

# Phuket Gazette

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## Airport under strain

### Record number of passengers to use Phuket Airport this year

By Janpen Upatising

THE number of passengers arriving at or departing the island from Phuket International Airport over the past 12 months has cracked the airport's official capacity of 6.5 million – and the coming year is expected to see up to a million more.

“From the statistics we have collected [to September 30], more than 6.7 million passengers traveled through Phuket Airport this past year,” Phuket International Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham told the *Gazette*.

“This high figure already surpasses current capacity and the airport's ability to support those passengers. I think by the end of this [coming] year, the number of passengers will reach 7.5 million,” he added.

Preparations are underway for what is expected to be a bumper high season, said Mr Prathuang. “Two hundred more airport trolleys will be provided and Terminal 2 [for domestic flights] will be improved, with added seating for passengers waiting to board planes,” he said.

“Other airport facilities such as the air conditioners, escalators, elevators and especially the restrooms are also scheduled to undergo major improvements over



Passengers on Qatar Airlines inaugural flight to Phuket arrive at the airport on October 12. Photo: Apinun Saitong

the coming three to four months in order to better accommodate the expected high number of passengers,” he added.

Terminal 2 will also be expanded to include more counters for AirAsia check-ins and more room for departing passengers.

“Later, all AirAsia operations will move to Terminal 2,” he said.

The Terminal 2 renovations are going ahead separately from the huge 5.8-billion-baht airport upgrade in process that aims to boost

passenger capacity to 12.5 million by 2013. The upgrade is projected to meet passenger demand until 2020. “After the planning and design phase stage, a construction company will be selected and hired by the end of December,” said Mr Prathuang.

A project designer was expected to be appointed within days of this article going to press, he said.

Construction is expected to begin in January, he added.

The upgrade, to take three

years to complete, will be much welcome. With the tourism high season fast approaching, airlines have launched new and additional flights to Phuket.

The most recent was Qatar Airways' new flight from Doha to Phuket, via Kuala Lumpur. The inaugural flight landed in Phuket on October 12.

The service offers three round-trip flights a week, served by a Boeing 777 configured to carry more than 300 passengers per trip.

## Outbound tourism flying high

OUTBOUND tour operators nationwide expect the strong baht to cause a 13% increase in the number of Thais traveling abroad this year.

Charoen Wangananont, president of the Thai Travel Agents Association (TTAA), said up to 5.4 million Thais were expected to go abroad in the coming 12 months.

The figure is half a million more than last year and similar to the years before the political crisis. About 60% will be tourists and the rest will be students and businesspeople.

Last month about 70,000 Thais holidayed abroad. The TTAA expects this to rise to 100,000 this month, as many families will go on trips during the school break.

The exodus will continue in the festive month of December, it says.

About 80% will stay in Asian countries, particularly Singapore, China, Japan and South Korea. Some 20% will head to medium- and long-haul destinations including Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

This high season, demand on long-haul routes is up by 17% because of the favorable exchange rates.

## Patong tunnel underway by 2013: Pian

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin took a stand of confidence on October 6, taking to the stage and telling a crowd of about 400 people that he expected work on the Patong Tunnel to be underway by 2013.

The mayor made plain his view at his “Patong Future Plan” public address rally at Patong Sports Field. The event was held to explain his plans for easing the developmental ails currently plaguing the town, which has undergone a breakneck pace of development in recent years.

Mayor Pian said the tunnel was neces-

sary to support tourism development.

“Patong people rely on tourism. Sustainable tourism development for me means ensuring the safety of both tourists and investors.

“The tunnel will help prevent accidents, save lives and save fuel costs. Kathu Police recently told me seven people have died this year while coming over Patong Hill,” he said.

The Ban Mon villagers filing a formal complaint over the tunnel project to the governor's office last month was “good for Patong” in that it would increase the gov-

ernment interest in issues affecting the town, he said.

In his opinion, the villagers did it because they misunderstood that the land expropriation would be unfair for them. “About 10 landowners, of which six are local Patong residents, will be affected. They will get a very fair rate.”

About 300 of the 400-strong crowd at the rally were members of the Patong Entertainment Business Association and Patong Taxi Federation. There were no Ban Mon villagers present. – **Pimwara Choksakulpan**



Patong Mayor Pian Keesin.

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## This Week

**Phuket destined for eco-doom?**  
Climate change experts warn Phuket has 20 years before it's too late. **Page 5**

### Follow that fire truck



Martha arrives in Phuket in global fight against lung cancer. **Page 8**

### On the Menu



Mom Tri's Kitchen new lower level is truly a cut above. **Page 13**

### Construction



New Kajonkiet campus now rising in Kathu. **Page 23**

### Classifieds

Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. **Pages 28-38**

### Sport



FIVB in Phuket nets Brazilians. Ironman world champ to ride in Phuket. **Pages 39-40**

Friday



23 - 32

Saturday



23 - 32

Sunday



23 - 32

Monday



24 - 32

Tuesday



24 - 33

Wednesday



24 - 32

# Top Phuket guides ponder their future

By Janpen Upatising

RETURNING from Bangkok with national awards for excellence in hand, some of Phuket's top tour guides have expressed concern that the changing nature of the tourism industry might make their jobs obsolete in the future.

Kittitat Chookaew was among eight Phuket-based guides who received the award, which recognizes outstanding talent in chosen areas of expertise and contributions to tourism in Thailand.

Mr Kittitat, who received his award for his expertise in Italian, said, "Italian tourists used to come in groups of elderly people who could not speak English well. They needed our help. But younger Italians are more self-reliant, thus the need for guides is declining even though the number of tourists keeps rising," he said.

Thitinan Poolsanguran, who received her award for her expertise in Japanese, agrees.

"Some young Japanese travelers know beforehand where they want to visit by searching online. They even book tour packages from Japan on their own. And with the recession, they want to pay cheap prices and are not interested



Top guides Thitinan Poolsanguran, Sopa Pootnak and Tawee Senasung.

in hiring guides. Already, we are seeing less demand for tour guides," she said.

Japanese tourists generally spend four days and three nights in Phuket, she explained.

Guides pick them up at Phuket Airport and have only 20-50 minutes while en route to their hotels to develop a rapport with the tourists and offer them optional tour packages for the second and third

days of their stay, she explained.

However, Mr Kittitat said the falling demand for guides was not all bad. "There is a chance that tour guides will survive since the Internet cannot answer everything tourists want to know," he said.

"As tour guides, we cannot just try to sell them tour packages. We must explain local things to them, such as how to keep safe during their stay here," he added.

## Farewell Nick Jackson

FRIENDS and family attended the final service for Nick Jackson at the temple across from Loma Park in Patong on October 10.

Mr Jackson passed away in his sleep on October 1.

He was well-known for founding the popular Katoeys R Us bar in Patong, and more recently for his game fishing tours off Phuket.

Although he had been suffering a fever in the days before his death, Mr Jackson's passing came unexpectedly as he was known for being healthy and lived an active lifestyle.

He was to celebrate his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday on October 6.

After moving to Phuket nearly 12 years ago, he opened the famed cabaret restaurant Cocktails &



Dreams. In recent years, Mr Jackson became better known as "Captain Nick", operating game-fishing charters off Phuket.

"Nick was such a good-hearted man, a bigger than life person who will sadly be missed by loved ones and family," one family member told the *Gazette*.

## Man shot dead after pub row

A MAN was gunned down outside a bar in Chalong early October 6 in what police believe to be retaliation for an argument the man had at another bar that evening.

Chalong Police officers arrived at the Say Yes pub on Patak Road at about 4:30am October 7 after receiving a report that a man had been murdered outside the venue.

They arrived to find the body of Wichit Wong-oon, 28, lying on the road in front of the pub.

He had been shot once in the back with what police believe to have been a homemade shotgun.

His face was also badly bruised, as if beaten, police said.

Mr Wichit, a construction laborer working on a project on Soi Palai, arrived at Say Yes with five



CLOSING TIME: The front door to the Say Yes pub in Chalong.

friends. The group had been kicked out of the Sarapan Pleng bar earlier in the night for arguing

with other patrons.

Just before Say Yes closed, Mr Wichit went out in front of the pub to have a cigarette.

He was shot in the back while trying to run away from his assailant, police said.

Police are continuing their search for the killer.

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The 'Laddawan 2' spewing flames while still tied up at Rassada Port.

## Boat ablaze at port

FIRE gutted a dive boat run by a well-known Phuket dive tour operator on October 13, leaving one man with serious burns and six others needing hospital treatment.

Phuket City Police received a report at about 10:30am that the *Laddawan 2* liveboard dive boat belonging to West Coast Divers was ablaze at Rassada Pier.

Six fire engines were dispatched to fight the blaze, but could do little apart from stopping the floating inferno from spreading to other vessels.

Pratueng Boonrod, captain of *Saimai 2* docked nearby, assisted in getting the men off the boat and

onto his vessel. He heard several explosions as the fire gutted the two-deck boat, he said.

A police officer told the *Gazette* he thought the blaze was started by some welding work that was being done on the vessel in preparation for the start of the high season.

Damage to the wooden vessel could be as high as 10 million baht, he said.

The *Laddawan 2* made headlines eight years ago when a crewman died after having his stomach slashed open and his limbs almost severed while cleaning the propeller off Koh Racha Yai.

# Marine Park blitz targets tour operators

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

AHEAD of marine national parks in the Andaman reopening on November 1 for the coming high season, the park chief at the Mu Ko Similan National Park has warned that boat operators entering the parks without a permit may face a 10,000 baht fine – or even have their boat tourism license revoked.

The warning follows park officers at the Similans over past few weeks handing out booklets explaining a slew of regulations that took effect November 30 last year.

Although the park is closed to tour groups during the low season, officers are still there and many tour operators run “familiarization trips” or survey dive sites at this time of year in preparation for the high season.

“The new rules promote tourist safety and encourage operators to set up activities that adhere to our requirements,” said Similans park chief Panumas Sanseemam.

“The focus will be on boat operators, such as dive tour operators, who must have National Park permission to operate in the area. Some operators are not fully



Dive boats anchor at Mu Ko Lanta National Park. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

complying with the regulations,” he added.

“Under the new regulations, offenders will be fined 500 baht per person per day. Operators may face sterner punishment, including being charged with entering a restricted area without permission.

“For this, they may be fined 10,000 baht or even have their boat tourism license canceled,” the park chief warned.

The new regulations also focus on tourist safety, Mr Panumas explained.

“Boats entering the park must

have appropriate safety equipment on board and have suitable safety procedures in place in case they are needed,” he said.

Nontawit Jaturabundit, park chief at Sirinat National Park at Nai Yang, said he had yet to decide on how the regulations would be applied there.

Officers at Mu Ko Phi-Phi National Park and at Mu Ko Lanta National Park confirmed to the *Gazette* that their offices also had yet to decide on how the regulations would be applied in their respective parks.

