S	S	22	O	A	K	U
23	I	R	E	24	O	B	S								
25	S	U	B	R	O	S	A	29	A	G	I	T	A	T	E
33	I	N	L	E	T	34	R	Y	N	E	36	E	L	E	A
37	D	I	E	38	I	G	A	V	E	39	O	R	S		
40	L	O	A	D	41	T	O	P	I	43	A	M	O	R	E
45	E	N	T	R	46	U	S	T	47	L	I	M	I	N	A
49	E	P	A	50	N	O	T								
51	T	R	E	S	54	C	A	M	E	R	O	N	S		
60	O	I	L	S	61	T	R	E	E	S	62	S	T	E	P
63	E	L	L	E	64	E	A	R	L	S	65	I	R	A	E
66	S	E	A	R	67	A	B	O	D	E	68	S	A	R	D

COFFEE
break

INDIGO PEARL Phuket

Indigo Pearl. An award-winning, stylish 5-star distinctive design resort touching Nai Yang Beach, Phuket, set amidst lush tropical gardens, 3 pools and post-modern art pieces of Tin Mining Past.

The resort is currently seeking professionals who share enthusiasm for creating a one-of-a-kind experience for our guests. Highly talented individuals are invited to apply for the following positions:

Assistant Human Resource Manager

- Proficient in Thai labour law and government policies
- Strong background in training with a 5-star hotel preferred
- Able to formally communicate to government officials and institutions

Reservation Manager

- Revenue and Yield Management Skills
- Knowledgeable in Fidelio/Opera and/or other systems
- Verbal and business writing in English; other languages is a plus

Candidates for the above positions should also possess the following:

- Must have strong communication skills in English
- Experience in similar position at 5-star hotels
- Energetic, dynamic, and open minded
- Outgoing personality and passionate in developing people
- Leadership and organizational skills

Reservations Agent

- Proficient in English and other languages a plus
- Some knowledge in Fidelio/Opera systems
- Preferably with experience at an international hotel
- Good computer skills

Apply in person or send your resume to

Human Resources

Indigo Pearl 116 Moo 1, T. Sakoo, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110

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THE PARADISE KOH YAO

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The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 50-minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

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

• Host Chef (in charge of kitchen/restaurant)

Covering all aspects of F&B operations, including kitchen and restaurant. Based at the resort on Koh Yao Noi with regular visits to the Phuket office.

- At least 3-5 years experience in 5 or 4 star Hotels in a Executive Chef or Sous Chef assignment
- Leader personality, motivator
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- Implementation of innovative kitchen and restaurant concepts
- Previous assignment in Thailand/Asia an advantage
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- Foreign or Thai national, 35-55 years of age

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• Assistant Spa Manager/ess

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Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate.
Send your latest resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to gm@theparadise.biz

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G-1 Land Co.,Ltd.

Positions:

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Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai nationality 25-35 years old
- Experience in the real estate market would be an advantage
- A minimum of 2 years experience in property sales
- Strong command of English, both written and spoken
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

Contact: G-1 Land Co.,Ltd.

Tel: 076-385441, Fax: 076- 385442

E-mail: info@kamalaregent.com or info@theregent.com

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We are a new and fast growing internet based property related company in Phuket and are looking for a professional to fulfill the following role.

The candidate should be a Thai national and have a minimum of 10 - 15 years experience in a similar role, preferably in the region.

Strengths of the candidate should include integrity, solid leadership, good people management, general accounting capabilities, excellent time management and task prioritizing, general administration skills and a good level of English.

This is a career opportunity and only serious applicants should apply as we are looking for a long term engagement. References will be required.

On offer - a generous remuneration package, including bonus, with very attractive future opportunities.

Please send your resume and contact details to

david@prdhk.com

RESTAURANT/BAR MANAGER

Thai national (preferred) with fluent English & friendly outgoing personality needed. A sound knowledge of the F&B industry & service-minded. This restaurant/bar is in a captive location catering to marina guests & those living at the north end of Phuket. Driving license needed. Tel: 076-206022. Fax: 076-206706. Email: info@yacht-haven-phuket.com

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Foreman. Thai national experienced in the same position for relationship with developer, construction companies. Please send CV to: office@tr-d.ru

EARN 50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

Outgoing, self motivated, English-speaking marketers required. Must enjoy working outdoors and meeting people. Work permit and documentation for 1 year visa supplied to the right candidates. Tel: 076-326292, 086-120 1837. Email: shane.ztif@hotmail.com

NEW STAFF FOR DIVE SHOP

Reservations, marketing, accountant, driver, tour leader. Tel: 086-596 1339 (English & Thai). Email: cryon2001@hotmail.com

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Full-time, live in, no older than 38 years old. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-537 6866.