## Phuket babies may need ID cards

THE House of Representatives has passed the first reading of a bill to require one-year-old babies nationwide to have an identification card.

The bill, proposed by the interior minister, would lower the requirement age for carrying an ID card from 15 years to one year.

Following a debate of more than an hour, the bill was approved on October 6 by 222 votes to 81, with five MPs abstaining.

The House set up a 25-member panel to vet the bill in seven days. If approved, the bill would require Thai citizens to carry ID cards from age one to 60 years.

During the debate, several MPs voiced concern that criminals

might make fake ID cards using the names of young children.

Some MPs also worried that the fee for making the first ID card, which was mooted in the bill at 500 baht, could be too high.

Deputy Interior Minister Boonjong Wongtrairat said the fee was set as the maximum rate, and noted the interior minister could later set a lower starting rate.

While some may find the action in the House bordering on the bizarre, it is to be noted that foreigners in Thailand, tourists and local residents alike, are required

to carry their passports 24 hours a day. Foreigners with work permits are required to carry their little booklets as well.

Foreigners in Phuket are arrested from time to time and found in violation of either the passport or the work permit “with you at all times” requirement – or both.

– *Nation / Phuket Gazette*

## Less serious crimes in September

ACCORDING to the latest crime statistics released by the Phuket Provincial Police, crime in September fell year-on-year.

The only major increases were in the number of gambling cases reported, with a 47.5% increase year-on-year, and underground lottery, up 193.3% year-on-year.


There was a 20% drop in Category 1 (“heinous”) crimes,

including premeditated murder, muggings, gang muggings, kidnapping and arson. Two murders were reported in September 2010, with no one arrested in either case.

There was also a 24% decrease in Category 2 (“physical abuse”) crimes, which include premeditated murder as well as murder, manslaughter, attempted murder, assault, rape and sexual assault.


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The Joe Louis troupe are the last remaining guardians of the 'hun lakhon lek', Thai traditional small puppet play. Photo: Courtesy of TAT

## Joe Louis plays Phuket

BANGKOK's loss is Phuket's gain, as the Joe Louis troupe of traditional Thai puppeteers has a new home at the Jungceylon shopping complex in Patong.

The troupe, founded by the late grandmaster puppeteer and National Artist Sakorn "Joe Louis" Yangkhiesot, remains the sole guardian of the dying art of *hun lakhon lek*, Thai traditional small puppet play.

For many years based at Suan Lum Night Bazaar in Bangkok, the troupe have moved to the Joe

Louis Thai Restaurant in the Sino-Phuket Zone at Jungceylon.

Restaurant shareholder Wanchana Pongpalangkun said Phuket's reputation as a tourist destination made it a perfect location to host the world-renowned troupe.

Unfortunately, the Phuket venture cannot employ the entire Joe Louis troupe from the outset.

To test the market, the troupe performed twice daily at the restaurant for one week. There are plans to hold larger performances at the SF Cinema in January.

# Phuket Town villagers plead for new seawall

RESIDENTS at Haad Saen Suk in Phuket Town continue to petition City Hall to rebuild a broken seawall that once protected their homes from flooding at high tide.

Adun Yonjamrun, one of village leaders, said homes in the neighborhood flood every time heavy rainfall coincides with high tide.

The flooding is often at its worst in the morning, he said.

Some 200 people live in the affected area, built along a 200-meter dirt road beside an important drainage canal.

There has been extensive damage to a section of seawall that once protected about 50 nearby homes from flooding.

Mr Adun, who moved to Phuket eight years ago from his native Nakhon Sri Thammarat, said municipal officials had visited the community and seen with their own eyes what high tide does to their homes.

"They said they would discuss the matter with relevant officials, but we still haven't had any word



Another high tide breaches the seawall and floods the bankside homes.

as to when the seawall would actually be repaired," he said.

The entire area on which the community is built was once extensively mined for tin. Saphan Hin and surrounding coastal areas is built on "reclaimed" land, a legacy

of tin mining days.

Tin mining sediment also covers the seabed of most of Phuket Bay, to a thickness of up to two meters in places.

Phuket Bay had a sandy bottom before the tin mining era arrived.

## Police warn of snatch bandits

CHALONG Police are urging all women riding motorbikes to be wary of snatch bandits after a young woman had her gold necklace stolen in broad daylight.

Thitiporn Somjan, 23, from Sakon Nakhon, told police on October 6 she was riding along Soi Na Yai with a work colleague at about 3pm when she was robbed.

They were returning to their office at Chao Fa Thani residential estate on Chao Fa West Road after shopping at the Julaphan store on Chao Fa East Road.

"I was not driving fast. I was carrying some of my shopping between my legs and some in the bike basket when I noticed a young guy wearing a helmet trailing us," Ms Thitiporn said.

"Then he pulled alongside and grabbed my T-shirt collar, nearly touching my breasts. Then he grabbed my two-saleung gold necklace and sped off. While he was riding away he looked back as if he was laughing at me," said the victim.

She said the necklace was worth about 10,000 baht.

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# Only 20 years left: Expert

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE current rate of environmental devastation in Phuket will see the island "totally ruined" within 20 years, a climate change expert has warned.

The bombshell was dropped on October 7 by Chamniern Paul Vorratnchaiphan, senior director of the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). He was speaking at a one-day seminar called to highlight the perils of climate change in general and for Phuket in particular.

"There is encroachment everywhere, mangrove destruction, houses going up, slums growing and the number of shrimp farms increasing. Land is being rendered useless," he said.

Mr Chamniern, who is also the Rockefeller Foundation's Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) project director for TEI, likened Phuket to the *Titanic*: luxurious and bound for glory, but destined for disaster if it does not change its current course.

In the audience to hear the harsh warning in person were Vice-Governor Nivit Aroonrat and about 80 officials from government offices on the island.

While the seminar was held to assess the current and potential environmental problems Phuket is facing regarding climate change, over-development dominated the agenda.

There was input from a wide

range of experts, officials and local people.

TEI senior director Thongjan Homnet explained that the TEI, through the ACCCRN project, is aiming to draw up and implement an action plan to prevent the demise of the island.

Two years ago, the TEI announced that five parts of Thailand had been chosen as 'areas of interest' to implement the ACCCRN project, he said.

Phuket was one of them, but because of insufficient budget, only two locations, Haad Yai and Chiang Rai, were chosen. "In this third year, it's time for Udon Thani, Phuket City and Samut Sakhon," he added.

"We came here to get confirmation from Phuket that they are still interested. If they are not, the project will be canceled in Phuket," said Mr Thongjan.

"We have found that the problems are too big for Phuket City Municipality to handle alone. Phuket has too many people and these people are too free to use public areas.

"This is mainly because many local organizations are separately doing things by themselves. They are not working together, which makes it hard to enforce regulations," he said.

Encroachment and land use issues are bigger problems than landslides and flooding, so the most important thing is having measures to enforce regulations, he added.

In accomplishing this, Mr

'This announcement does not come to anyone's surprise. The question is, will those responsible and those who yield power in Phuket listen or care? I am not optimistic after having witnessed the deterioration and criminal destruction over the last decade.'

Dirk Naumann  
German honorary consul



ON THE BRINK: Urban growth is threatening Phuket's natural environment (left), which was at one time abundant in mangrove forests (above).

Thongjan called on the provincial level of government to support and help smaller municipalities and other local administrative bodies on the island.

"The TEI can advise them and help them plan so they can resolve the problems," he said.

However, Mr Thongjan questioned whether the resolve was there to see through the changes needed. "Phuket seems interested, but they don't know how to move ahead as the network is not strong enough," he noted.

However, he quickly added, "The tourism industry should be able to get strong leaders as I have seen many 'green tourists' who would like to preserve the environment."

Funding for the projects can come in one of two ways, he ex-

plained. "Phuket can apply directly to the Rockefeller Foundation, which provided the budget for the projects in Chiang Rai and Haad Yai.

"Alternatively, the budget could be provided by the TEI, the provincial government and the Rockefeller Foundation, and start with the small projects first," he said.

But the clock is ticking. "We have until the end of December to get confirmation from Phuket whether or not they would like to join the project," concluded Mr Thongjan.

During the conference, local experts outlined potential long-term effects of climate change on Phuket.

John Gray, a lecturer in coastal tourism management at Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus, pointed to an increase in rainfall during the traditionally

"dry" high season for tourism.

This may be accounted for by typhoons in the South China Sea making their way further west than usual, bringing their low-pressure fronts and rain to Phuket more often.

Kittisak Borribunkaset, planning and policy analyst at Phuket's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation office, pointed out that rip currents along Phuket's coast – the cause of many tourist drownings – appear to be occurring more often. He suggested climate change as a possible cause.

Last year about 20 people died because of rip currents, he said. "However, we are constantly having rescue-training sessions for our officers and have an 18-million-baht budget to do so," he added.



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Sasithorn Onwimol. Photo: The Nation

## Cops hunt model killer

POLICE are hunting the killer of a model who appears to have been executed in her luxury Bangkok condo on October 11, *Kom Chad Luek* reported.

The boyfriend of FHM 2008 model Sasithorn "Pik" Onwimol, 28, is prime suspect in the murder, which took place at the upmarket Klangkrung Resort on Rachadapisek Soi 7.

Ms Sasithorn was found lying on her bed with a bullet wound to her right temple. Next to her right elbow was a .38 caliber pistol.

Ms Sasithorn had competed in FHM magazine's 2008 Girl Next Door competition and won the "Photographer's Favorite" prize.

Police said it looked like the scene had been arranged to look like a suicide, pointing out there were patches of gunpowder on the blanket, suggesting it had been used to cover her face before she was shot.

Ms Sasithorn had argued with her boyfriend regularly and been seen crying days before her death, police said, adding that she had just purchased a new car, which would be unusual if she planned to kill herself.

Police are awaiting the results of a forensics examination.

# Police probe blast as official warns of imminent attacks

POLICE have detained a woman with close ties to a Pheu Thai MP in connection with a bomb blast at an apartment building that killed four people and injured nine in Nonthaburi October 5.

The arrest came after a former top defense official warned that highly trained militia from a neighboring country were plotting assassinations and attacks in Bangkok in the next 20 days.

Police believe the bomb went off accidentally, killing the suspected bomb-maker, former red shirt guard Samai Wongsuwan, 46.

The arrested woman, Wasa Theprian, 25, is a secretary to the House of Representatives committee on anti-money laundering and counter-narcotics.

She was picked up after police found she had transferred money to a bank account belonging to Kasi Ditthanarat, a businessman who took Mr Samai to the apartment in Nonthaburi's Bang Bua Thong District.

Mr Samai stayed in Room 202 at Samarn Metta Mansion, where the bomb went off. Mr Kasi and his wife Amporn were captured on security cameras moving boxes to Room 202 prior to the blast.

Arrest warrants have been issued for the couple, who are both still on the run.