ASSISTANT HOTEL MANAGER

Must have the following attributes:

Thai national, 25 to 35 years old.

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Strong communication skills in English.

Knowledgeable in Excel.

Driver's license.

Salary – 20,000/25,000 baht per month plus extras.

Send CV - Position available now. For more info. Tel: 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccbloomshotel.com

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New clean American sports bar seeks chef and waitress. Waitress must be friendly and speak and read English well. Must work fast and follow instructions. Chef up to 12,000 baht a month and waitress 8,000 a month + bonus depending on job performance. Send picture and resume to Khun Martin. Email: martin@phuketfishboat.com

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Urgently required for dental clinic in Phuket town, English speaking is a must. Tel: 076-213314. Fax: 076-213314. Please send your full CV to info@phuketdentalhomeclinic.com

DIVE SHOP NEEDS NEW STAFF

Bookings, marketing, accountant, driver, liveaboard- tour leader. Email: cryon2001@hotmail.com

NEED BABYSITTER, PAY 14,000

We are looking for a Babysitter to take care of our 1 months old baby boy in Kathu, Phuket. Job is full time with light housework and some cleaning and can be either live in or live out. We are willing to pay -14,000 baht monthly to the right person. The Babysitter must have experience of newborns or infants and should speak Thai and a little bit English. We need the Babysitter as soon as possible. Please contact Khun Weeraya for more info. Tel: 087-279 6029 (English & Thai). Or send email to: schmitzbernd@hotmail.com

THAI STAFF

Female Thai national wanted. Willing to work in Khao Lak. Tel: 076-344814.

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For serving seafood and Thai food. Good spoken English. Salary+commission. Tel: 082-283 3154.

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We seek to recruit 3 secondary teachers specialising in Maths, ICT and Science. Tel: 076-612876, 080-534 5006 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612877. Please send CV to eugene@headstartphuket.com

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Self-motivated, native English speakers with excellent communication required for a Telemarketing position. Must be comfortable and confident on the phone. Experience in the service industry or telesales is an advantage. Salary: Basic + commission. Please email to: oliver.r@pp-intl.com

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Small, fine jungle resort requires young Thai. Must have excellent English, computer skills, hotel experience. Must love nature. Salary up to 15,000 baht. Email: dicksandl@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaosokaccommodation.com

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We require a Personal Assistant to work closely with the directors of a successful real estate company. It is imperative to have had a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar role and also be fluent in both Thai and English, written and spoken. This position requires: Monitoring and updating the Director's daily diary, Receiving and managing Director's emails, telephone calls, faxes and post deliveries, Maintaining and improving office organization systems, Preparing Director's international travel itineraries. Priority will be given to individuals who are resourceful, have strong time management ability, able to prioritize multiple tasks, are exceptionally organized, able to work effectively both in and out of the office, are detail oriented, and comfortable communicating with a variety of people in a relaxed and confident manner.

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- **Housekeeping**
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PE Assistant

Qualifications

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- University degree, physical education major or related fields
- Good English, positive, willing & hard working
- Knowledge of local schools or clubs to arrange fixtures
- Knowledge of local facilities & sports opportunities
- Coaching qualification to coach a team such as basketball or etc.
- Be able to work flexible day 1 pm to 6 pm all day Saturday

Art Assistant

Qualifications

- Male / Thai national
- Able to communicate in English
- Interest in the visual arts and the workings of art department
- Able to work in a team and independently
- Able to use in the design technology equipment

Benefits : uniform, group insurance, provident fund, etc.