Wasa Theprian (inset) was arrested in connection with the bomb blast in Nonthaburi October 5. Photos: The Nation

## AROUND THE nation

Ms Wasa has been described as a close friend of Phayao Pheu Thai MP Wisut Chai-narun, who chairs the House committee on anti-money laundering and counter-narcotics. He sought to defend Ms Wasa, describing her

as a close friend of his daughter and a good person.

The MP also offered an apology to all Pheu Thai members for damaging the party's reputation. "But indeed, I am not involved in terrorism," he said.

On October 9, Admiral Banawit Kengrian, a former deputy defence permanent secretary, said that foreign armed militia from a neighboring country's special forces were planning terror strikes.

Adm Banawit said he learned of

the attacks from a military intelligence report. The report was based on facts that militias had infiltrated several spots in Bangkok to commit sabotage, he said.

This is not a misleading report. Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha has admitted that he asked officials to follow these groups and had warned the government about this. Preventive measures are needed to thwart the terror attempt, Bannawit said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Democrats push savings bill to gain on opponents

IN a move to capture some of the populist Pheu Thai Party's political base, the Democrat Party is pushing a savings bill aimed at helping low-income informal workers retire.

Party spokesman Warong Dejkitvikrom said the party would bring the National Investment in Savings Bill before the House of Representatives on October 13, *Thai Rath* reported.

The main thrust of the bill is to help Thais engaged in independent labor and without pension plans to save money for their retirement.

There are roughly 26 million such workers in Thailand, includ-

ing agricultural laborers, street vendors, taxi drivers, and workers for hire, according to the report.

Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra became hugely popular by harnessing the support of such workers.

The bill will encourage workers to put away money which will be invested by the government on their behalf. In addition, the government will match some or all of the money invested by participants in the scheme, depending on their age.

Participants must be aged between 20 and 60. When they retire at 60, they will receive a monthly sum from the government until they die.

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## Brits round-the-world fire engine tour rolls into Phuket

# Road trip blazes into history

By Fraser Morton

A TEAM of Britons who are attempting to circumnavigate the globe in their fire engine "Martha" rolled into Phuket on October 13 for a quick night's rest before hitting the road again the next day.

And their expedition leader Steve Moore doesn't even like driving.

"Can't stand it to be honest, so I'm probably not the best person to be driving a fire engine around the world," he said.

Steve and his team have already raised over UK£70,000 for cancer charities in the UK, in memory of his fire-fighter father Garth, who died of lung cancer on July 18 last year.

Despite his lack of interest in driving, since setting out from London on the first anniversary of his father's death, Steve and his "follow that fire engine" team have been on the road for 89 days, have passed through 20 countries and

have clocked up over 12,000 miles.

Steve is the only member of the 24-man team driving the whole route, with the rest of the crew joining at different stages of the nine-leg tour. At any one time, there are five crew on board Martha.

The team are currently on their two-week, 2,000-mile Vientiane-Singapore leg of the journey, and at last contact were en route to Krabi. They expect to reach Singapore on October 22.

By the end of their trip the team will have driven through five continents, 28 countries and traveled over 26,000 miles when they arrive back in London in March next year.

And the trip is also a Guinness World Record attempt for the longest-ever continuous trip in a fire engine – a record never before attempted.

For their Australian, New Zealand and US legs, a boat will ship Martha across seas.

The team, who all underwent specialist mechanical engineering courses before leaving the UK, spend an hour each day doing repairs on Martha to keep her on the road, and their dream trip alive.

Steve also undertook survival and medical training with the British SAS before embarking, learning survival techniques in case of an emergency.

The team used their medical "trauma kit" and defibrillator on day 10 of their trip when they came across a "horrific crash" after a lorry plowed through 20 cars in Latvia.

"Two cars were thrown about 70 meters into trees off the highway as the lorry crashed into them," Steve said.



PATONG PIT STOP: The 'follow that fire engine' crew arrived at the Holiday Inn, Patong on October 13. Photos: Jim Welch

With no emergency services in sight, Steve said in the minutes after the crash, a crowd of about 150 people looked to the team for help.

"We rushed over and used our first-aid kit on the injured drivers, amazingly no one was killed.

"That was the worst moment of the trip by a long way," he said.

Carrying extra fuel in containers on board, ration packs, camping equipment and sleeping bags, when the team finish their day's driving, they stop at the side of the road and camp out for the night.

However, in Phuket, they enjoyed a night's luxury at the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong.

To keep themselves entertained when they stop, the team even has a cricket bat and ball on board.

But when they are on the road, all team members have a job to do: navigator, driver, photographer and videographer.

They also "tweet" constantly on Twitter to keep their fans around the world up to speed.

Their fire engine – named Martha after a Beatles song – was donated in October last year by the Dorset fire service Steve's father worked for.

It took three months and UK£40,000 in donations to modify Martha to be road ready for the record attempt. It's also four-wheel-drive which has come in handy.

"We crashed through a barrier on a mountain route in China and almost went off a cliff," Steve said.

"It was lucky Martha is four-wheel-drive, otherwise we would have gone over the edge," he said.

Barring a few bumps and scrapes, the crew are having a "great trip" and are on schedule for their planned finish date.

Steve said the Thai-leg has been a "breeze" so far.

"The highways here are good. It's pretty flat and we've only been doing about six to seven hours driving a day," he said.

In Thailand, Steve said the team eats mainly local food, but have also found a passion for cheese and ham toasties courtesy of the many 7-Elevens they have passed.

Steve said, "My father would be proud of the attention to detail and planning that has gone into the trip, and our reasons for doing it".

Before setting out in July, the team embarked upon a two-week tour around cancer centers in the UK to see the people they are raising money for.

All donations will go to Macmillan Cancer Support, The Fire Fighters Charity and The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

If you would like to donate or find out more visit [W: followthatfireengine.com](http://W: followthatfireengine.com)



TEAM LEADER: Steve Moore

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## Thailand getting fat

Re: *Phuket Gazette, Colonizing Asia with Calories, October 9*

Thank you for your article "Colonizing Asia with Calories". I am a woman from Europe, and we have the same problems with obesity as they do in the US.

It is a matter of education.

I have been in Phuket since 1993 and I have seen the terrible increase in obesity among Thais over the years.

I really support the idea of a picture on the boxes of donuts!

Birgitta  
Phuket

## Anchor lights

After reading the Issue & Answer "Maritime signals: seeing the light", I would like to make some comments.

When a boat is at anchor, only one white, non-blinking topleight is required. On small boats it can be a white light (lantern) hanging from the forestay about two to three meters above deck.

The color for this light is always non-blinking white.

Boats while underway must have a white top/running light, a red light to port and a green light to starboard. These are all non-blinking lights.

I can provide the visibility angles for these three lights for anyone interested.

The only blinking light required is for vessels moving at fast speeds, such as those that zip around collecting fish from the fishermen.

All the other lights you see blinking on boats are only because the boat owners are cheap on batteries and/or like having blinking lights for

# Cleaning up the island's Hotel Act

Phuket Gazette

IT WILL be interesting to see whether the effort to force small accommodation establishments to comply with the 2004 Hotel Act will make any progress in Phuket, which is estimated to have some 400 unregistered "lodgings" of various sorts (see *Gazette* issue of October 2).

Among the objectives of amendments to the Act passed in 2008 was clarification as to which types and sizes of accommodation establishments need to be licensed as hotels and, if so, in which category. Specifically excluded were residential premises with four rooms for rent or fewer, an exemption apparently intended to support the "homestay tourism" movement that has received so much attention in recent years.

While there are many rooms for rent above ground-floor businesses in buildings all over the island, the number with four rooms or fewer that are actually run by traditional families is a small slice of the "accommodation establishment" pie here in Phuket.

A much bigger component comprises true guesthouses in the five- to 20-room range and rooms-for-rent above beer bars, pubs, massage parlors, restaurants and other entertainment establishments.

While some have cast the Thai Hotels Association (THA) as Goliath in the battle to get small accommodation establishments registered, the THA do have some solid arguments – especially in regard to tax evasion and environmental protection: why should regis-

tered hotels have the bear the cost of building and operating on-site sewage treatment plants when there are rows of guesthouses nearby spewing untreated effluent straight into the sea?

In terms of tax, registered hotels in Phuket that play by the rules are penalized – not the other way around. They are subject to a 1% room charge levied by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization as well as the crippling "plus plus" tax structure on hotel F&B outlets that render them far more expensive than their unregistered counterparts.

Less compelling are the THA's arguments about unregistered guesthouses' "failure to maintain international standards" and their tendency to "attract unsavory guests". Such charges are not only impossible to prove or disprove, but also smack of the smarmy attitude that drives so many tourists to the more down-to-earth atmosphere offered at guesthouses in the first place.

The Hotel Act is a well-thought-out piece of legislation and the Thai tourism industry would benefit from across-the-board compliance with its provisions. Unfortunately, lax or "selective" enforcement and the general disregard for law that pervades Phuket will make that very difficult to achieve.

education. Parents, schools and police need to work together and actually take care of those young people going nuts and risking their own and others' lives. Education and proper care should start within the families, but it's hardly ever seen.

More paper will just be more paper: nothing will change.

Everyday driver  
Phuket

## Phuket should learn from the past

Requiring medical certificates didn't work in the past, so why should it work now?

Education and enforcement are the key to safe driving. Impound vehicles of people found driving without a license until they get one.

Actually patrolling the roads, instead of just operating checkpoints, would be good. Check for brakes and lights along with helmets and driving licenses.

All wishful thinking, I'm afraid. Rhetoric is easier than action.

William Smith  
Phuket

## Roving checkpoints the way to go

It's a waste of time. You will have clinics writing out certificates for 50 baht, and even if you get a real doctor to issue a medical certificate, it won't mean a thing.

Make the fines high enough with enough police out conducting "roving checkpoints" and that will deter them – especially speeders.

Tom Notaro  
Phuket

"fashion" reasons.

Unfortunately, many so-called yachties buy them in Langkawi and ruin quiet evenings on anchor with all this blinking nonsense.

Big Yachtie  
Phuket

## Medical certificates just more paper

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Will medical certificates improve road safety?*, October 8

Seriously, this kind of paper-

work is a step in the wrong direction! Everybody knows that you pay 50 baht and get what you need – no questions asked.

We see unbelievable driving everyday – loud, no helmets, extremely fast and aggressive. The only solution to this is

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## Issues & Answers...

### A bump on the road to Buddha

Recently the road I live on has been repaved, which is of course very good news as it was in very bad shape. Not surprising as it is the main road to the Big Buddha.

The workers also installed new speed bumps along this new section of road, which are greatly needed as both locals and tourists love to speed up and down the road.

Unfortunately, when you turn off Chao Fa West Rd onto Joafa 51, the first speed bump you come to is an older one which is high and was at one time painted yellow for visibility.

Due to time and weather, the paint has completely gone and the speed bump is hard to see, especially when night falls.

Over the past few months I have begun to stock up on iodine and antiseptic creams, which I have frequently had to use on victims of this speed bump.

Yes, in a perfect world they

should not be driving so fast, but we all know it is not a perfect world. So far it has been only cuts and scrapes I have had to help out with, but one day it will be a call for an ambulance.

My question is, who do we contact to ask about replacing this older speed bump with a new one or at least painting it so it is visible to people?

Robert Peverelle  
Chalong

**Voravat Soonthonsanoh, Director of the Public Works Division at Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (TAO), replies:**

People who find any old speed

bumps or public road accessories that need to be repaired can come directly to Chalong TAO and fill in the request form so we can ask for permission to repair it.

For more information, come to our office at 38 Luang Por Chaem Rd, Moo 4, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130. Tel. 076-282255. W: www.phuketchalong.go.th

## Something stinks in Rawai

Rawai recently had the beach-front road improved with parking and a storm drain installed, though I cannot remember problems with flooding in this area – the ground around there is mostly sand.

The new parking is wonderful, thank you for a job well done in record time.

However, the storm drain has already started to smell of sewage because many shops along the road are piping gray water into it.

Properly treated gray water does not smell as the septic tanks



# Even healthier than a strict vegetarian

## FIRST PERSON

EATING only vegetarian food for many years is good for our bodies. A diet of fruit and vegetables, which are high in fiber, helps to keep us "regular". Also, fruits contain antioxidants that make our skin brighter, and beans are good for the heart, liver and spleen.

However, there is also a downside of eating too much vegetarian food. Vegetarians should eat more grains, red beans, black beans, soy meat and tofu.

Avoid eating too much deep-fried food since it is high in calories. If you do like fried vegetables, then fry them in rice bran oil, soy bean oil or sunflower oil – or just make a Thai-style salad.

Some people who eat a strict vegetarian diet may easily become faint or dizzy, they might experience pins and needles in their arms and legs and generally feel fatigued and lacking energy most of the time.

This is usually because they lack vitamin B1, B6 and B12, which are mostly found in meat. So, I recommend that strict vegetarians take synthesized vitamin B tablets as a daily dietary supplement.

I also think that eating any one particular kind of food each and every day will have a long-term effect on our bodies. We should think carefully about what we eat, otherwise a strict diet might cause



**Pattarawan Teerananuwat** is one of the three resident nutritionists at Phuket International Hospital. As this year's Vegetarian Festival draws to a close, here she explains how being

vegetarian can be good for you – but it may bring some drawbacks.



Being vegetarian can be good, but can bring on some ill effects too.

problems and actually bring us illness in the end.

For example, my father suffers from hypertension, and I have suggested that he flavor his meals with soy sauce instead of fish sauce, because soy sauce contains less salt.

Many people do not know that we should not take more than two

to three teaspoons a day of fish sauce, soy sauce or salt.

But we all know to be careful about eating meals that contain a lot of carbohydrates, because those "carbs" will bring us more calories than we need.

In all, we should eat a balanced diet, and not stick to vegetarian food alone.

# Noise annoys

LOVE it or hate it noise has become a part of life in Phuket.

Reading forum comments on the *Gazette* website recently, I could see that there seemed to be two schools of thought about the fireworks being let off prior to, during and after the Vegetarian Festival [*Gazette online, Phuket Vegetarian Festival 2010: a lot of bang for the baht, October 5*].

The first school was banging on (pun intended) about this being a traditional festival and part of life in Phuket, and usually ended with: "so if you don't like it then go home".

The second pointed out that the nocturnal cacophony was interfering with sleep, causing human and canine neuroses and potentially, traffic accidents.

At what point does the enjoyment of one person infringe on that of another?

We have seen this recently with the anti-smoking lobby who have, in theory, won the right not to have their air polluted. So what about noise pollution?

Many will say that this festival only lasts nine days and after that things return to normal, but it has been my experience that the fireworks continue for weeks before and after – and then start up again over Christmas and New Year, especially at midnight.

I have often wondered what effect this must have on wildlife – and I don't mean Patong tourists.

Another source of intense discomfort is the throbbing bass of what today passes as music, which is often felt in the same way as a migraine.

As Phuket is blessed with warm weather, many people spend time outdoors and/or have windows open and are affected by the dis-

## Island View

By Roy McCallum

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)



Firecrackers are a common nuisance in Phuket. PHOTO: Flickr

tant thudding of bass-lines which travel further than you'd think.

As Phuket gets more crowded, the number of fireworks and subwoofers will increase. So how can we find a way to limit the noise? A compromise would be to only allow noise at certain times of the day which would not affect sleep; say from 10am to 10pm.

Policing this however would be difficult but not impossible. A hotline could be set up where an anonymous complaint could be made and investigated with a three strike rule involving fines for repeat offenders. Or – following the road traffic film idea for those caught without helmets – perhaps a compulsory 4-hour karaoke session in a sound proof room at 3am.

A public service campaign could also point out that if we are to aspire to attract high end tourists, then we must all try to keep noise pollution to a reasonable level. We could call this campaign Stop Harming Hearing or SHH for short.

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

remove the waste. Many shops and restaurants in this area do not have septic tanks and so the gray water going into the drain has high amounts of septic waste.

I, too, own a restaurant on the beach front, and at times my customers vacate the premises due to the foul stench coming from the storm drain.

Not only is the smell an issue, there is the obvious health and pollution factor as the storm drain empties into the sea.

Recently I read that it is not safe to swim at Rawai Beach due to the high fecal and bacteria levels found in recent testing.

Is there anything that can be done about this?

Can the council provide airtight covers for the drain openings when it is not raining?

Can the water in the drain be diverted to a treatment system before it drains into the sea?

There is also increased risk of dengue fever and Chikungunya as the storm drain now acts as a perfect breeding environment for mosquitoes.

A lot of money has been spent on public education campaigns on how to reduce such breeding environments, what about the drains?

Will the council do something about this?

Last year we caught dengue, and now it smells like it's time to move.

AJ  
Rawai

**Surachet Jitneter, an officer at the Public Health and Environment Division at Rawai Municipality, replies:**

Thank you for informing us of this. We do not allow restaurants to pipe gray water directly into the drains. We will take action within one week.

As with all cases like this, within one week after we have received a written complaint we will send a letter to the restaurants in that area informing them of the problem and asking them for help in taking care of the environment.

If we continue to receive complaints that a restaurant is still

pipng gray water into the drain, we will go back to the restaurant and investigate.

If we find evidence that this is true, we will issue a warning to the restaurant.

If the restaurant ignores the warning, we will fine them not more than 2,000 baht.

We do spray the drains to kill mosquitoes, but we cannot repeat this process too often because we have to be careful about mosquitoes developing a resistance to the insecticide.

## Who to call for snake removal?

Is there somebody who takes snakes off one's hands?

I caught a cobra and released him, but I really felt he should have been released further away.

Who should I call to have snakes removed?

I have had quite a few recently.

Clement Sturgess  
Phuket

**Wisarut Jaiton of the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation, replies:**

We provide all kinds of rescue services, including catching and removing snakes in Phuket Town, Kathu and Thalung. Call us any time at 076-246301 or 076-246599.

**Sayun Thummaphun of the Phuket Ruamjai Kupai (Rescue) Foundation, replies:**

If you live in Chalong, Rawai, Kata or Karon, and you need us to catch a snake, call 076-283-346.

**Sun Jantarawong, chief of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Phuket Office (DDPM-Phuket), replies:**

You can also call any of our DDPM offices and we will contact the correct foundation for your area: Phuket Town (076-211111), Wichit (076-525199), Rassada (076-525600), Patong (076-342600), Kathu (076-323892), Karon (076-330913),

Chalong (076-383595), Rawai (076-613801), Kamala (076-385789, 085-8005447), Koh Kaew (076-377957), Cherrng Talay (076-325225), Thepkasattri (076-313008).

## Gambling online in Thailand

Is it legal to gamble online from within Thailand?

Franz Zachbauer  
By email

**Pol Lt Col Suchat Thong-in, an investigations officer with Phuket Provincial Police, replies:**

Most forms of gambling are illegal in Thailand, online gambling being one of them.

We do admit, however, that it is difficult to investigate cases involving online gambling.

We need more officers who are knowledgeable in information technology (IT) to properly investigate Internet gambling.



# Yacht industry to get 'Data Center'

By Sitthipong Nongkeaw

AS PART of a project to form a "data center" for the local yachting industry, Prince of Songkla University researchers have set up a website to serve as a central database and information hub.

The new website was unveiled on October 11 at a seminar in Phuket Town.

The "Yachting Seminar on ICT Infrastructure and Data Center 2010" event was organized jointly by the Ministry of Industry's Office of Industrial Economics (OIE) and PSU-

Phuket's Faculty of Engineering. Still in the early development stages, the site was created by PSU staff and students with funding from the OIE.

The OIE has earmarked a total



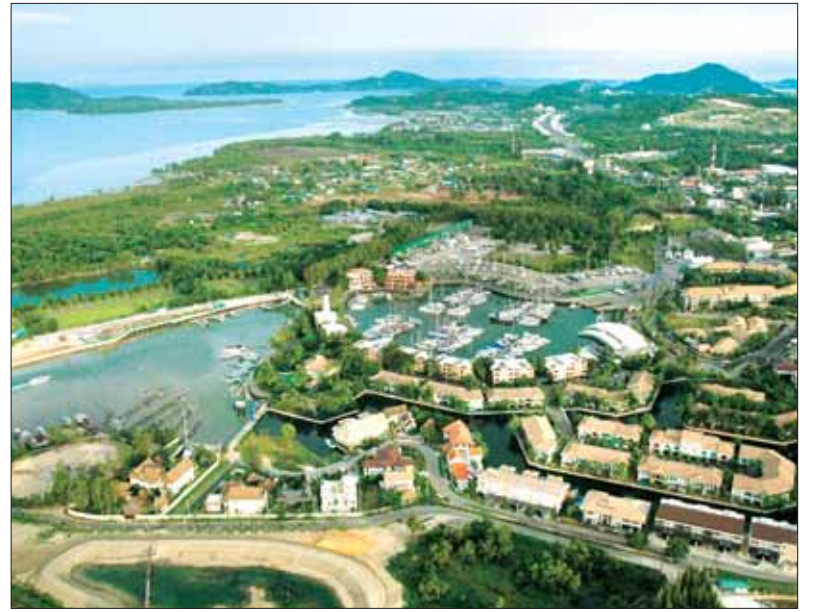
The new PSU yachting website.

of 2.99 million baht in funding for the Data Center project study phase, work on which began August 31 and ends in February 2011.

The October 11 gathering was held to brainstorm ideas with the operators of some 60 local yachting and marine tourism businesses invited to hash out the best way to establish the Data Center.