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- Night Manager

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- Public Area Attendant
- Linen Attendant

SALES & MARKETING

- Director of Sales & Marketing
- Sales Manager
- Wedding Sales Manager

CUISINE

- Commis II /Commis III
- Steward Supervisor

SPA

- Spa Receptionist
- Spa Therapist

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- Duty Technician
- Air-Conditioning Technician
- EE/AV Technician

Qualifications required:

- Good command in written and spoken English
- At least 3-5 years experience in the position applied for
- Experiences in a 5-star international hotel/resort is an advantage

We offer a competitive salary, minimum guaranteed service charge of 5,000 baht. 5-Days working 2-Days off a week, 15 Days of Public Holiday, Duty meals, Staff Bus, Uniforms with laundry service, Group health insurance, multi talent training and development. Interested candidates please send full resume & enclose a recent photo with expected salary by e-mail to recruit@paresaresorts.com

Resort address: 49 Moo 6, Layi-Nakalay Road, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83150 Thailand
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a P A R E S A café

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Positions are based in Phuket. Require self-motivated, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills and pro-active. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary. Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to teerawit.koonlachai@vacationclub.com or fax: **076-303625** or mail to:

MVCI, Asia Pacific
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at 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

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Articles For Sale

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WOOD PLANER

Makita 1650W 304MM 12". Still in box, selling for 10,000 baht. Please phone: 089-594 4017.

BABY ARTICLES

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TEAK, RATTAN FURNITURE

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

ELECTRIC HOT PLATES: 2 RING

Electric hot plates, 2 rings. Both rings have quick heat up sensors. Has adapter plug for common house powerpoint, but can be hard wired also. 10 months old. Price when new: 5,500 baht. Will sell for 3,200 baht. Tel: 085-275 3720. Email: russcottent@hotmail.com

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Bose acoustic mass 15 for sale + bass charger. Contact: Jram. Tel: 080-067 6700.

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Comes with second controller and Logitech G25 Steering wheel. Games available include: Guitar Hero 3, Avatar, Transformers 1 & 2, Star Wars: The Force Unleashed & The Complete Saga (Lego), Burnout Paradise City, GT5, Army of Two and Airborne. Contact K. Mike. Tel: 086-951 2455. Email: miketipton@netseven.com

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Mission Hospital - Phuket City
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Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM

Scandinavian Speaking Meetings-Karon
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Tel: 086-9440460 Swe, 082-2765998 Nor

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3)
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Includes catering appliances, bar fridges (x2), freezers, coffee machine etc. Company with 2 work permits, website, Facebook Page, Existing clients, telephone. Sale price 1 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-418 3552 (Thai). Email: simon_murray489@hotmail.co.uk

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Personals

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Local rugby boys give their all

By James Goyder

THE Phuket Lomas played in the under-15s section of the Thai National Youth Championships Rugby 7s tournament last weekend.

This was the first time a junior side has represented Phuket in a national rugby tournament.

The boys were at a disadvantage as most of them were a year or two under the age limit and physically smaller than the opposing teams.

The tournament took place at Thammasat University near Bangkok.

The slightly unusual tournament format saw the teams divided into groups of three which meant that The Lomas would need to win both their matches to guarantee a spot in the semi finals.

Prince Royal, their first opponents started strongly and ran in an unconverted try after only a couple of minutes to take a 5-0 lead.

The score woke The Lomas up who started to assert themselves over their bigger opponents and only some last ditch tackles kept the Chiang Mai team in front at half time.

This gave the side confidence going into the second half as they realized that the game was there for the taking.

Led by inspirational captain Apiched Yimaon, who was ably supported by forwards Sirirat Tipchahoen and Charin Tongcum, The Lomas began to take initiative.

A great break by scrum half Nantawat Sitichai saw the ball fed out to centre Girayud Seusat.

He drove forward before off-loading to winger Kampun Pentip who danced his way through the Prince Royal defense for a try which was converted to make the score 7-5.

The Royals then took advantage with a quick tap which was fed out to their winger who scored.

The score was 12-7 with a minute to go and a turnover long after after the hooter had sounded resulted in another breakaway try for the Royals and a heartbreaking 19-7 loss.

This means that The Lomas needed to win their final match emphatically.

They faced a tough task as Loei had won the Isaan group by beating north east rugby powerhouse Surin, and have also won the tournament in previous years.

A fumble by the Loei wing was stolen by Yimaon who sprinted away to score a try under the posts which was converted for a 7-0 lead.