As the project is still in the development stages, it has still not been decided whether the center will exist solely in cyberspace or whether it will take the form of an actual office with staff.

Dr Charun Boonyakarn, Dean of



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW: The Boat Lagoon in Koh Kaew, Phuket's first western-style marina complex. Photo: Fraser Morton

the Faculty of Engineering at PSU's campus in Songkhla, said there is still growth potential in the local and regional yachting industry.

Phuket currently has marina facilities to service about 1,300 vessels in the 30-to-

100-foot range, he said.

The establishment of the Data Center would help attract more marine tourists and raise the number of visiting vessels to Phuket and the Andaman region at any given time to at least 5,000, he said.

# Long hours, little pay in Southeast Asia

GLOBAL investment bank UBS recently released an interesting report entitled "Prices and Earnings".

The study dubbed Oslo, Zurich, Copenhagen, Geneva, Tokyo and New York as the world's most expensive cities based on a standardized basket of 122 goods and services.

When rent prices are factored into the equation, New York, Oslo, Geneva and Tokyo emerge as especially pricey places to live. The basket costs the least in Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Delhi and Mumbai.

The study was based on data collected in 73 cities around the world between March and April of this year.

It revealed that earnings were

highest in Switzerland, Denmark and the US

The survey of 73 international cities found that employees in Copenhagen, Zurich, Geneva and New York have the highest gross wages.

Zurich and Geneva – the two Swiss cities in the study – top the rankings in the international comparison of net wages.

By contrast, the average employee in Delhi, Manila, Jakarta and Mumbai earns less than one-fifteenth of Swiss hourly wages, and that's after taxes.

In Zurich and New York nine hours of work is enough to buy an iPod nano.

One vivid way to illustrate the relative purchasing power of wages is to replace the abstract

basket of goods and services with a specific, highly uniform product that is available everywhere with the same quality, and then calculate how long an employee would have to work to be able to afford it in each city.

The study determined that employees have to work a global average of 37 minutes to earn enough to pay for a Big Mac, 22 minutes for a kilo of rice and 25 minutes for a kilo of bread.

For the first time, a non-food product was used in the study to compare working hours.

The iPod nano with eight GB of storage is an ideal example of a globally uniform product. An average wage-earner in Zurich and New York can buy an iPod nano from an Apple store after nine hours of work.

At the other end of the spectrum, workers in Mumbai need to

work 20 nine-hour days – roughly the equivalent of one month's salary – to purchase an iPod nano.

Working hours are longest in the Middle East and Asia, and are shortest in France.

People work an average of 1,902 hours per year in the surveyed cities but they work much longer in Asian and Middle Eastern cities, averaging 2,119 and 2,063 hours per year respectively.

Overall, the most hours worked are in Cairo (2,373 hours per year), followed by Seoul (2,312 hours).

People in Lyon and Paris, by contrast, spend the least amount of time at work according to the global comparison: 1,582 and 1,594 hours per year respectively.

Regionally, in the Americas a dollar earned in the US is worth more after deducting taxes and social security contributions than it is in neighboring Canada.

While the basket of 122 goods and services is somewhat cheaper in Montreal and Toronto, the net hourly wage in these Canadian cities is also lower than in the

surveyed US cities of New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago.

The Asia-Pacific has the largest price gap between the most expensive and cheapest city. While Tokyo ranks as one of the world's five costliest cities, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Delhi and Mumbai are all at the bottom of the price range. Workers in Tokyo earn the highest wages in Asia. Likewise, consumers in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Taipei have the greatest purchasing power on the continent. Sydney ranks among the top ten cities in the international comparison.

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the report didn't assess the costs and incomes in Phuket. However, one of the aspects that would probably apply here, as well as in the rest of Asia, is the disparity between Phuket and, say, a rural province in Thailand. Income levels can vary widely between even neighboring provinces and cities, let alone countries. Something to be aware of before the urge to relocate takes hold.

Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International.  
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# Phuket divided for business purposes

By Alexandra Andersson

AFTER years of informally recognizing that tourism businesses in Phuket's north and south independently share common interests, three loose business consortiums have pooled their resources for collective gain.

The South Coast Experience, the Kalim Group and the North Phuket Resorts group have all established themselves over the past year and were on display at the inaugural Asian Hospitality and Travel Show earlier this month.

Kanokkorn Pruksakit from Vijitt Resort, a member of the South Coast Experience, sees plain benefits in marketing. "When most tourists think of Phuket, they of Patong Beach or Kata. So we want to pool our efforts together to emphasize how great the south of the island is and what it has to offer," she said.

While the South Coast Experi-

ence is currently promoting the local culture the south has to offer, the Kalim Group is marketing its variety of well-reputed restaurants and its proximity to Patong.

North Phuket Resorts is promoting the untouched natural beauty in the north, where its members are located.

The main focus of the strategy is destination marketing on a micro scale. As such, combining resources and efforts give the businesses a greater chance of attracting tourists to their respective areas.

The concept makes sense to Simon Samaan, one of the organizers at the trade show. "In the past businesses in the same area have competed, but it really makes sense in Phuket to promote the areas on a micro level," he said.

"Before you promote your establishment, you need to get the customers to your destination."

The groups meet on a monthly

or bi-weekly basis, which all three groups say makes dealing with local issues or organizing big events much easier to do.

North Phuket Resorts, for example, is using the new alliance to hold the North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival, an event to feature a 300-meter-long dining table stretching along Mai Khao Beach.

The event involves five resorts all located in Mai Khao.

Hosting an event of this size would have been impossible were the resorts not working together and sharing the now much larger pool of financial resources, North Phuket Resorts representatives told the *Gazette*.

The other groups are looking to follow suit: Indochine in Kalim is considering staging a street party and the South Coast Experience wants to promote Muay Thai and kite surfing in its area.

The strategy also fosters convivial relations among members



IN IT TOGETHER: Sales Executive Kanokkorn Pruksakit (left) and the Vijitt team are part of the South Coast Experience. Photo: Vijitt

down to the smallest requirements.

Marc-Antoine Audibert from White Box restaurant in Kalim explains, "If I run out of bread, then I can go over to Alessandro [of Aqua restaurant]

and ask for some.

"The concept is to support each other and show Kalim at its best," he added.

— Additional reporting by Marc Mulloy

# Alternative ownership meet pushes optimism

THE second Alternative Ownership Conference in Asia Pacific (AOCAP) was held October 10-12 at the Millennium Resort in Patong, with some of the world's leading players in the alternative ownership industry in attendance.

Speakers included Bryan Lunt, Chairman of Absolute World Group of Companies.

"Alternative ownership is still relatively new to the Asia-Pacific region, which has been slow to adopt new revenue models," Mr Lunt said before the conference.

"However, the last couple of years have seen exponential interest and alternative ownership models offer new revenue streams for hotel owners, operators and developers," he added.

Alternative ownership has served Absolute well in Thailand, Strategic Marketing Director Absolute Group of Companies, Tony O'Reilly earlier told the *Gazette*.

"Absolute has had record levels of customer loyalty and commitment exponentially for the last three years, with in excess of 10,000 families per annum traveling in Thailand and globally.

"We really do have thousands of happy and long-term members and owners from all walks of life and nationalities from in excess of eleven years of hard work by the founders and ongoing management team of Absolute," he said.

Other speakers included representatives of leading real estate firms such as Jones Lang Lasalle,

Marriott Vacation Club International, Perspective International and C9 HotelWorks.

Topics presented on the first day included the future growth of alternative ownership in Asia and how vacation ownership strategies can be used to boost hotel occupancy.

On the conference's second day a presentation on trends in holiday homes in the Asia Pacific region, and a lecture on the legal and practical implications of alternative ownership took place.

Andrew Parker, Thailand's Managing Director of World Group of Companies, and the host of AOCAP 2010 said this year's event proved highly successful, which was held in Phuket for the second time.

"The biggest mission that we have successfully completed was to highlight Phuket as a major market in the region. We have showcased Phuket, as well as Thailand's potential investment opportunities, to delegates from all over the world," he said.

Andrew also said the apparent success of this year's event has already drawn considerable attention from many global brands that have shown keen interest in sponsoring AOCAP next year.

— Anand Singh

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# Tempt the senses at Mom Tri's kitchen

## On the Menu

by Sam Wilko

SET up on granite rocks with views that few others can challenge, Mom Tri's Villa Royale oozes tranquility and quiet, assured elegance.

It's the sort of place where the tinkling of the ivories mixes perfectly with the crash of waves below; where top-notch cuisine is served discreetly with a minimum of fuss – in short, it's pretty posh.

Mom Tri's Kitchen, the culinary heart of the resort therefore is as far away from the banging pots and pans, sloppy service and greasy spoons of certain other seaside resorts as physically possible, and thank God for that.

Its reputation precedes it; winner of several awards, not least of which Wine Spectator magazine's Award of Excellence for three straight years and appearing regularly in Thailand Tatler's yearly Best Restaurant Guide, it's got the moves and the chops, not to mention the design, to make it stand out.

And it gets better: if you continue down from the piano-and-cocktail level, through the restaurant (spectacular enough as it is) to the lower level you'll come across a little bit of magic – another separate part of the restaurant entirely.

Here, the theme is white – white decking, tablecloths, walls and just below, snarling and writhing against the rocks, white capped waves. What a place! Renovated

Winner of countless awards, this is one restaurant that epitomizes fine dining on Phuket, and the location isn't bad either...



IN THE KITCHEN: Executive Chef Sura.

a little over a year ago, this lower deck is one of Phuket's most striking dining locations and my guess is that not many people know about it.

Executive Chef Sura from Nakorn Phratom has been working for the Mom Tri Group for 15 years and his culinary aim is true.

My partner chooses a mixed seafood Mediterranean salad (290 baht) that effortlessly imparts subtle flavors and rich fresh textures.

I go for a pan-fried fillet of grouper, sauteed greens, garlic and fresh ginger (570 baht).

If I had only one word to describe this dish it would be "delicate".



SUBLIME: Pan-fried fillet of grouper.

The fish falls apart at the touch and the combination of tastes belie a true balancing act in the kitchen.

Black-clad waiters speaking excellent English swish to and fro and, what with the stunning setting, great food and top-quality service it's all very impressive.

To complement the meal we plump for an ice-cold bottle of *Rose D'Anjou* (1,900 baht).

It's been (ahem) 34 years since last tasting this wine and memories come flooding back with each sip – after all who in Europe could forget that fabulous simmering, lingering summer of 1976? So distinctive, so light (11.5%) although back then in Amsterdam a bottle



AWARD WINNER: The restaurant has won a Wine Spectator magazine Award of Excellence three years in a row.

cost me something like the equivalent of 100 baht.

However, the *tom yam goong* (260 baht) is somewhat tepid for my honed palate.

Expecting a lip-numbing, tongue-burning roller coaster of a ride, all I get is the faint stammer of a starter motor then nothing.