TOUGH TEENS: Phuket's under-15s rugby team The Lomas made an impression at the Thai National Youth Championships Rugby 7s tournament. Deputy mayor of Patong Chairat Sukban (center) Photo: James Goyder

Centre Girayud Seusat soon added a second unconverted try to give The Lomas a commanding 12-0 lead.

Lomas knew they had to pile on the points but suffered a setback when they conceded a try on the stroke of half time to make the score 12-7.

Seusat added a second try early in the second half which was not converted. With momentum behind them, The Lomas were desperate for one final score and

Kampun Pentip added a try with the final play of the game to make the score 22-7.

The scoreline gave The Lomas a chance of progressing to the next round but in the end the missed conversions cost them as they missed out on being the highest placed runners up by three points.

Despite the disappointment it was a fine performance which was witnessed by deputy mayor of Patong Chairat Sukban.

"There never used to be any

rugby teams in Phuket so we are very proud of them. Many of these boys are only 12 or 13 so it is difficult for them to compete with under-15s," he said.

Pat Cotter, the organizer of The Phuket Lomas, was pleased with his side but disappointed that they were eliminated from the tournament after only losing one game.

Next up for The Phuket Lomas is an under-15s tour to Kuala Lumpur and a 10s competition at Prince Royal College in Chiang Mai.

FC Phuket on a roll, gear up for playoffs



FC Phuket's Diarra in full flow.

IT LOOKS like FC Phuket will finish the season on a high after winning six league matches in a row.

The Southern Section Division Two is title already a formality, so FC Phuket will now be looking to take the momentum from these matches into the playoffs.

The latest win was away to Phattalung last Sunday. Since the disappointing 0-2 home loss to Yala, the Southern Sea Kirin have been virtually unstoppable.

Goals from center half Nene Bi and striker Chakrit Rawanprakorn were enough to give FC Phuket victory in their final away game of the normal season.

The only disappointment has been the first round exit from the Toyota League Cup.

It was always going to be tough

against Premier League side Osotsbu Saraburi, particularly after FC Phuket lost the first leg 2-1.

The second leg took place in Saraburi.

An upset appeared to be on the cards when full back Niwes Petjamrus gave the visiting side the lead after only three minutes

following some good work by influential midfielder Diarra Ali.

Unfortunately it was not to be as the Premier League side ran in three goals before half time to end the contest. Despite the disappointment of being knocked out of the only remaining domestic cup competition, the FC Phuket man-

agement were not too despondent.

The general consensus is that a run in the Toyota League Cup could have created fixture congestion, which may have adversely affected the club's chances of success in the playoffs.

— James Goyder

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Ironman race to test the best

By James Goyder

GET set for the 17th Laguna Phuket Triathlon, which will be taking place on November 28 and includes a week long "endurance extravaganza".

The week will begin with the triathlon, followed by a number of sporting and social activities leading up to the Ironman event on December 5.

The races are expected to attract up to 1,000 international entrants.

There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to rub shoulders with the athletes during the week, as a schedule of fun sporting activities, training sessions, entertainment and social events is planned.

This year, there will be a few changes to the Ironman event.

For the first time ever the bike course will run across the road to the checkpoint courtesy of a purpose built ramp.

Local government approves new grueling bike track for this year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon. Are you tough enough to take it on?

The new bike ramp is being built on an existing pedestrian bridge, after Laguna Phuket and the World Triathlon Corporation gained approval from the Phuket Provincial Government.

Laguna Phuket Triathlon event director Debbie Dionysius is particularly excited about this development.

"The ramp traverse will be a spectacular highlight adding a cycle-cross element as athletes will have to dismount and push their bikes up the ramped foot-bridge."

"We expect this to be a great attraction for spectators and a photographic signature of the event," she said.

"Last year, the winners crossed the finish lines with a live elephant,

creating the picture perfect moment of that year's triathlon," she added.

Miss Dionysius also feels that the quantity of entrants and spectators these races attract will provide a welcome boost to Phuket's tourism industry.

"As Thailand recovers from the effects of political turmoil earlier this year, events such as this are crucial to rebuilding tourist confidence. Global attention will be focused on Phuket."

"This will be a sporting and tourism showcase of the best that Thailand has to offer the world," she said.

For more race information visit: lagunaphukettriathlon.com and ironmanphuket.com.



ELEPHANT CROSSING: At last year's triathlon, an elephant joined the winners across the finish line. Photo: Laguna Resorts

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