Maybe it would be better for the service to ask diners if they want the real thing instead of anticipating tastes, as is all too often the case in touristy Phuket.

Some people actually enjoy their shrimps in liquid fire.

But then again certain sadistic restaurateurs enjoy watching steam come out of their clients' ears as they bravely essay the hottest Thai food possible so we could say that Mom Tri's Kitchen is erring on the side of safety.

The "white option" at Mom Tri's Kitchen is truly impressive.

Certainly not cheap, but an ideal place to splurge, to feel like a millionaire for the night.

Mom Tri's Kitchen at Villa Royale on the road into Kata Noi Kata Noi [www.momtriphuket.com](http://www.momtriphuket.com) T: 076 333 568.



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# Devil possesses the silver screen

## Film

By Scott Phillips

### Devil

**Director:** John Erick Dowdle

**Starring:** Chris Messina, Logan Marshall-Green, Jenny O'Hara, Bokeem Woodbine

**Genre:** Horror/Thriller

**Gazette Rating:** 3/5

IN THE latest cinematic contribution from M. Night Shyamalan, the devil – the embodiment of evil, bearer of the apocalypse, root of all suffering – wreaks havoc in an elevator.

Apparently old Lucifer has lost some of his ambition for worldwide destruction. To hell with mass plagues and falling stars, it's all about five strangers in a tight space.

Though it may seem small-scaled, the premise is not a bad one, and any movie with a setting

limited almost entirely to a confined space that manages to stay entertaining deserves some credit. *Devil* achieves this.

It's not a brilliant low-budget achievement, but it holds its own as a "killer is amongst us" thriller with a supernatural twist.

Many people, including some critics who viewed a screening of the film, were under the impression that this was M. Night Shyamalan's latest directorial effort.

This brought groans and skepticism from almost everyone who has followed the director's career, which started on a promising note with *The Sixth Sense* and has since been on a steady decline, hitting rock bottom with *The Last Airbender*.

For better or worse, Shyamalan doesn't have much to do with *Devil*. He's credited with the story – which basically means he was the guy who said, "Ooh! Wouldn't it be cool if five strangers were stuck in an elevator – a sleazy businessman, a dangerous-looking

young guy, an old lady, a security guard, and a young girl in a tank top – and one of them is the devil."

All hell breaks loose – pun intended. That's it. Someone took over from there to write the actual screenplay.

We learn all there is to know about this film in the first two minutes, which is something you would think people who make movies for a living would pick up on as a "no-no".

The opening voice over explains that the devil sometimes takes human form to torment the living, but first he needs a suicide – a segue of sorts.

So when a body falls from a skyscraper in the opening shot, there's not one bit of curiosity as to what's going on. And when everyone steps inside the elevator, there's really no setup for any kind of surprise.

It's probably one of the shortest – if not the shortest – feature films ever to be released, coming



**BAD DAY:** Bojana Novakovic gets stuck in an elevator with the devil.

in at just under 80 minutes. The elevator just wouldn't stay interesting for much longer.

Secondly, it puts a muddled mix of characters into the tight space, and gives no background story to any of them.

Sketchy pasts are left to be unfolded by the detective trying to figure out who they are and why bad things keep happening when the lights go out.

Lastly, it doesn't take too much time to rationalize. I like that movies no longer make an effort to explain why cell phones don't

work in life or death situations. *Devil* throws in a simple line of dialogue: "Our cell phones don't work in here." Touché. Don't explain it, just lay it out.

That's essentially what *Devil* delivers. If you're the type that might get irritated by the fact that after multiple homicides, a city's entire rescue and police force can't get inside an elevator, you won't like *Devil*.

If, however, you appreciate that the city workers' incompetence is buying the devil more time, then check out this flick.

## What else is on...

### Eat, Pray, Love

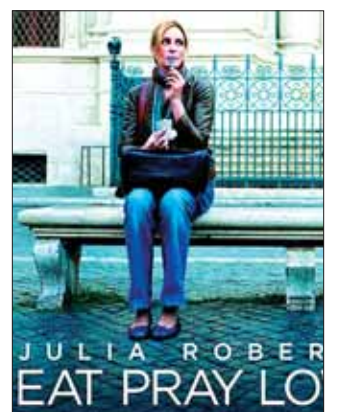
**Director:** Ryan Murphy

**Starring:** Julia Roberts, James Franco, Javier Bardem, Billy Crudup

**Genre:** Romantic Comedy

**Gazette Rating:** 3/5

LIZ Gilbert is a 30-something woman who finds herself in a life crisis after realizing her marriage is unhappy and her career is not great. She decides to get a divorce and go on an adventure of self-discovery around the world.



### Legends of the Guardians

**Director:** Zack Snyder

**Starring:** Sam Neill, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish, Hugo Weaving

**Genre:** Animated/Family

**Gazette Rating:** 3.5/5

OWLS are heroes and villains in this animated tale that focuses on Soren, a young owl kidnapped by a band of ill-intentioned owls, the "Evil Ones", who like to turn youngsters into fear-mongering soldiers.



### Eternity (Chua Fah Din Salai)

**Director:** Bhandevanob Devakul

**Starring:** Ananda Everingham, Chermarn 'Ploy' Boonyasak

**Genre:** Romance/Drama

**Gazette Rating:** 3.5/5

THE third film adaptation of a classic Thai romance tale. The nephew of a timber tycoon falls for his uncle's wife. The uncle orders them to be chained together for eternity as punishment for their crimes.



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# Bonnie Anderson

BONNIE Anderson has been delighting Phuket audiences since 1995 with her unique and personal interpretations of jazz, rock and blues. She has sung everywhere on the island, from the Amanpuri to hip local restaurants to private parties. She is in big demand around Asia but spends most of her time in Phuket as she loves being at home.

She was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, into a theatrical family.

"My mother was a dancer and my father could sing like Nat King Cole. I began singing alto voice in the church choir at the Mt Olive Baptist Church, and I started improvising with gospel songs. I was born with the gift of being able to express my emotions through my voice."

After finishing school, Bonnie headed to Pittsburgh to study dance. She was on her way to performing in musical theater, but later attended drama classes at a college in Los Angeles to be near the opportunities on stage.

She then went to London to explore singing and dancing in the West End and spent four years performing at music and festival events in London and the surrounding region.

"I loved living in the center of so much talent. I was a big fan of Freddie Mercury of Queen, whose office was just down the road from me.

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

And Boy George influenced my move toward a pop-reggae sound at one point, but my experiences in life pushed me toward jazz."

Bonnie traveled and worked in Europe and hung out with the music and theater crowd. By 1986, her reputation had spread and she was offered a job at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Singapore.

"I didn't even know where Singapore was when I got on the plane, but it was a decision that changed my life as I have lived in Asia ever since. I truly found my voice in Asia thanks to working with some really great piano accompaniments."

The following year, Bonnie was offered perhaps the best gig for a singer in Southeast Asia – as the featured vocalist at the Bamboo Bar in Bangkok's Oriental Hotel.

"Again, I didn't know where I was. And I was singing for people like Annie Lennox and Prince Charles and Princess Diana. I remember people standing on the furniture at the Oriental just to get a glimpse of them."

Bonnie sang at the Bamboo Bar for two years and worked freelance at The Sukhothai and ShangriLa hotels as well as jazz clubs around the capital. During this period she began to feed and care for stray dogs in her neighborhood.

"You can learn unconditional love through animals. I moved to Chiang Mai in the 1990s with my partner to care for a variety of animals in a nature reserve and to sing at the Empress Hotel."

She moved to Phuket in 1995 and brought her legendary singing style to the island.

"I try to make sure my audience is pleased with my performance as I need a strong love around me to sing at my best.

"I prefer jazz music because it's sassy and swings you around, whereas the blues I sing is about helping people to learn to face their problems.

"At this point in my life, I'm doing what I call blues rock."

Bonnie spends a lot of time at Legends Music Studio near the Boat Lagoon where she's working on a CD which she plans to call "Purple Love".

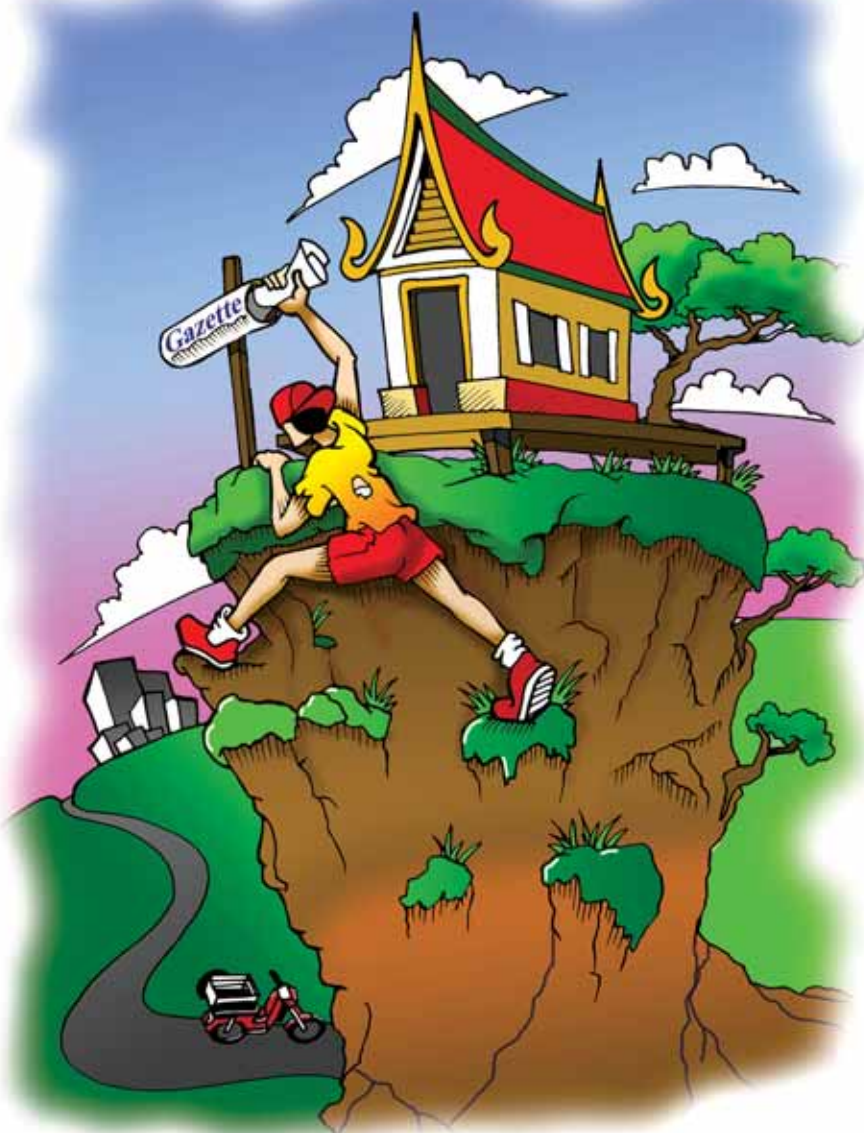
"I want this CD to help people with their emotions while going through life. Everybody has the blues at some time. I want them to hear my music, which I hope will help them."



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.



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# Pierced Phuket

The streets and temples in and around Phuket Town came alive for the nine-day Vegetarian Festival, here's a glimpse at what went on.



ON THE STREETS: The 'mah song' take to the streets en force in Sam Kong.

COLORFUL: An unusual mouthful.

CHOSEN: A young 'mah song' has his cheek pierced with a traditional sword. Scenes from around Phuket Town this week (left).



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PAIN: Burning incense on flesh.



Photos: Jim Welch and Apinun Saithong

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### Oct 13-17. Aqua Aerobics at PIA Sports & Leisure Club

For those people looking for some morning exercise, aqua aerobics sessions at PIA Sports & Leisure Club are exactly what you need. Join us for a free trial lesson this October! Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:30-9:30am. The Aquatic Academy is open seven days a week. Other aquatic programs include recreational lap swimming, leisure play, competitive swimming and coaching for a range of sports including triathlons, surf lifesaving and water polo. Monthly costs: 1,120 baht per person (for PIAADS Silverfinz members), 1,400 baht per person for non members.

### Oct 16. StarBlu fashion at Royal Phuket Marina

StarBlu presents their latest collection at RPM. There will be 50% off all items on the day. From 4pm onwards at Les Anges on The Boardwalk. Free admission and free coffee and tea with cookies. Contact Mr Murat or Tum at T: 086-471 4501 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com W: royalphuketmarina.com

### Oct 17. Ghost Rider's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday at Royal Phuket Marina

The Ghost Riders Motorcycle Club have organized a Triumph Roadshow and 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Sport Run. All types of big bikes (400cc and above) are welcome,

particularly sport, sport touring and adventure bike. Registration takes place an hour before the scheduled ride. It's free! All island run participants and pillion riders are invited to cocktails at Les Anges at Royal Phuket Marina. From 1pm-11:30pm. Contact Mr Goran at T: 081-271 2115 E: admin@ghostriders-thailand.com W: ghostriders-thailand.com

### Oct 18-22. BSS Mid-Term Camp at PIA Sports & Leisure Club

Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS) will be heating up the mid-term break with their highly popular five-day Brazilian Soccer Camp played on PIA Sports and Leisure Club's floodlit FIFA-approved soccer field. October 18-22, 9am-1pm, for both boys and girls, aged six-16 years old. Free bus pick-up and drop-off. Weekly cost: 4,000 baht per child per day. Cost: 900 baht per child. Contact Martin Hill T: 076-336000 E: activities@phuketinternationalacademy.com W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

### Oct 18-22. Ironkids Camp

PIA Sports & Leisure Club proudly launches its first Triathlon-specific training camp for kids six-15 years old, where young athletes will learn everything they need to know to complete in an Ironkids Triathlon, and have fun doing it. Training will include specific tips on triathlon swimming, cycling and runs. Athletes will also learn how to transition between events, bike set-up and maintenance, pacing and sportsmanship. Swim, cycle, and run to become an Ironkid! October 18-22, from 9am-2:30pm.

Contact Martin Ware or Nok T: 076-336000 E: activities@phuketinternationalacademy.com W: phuketinternationalacademy.com

### Oct 18-Nov 15. Win free RPM Health Club Memberships

Royal Phuket Marina Health Club – the island's finest health club – is launching a free-entry contest at: [www.facebook.com/royalphuketmarina](http://www.facebook.com/royalphuketmarina) where you can win fantastic prizes such as an RPM Health Club Day Pass, Monthly Memberships (6,420 baht value) and the grand prize of a yearly membership (39,396 baht value). "Like" this Facebook page and tag yourself in their competition/profile picture. You will get a printable day pass to bring with you to enter the gym. Next, send a picture of yourself exercising at RPM Health Club and write a review on the page. This could win you the prizes. For more information, contact Michael Alan Forrest T: 081-958 8199 E: michael@royalphuketmarina.com

### Oct 21. Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

The ever popular PIWC monthly lunch will be held at The Vijit resort in Rawai from 11:30am-2pm. All are welcome. Members price is 450 baht, guests 600 baht. Prior registration is essential. Contact Carole Dux at T: 076-271727 E: info@phuketiwc.com W: phuketiwc.com

### Oct 23. Dive for Phuket dogs

Dive Asia welcomes you to another Charity Event. Two dives at Racha Yai Island dedicated to support the Phuket Soi Dog Foundation, a non-profit organization. All profits will be donated to the foundation. The event includes free transfers from Kata, Karon and Patong, breakfast, lunch, fruits, coffee, tea and water. Price: 3,200 baht for divers (plus Gear); 1,600 baht for non-divers; and 4,900 baht for two try dives. Contact Juergen for more information T: 081-8953320, or E: reservations@diveasia.com W: [diveasia.com/blog/2010/09/d](http://diveasia.com/blog/2010/09/d)

### Oct 23. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Ok Pansa)

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

## Oct 20. World's Largest Thai Dinner by Marriott

Thailand's top chefs have created an exotic menu that will be served in 3,400 Marriott hotels in 69 countries at the same time. Join us and experience all the flavors of Thailand's favorite dishes. It's a feast for the Guinness Book Of Records and we invite you to be a part of it. Price: 1,100++



baht per person at Ginja Taste, JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. 6pm-8pm. For reservations please contact T: 076-338000 E: [jwmarriott.phuket@marriott-hotels.com](mailto:jwmarriott.phuket@marriott-hotels.com) W: [jwmarriottphuketresort.com](http://jwmarriottphuketresort.com)

### Oct 23. Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand

### Oct 23-24. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Art Village Weekend@RPM

Royal Phuket Marina and BMS Events proudly present to you the

2<sup>nd</sup> Art Village Weekend. This includes a diverse display of art, culture and music. Visit us on 23-24 October 2010 at the Town Square in Royal Phuket Marina. The event is from 5pm-10pm. We are looking forward to seeing you. For more information please contact Murat Can Sakarya T: 081-797 3364 E: [muratc@royalphuketmarina.com](mailto:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com) W: [royalphuketmarina.com](http://royalphuketmarina.com)

## 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 Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

October 17 – Chalong

October 24 – Chalong

For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

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## Melbourne Cup fans to raise money for Phuket charities



**HATS GALORE:** Get your best hat on for the Melbourne Cup. Photo: Flickr

MAGNIFICENT galloping thoroughbreds racing in Australasia's premier horse race will be broadcast live at 11am on November 2, at the first Melbourne Cup Charity event on Phuket.

The sports event will be held at, and sponsored by, IndoChine Bar and Restaurant at Kalim Beach.

The night will feature sweepstakes, raffle, live auction, and for those wanting to "put on the Ritz" and dress up for the occasion, there will be prizes for the best dressed men and women. But remember to wear a hat.

For around two-and-a-half minutes during the race, all of Australasia stops to watch as millions of dollars are bet on thoroughbreds from Australia, New Zealand and around the world at Flemington Track in Melbourne.

Tickets for the Phuket event cost 1,500 baht.

This includes an Australian themed brunch and welcome drinks.

The raffle and live auction will raise funds for two charities: The Soi Dog Foundation of Phuket ([www.soidog.org](http://www.soidog.org)) and Barnhem Maung Mai Orphanage ([www.barnhem.org](http://www.barnhem.org)). Sponsors of the event are IndoChine Resorts & Villas, *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV, 91.5 FM Phuket Island Radio, Works.com, Jagota, and Chandon.

For further information on these charities and where the money goes, please contact Cristy on 084-0544367 or at [suaysiam@gmail.com](mailto:suaysiam@gmail.com).



## Trend-setting Toy Salesman

On October 9 in Phuket Town our photographer spotted the 'Toy Salesman' as he likes to be known. If there were an award for 'most fun' outfit of the week, it would surely go to him.

Photo: Apinun Saithong


## Qatar Airways fly




**IN IT TOGETHER:** Qatar Airways marked the launch of their first Phuket-Doa flights on October 12 with a special ceremony. From left are Deputy General Manager of Phuket International Airport, Sutheep Sansiriphan, Qatar Airways Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations East Asia and South West Pacific, Marwan Koleilat and Thalang District Chief, Narunat Suphutprateep. Photos: Apinun Saithong



**RUSSIAN VISIT:** Russian journalists sampled some of Phuket's tourist delights during a five-day visit hosted by Laguna Phuket recently. From left are Svetlana Feoktistova, Deputy Editor of Doctor Travel magazine; Olga Gaidukova, lifestyle editor of OK! magazine; Yulia Kreslyanskaya, Managing Director of Moscow PR agency Glamapple who led the group and Elena Gordienko, Managing Editor of Young Family magazine; with Irina Kiseleva, Russian sales executive of Laguna Property who assisted during the visit.





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# ing high



REVELING IN IT: Khun Avantika, Sii Eawsakul and Lawan Jaiyen.



PPAO President Paiboon Upatising.

## Farewell party to remember



HAPPY LINE-UP: From left (top row) are performer Jimmy Cumming, Sii Eawsakul, Neil Cumming, Sarah Ratcliff, Khun Dang and (bottom row) Daniel Meury, Peter Webber, Khun Bib and Janet.



LEAVING PARTY: Sii Eawsakul, the former CEO of Asia Web Direct/EGM Asian Business Unit – Wotif Group, said farewell to her friends and colleges in extraordinary style at the Watermark restaurant on October 6. At last contact, Khun Sii sent her regards to all her Phuket friends from 'rainy Kuraburi', Phang Nga.

# YOUR Phuket



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



### Puerk-Pailin

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 148 sq.m.



### Puerk-Ampai

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 167 sq.m.



### Ladachon

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
Puerk-Pailin	80	5,680,000	100,000	2,740,000	2,840,000
Puerk-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

For further information please contact our office  
Tel: 076-381151-2 Fax: 076-381111  
Email: [info@lhphuket.com](mailto:info@lhphuket.com) <http://www.lhphuket.com>



Location Map



## WORD DETECTIVE

All the words listed below appear in the puzzle - horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backwards. Find them and circle them. If you are an especially skilled word detective, you may also find an additional 'secret word' hidden in the puzzle.

**Theme: Vegetarian Festival**

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

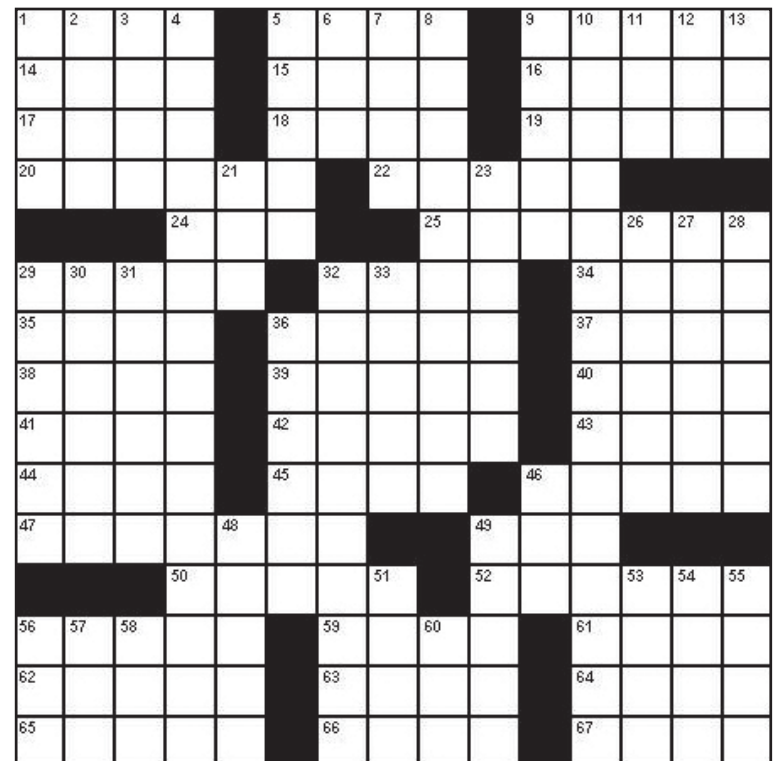
Abstaining, ax, busy, exciting, explosions, firecrackers, food, gods, Kathu, knife, needles, noisy, Phuket Town, pierce, possession, skewer, stalls, temples, vegetables, white.

**Across**

1. For fear that
5. Travel on water
9. Dolt
14. Banned apple spray
15. Sheet of stamps
16. Beginning
17. Lady of Spain
18. Sudden assault
19. Land...
20. One concerned with the bottom line
22. Conical native American tent
24. Date
25. To correct
29. Join the cast of
32. Exclamations of relief
34. K-6
35. Female child
36. Superior of a monastery
37. Club-like weapon
38. Indigo
39. Elected
40. Other, in Oaxaca
41. Food list
42. Hang in the air
43. Not e'en once
44. Muslim elder and prayer leader
45. Golf clubs one to nine
46. Indistinct
47. Instrument for measuring thickness
49. \_\_\_ Paulo, Brazil
50. Nostrils
52. Garrulous
56. Up
59. Words of denial
61. Foot covering
62. Angry
63. Prehistoric sepulchral tomb
64. Director Wertmuller
65. Alma \_\_\_
66. Sommer of film
67. Belgian river

**Down**

1. Scottish boys
2. "The Time Machine" race
3. Squealed



4. Cause light to pass through
5. Carousal
6. Battery size
7. Monogram ltr
8. Leather shorts
9. Gave a measured amount
10. Informally
11. Code-breaking org
12. Brown-capped boletus mushroom
13. Hot time in Paris
21. Dusk, to Donne
23. Trouble
26. Thrills

27. Concealed
28. Like wet ink
29. Asexual
30. Picture theater
31. Threefold
32. Loathing
33. From the beginning: Lat.
36. More sore
46. Long March leader
48. Mum's mate
49. Strike hard
51. Earth
53. "Is \_\_\_ it?"
54. Give an edge to
55. 365 days
56. Direct a gun
57. Song syllable
58. Baseball club
60. Disapproving sound

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.  
Used with permission.

*Puzzle solutions on page 33*

**LIBRA (September 24-October 23):**

Librans could start warming to an idea that previously left them cold. The stars suggest that a persuasive earth sign will help you to see benefits that were not obvious before. Those who are single begin to enjoy that status more; however, another air sign is hoping to take flirtation to another level. If your birthday falls in the coming week, expect to have a more relaxed view of life in the year ahead.

**SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):**

Your powers of persuasion become stronger during the second half of October, but Scorpions are advised to use them wisely this week. In the world of work, be sure what you want before going after it. Financial transactions are highlighted to be problematic on Monday and Tuesday – keep receipts safely in case you have to prove a point.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):**

A trail of suspicion is revealed, which should be enough reason for Sagittarians to withdraw gracefully from a proposed business project. The stars indicate that November will

be a more fortuitous month to further your interests. Your luck in romance improves, although impressing a water sign takes more effort than you hoped. Those in a committed relationship are relieved when their partner gives up an idea that was causing conflict.

**CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):**

Where work is concerned, you are more willing to take control. Capricorns whose self-confidence was shaky earlier this month now have reason to believe in themselves more. There is stronger focus on relaxation during the second half of October – this week you could become involved in a new hobby. A warm-hearted fire sign has good advice concerning a romantic dilemma.

**AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):**

Money matters fall under cloudy astral conditions during the second half of October. Taking financial advice from a water sign could cause Aquarians to go out of the frying pan and into the fire. The stars suggest that it is best to tread water and not become involved in any large commitments. Romance could get complicated if you listen to idle gossip. Wear violet to encourage focused thinking.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

**PISCES (February 20-March 20):**

Those born under the sign of Pisces are able to see the path ahead more clearly during the second half of October. Where work is concerned, you will have a choice of directions this week. Those who are ready to relocate may have to move quickly. Cupid is poised to shoot an arrow on your behalf – watch out for flirtation from an earth sign. The number two can be lucky this weekend.

**ARIES (March 21-April 20):**

Life settles down to a nice and smooth pace for Arians this week. A minor fly in the ointment could occur on Tuesday or Wednesday when a business contact cancels an important appointment at the last moment. Romance with an earth sign that became tricky is forecast to become easier due to your more mellow mood. Those who are searching for a soul mate perk up after an interesting introduction this weekend.

**TAURUS (April 21-May 21):**

Many of those born under the sign of Taurus will be taking a useful message on board this week. The stars suggest that your rather pragmatic approach to work could be altered by influence from a creative air sign. Taking chances is highlighted to enhance success until the end of October. Lucky days for romance are Sunday and Monday. The number five can bring good fortune this weekend.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21):**

The stars predict calm after the storm that disrupted progress in business last week. Geminis will know exactly how to get what they want – negotiations are forecast to go particularly well on Wednesday. There could be something to celebrate this weekend when a fire sign family member or friend has good news. Your romantic outlook depends on how much you are prepared to compromise.

**CANCER (June 22-July 23):**

Where business is concerned, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Cancerians are advised to reconsider agreements involving someone who has already shown an untrustworthy side. Relocation

remains under positive astral influences – house-hunting this weekend could lead you to your dream home. A passing flirtatious encounter early next week leaves you wanting to know more. The number seven can bring some good fortune this Saturday.

**LEO (July 24-August 22):**

History repeats itself for some of those born under the sign of Leo this week. The area of employment falls under cloudy conditions and you could be vulnerable to unfair demands for the sake of keeping the peace. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to pour oil on troubled waters. Your luck in love strengthens and the possibility of commitment is highlighted.

**VIRGO (August 23-September 23):**

Virgoans are forecast to find out who their fair weather friends are this week. An air sign acquaintance lets you down at the last moment and this you may decide that the relationship has reached its sell-by date. Financial affairs are better starved, with the chance of a windfall this weekend. Flattery gets you nowhere with a stubborn Taurean. Virgoans are advised to let this hope for romance fade away.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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

By Alexandra Andersson

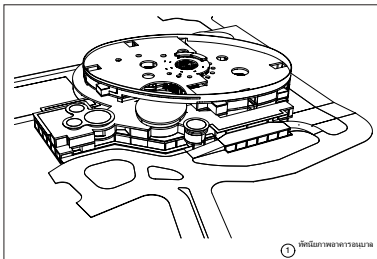
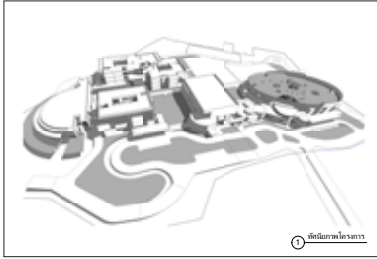
THE largest provider of bilingual private education in Phuket, Kajonkiet, is in the process of building their sixth and seventh schools with a budget of six million baht.

Kajonkiet's existing schools are spread around the island: one in Phuket Town, two in Wichit, one in Chong Talay and one in Pa Khlok. The first was established in 1954.

These schools teach Thai curriculum, but in three different ways: the Thai Program (TP) is taught entirely in Thai, the English as a Second Language Program (ESC) is taught in both Thai and English, and the English Program (EP) is the Thai curriculum translated and taught entirely in English.

The new schools will be located on 45 rai of land in Kathu, about a kilometer from the Tesco Lotus intersection.

There will be four buildings on the site, one each for Kindergarten, Primary and Mathayom EP, and the fourth will be a four-storey building housing Kajonkiet's



CGI of the completed schools.

new International Program (IP). The IP will implement a British curriculum, the first in the school's 56-year history.

The IP program will initially be available to children from 3 to 12, but they hope to eventually teach children up to 18 years of age. The EP program will be available to 3 to 18-year-olds.

## New international school takes form in Kathu



TAKING SHAPE: Kajonkiet's International School has a long way to go before opening later this year.

"We decided to branch out into international education because our EP program, initiated in 2000, has done very well and we recognize that there is a growing market for international-standard education in Phuket. We want to provide our students with options and the best quality education we can," a Kajonkiet representative said.

The buildings will occupy 10 rai of the plot when complete. The grounds will also feature a range of sports and academic facilities including: a swimming pool, tennis court, football pitch, basketball and volleyball courts, fully equipped science laboratories and a kitchen.

In-De Consultants designed the structures to be "very modern look-

ing and eco friendly," maximizing natural lighting and air flow.

Actual construction is being done by Vasi Construction Co Ltd, who have been working on the site since January this year.

The school hopes to open its doors in time for the start of the next school year: April for the EP and September for the IP.

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# Keeping memories alive help forge a community

AS I fly from Bangkok to Phuket more often than I care to remember, the trip often becomes routine at the best of times.

It all seems to blend into an exotic language variation known as "same sameness".

Working in both the hotel and property markets on Phuket for nearly a decade has led me to profile the visitors who share these planes with me – it has become a personal expedition of people watching. After all, foreigners coming to Phuket as tourists who may eventually invest in real estate has long been one of the key drivers of the island's economy.

At random moments, as the landing gear thumps on the tarmac and tourists on board light up with animated excitement, I am awash with an eerie feeling and a lump rises in my throat.

As the jet roars down the runway with flaps down hard, I look out the right-side window, watching for a bare patch of hillside and remember September 16, 2007.

On a blustery day with driving sheets of rain coming down, 89 people lost their lives on One-Two-Go Airlines flight OG269. It's been estimated that more than half of those who died were tourists.

I have this pent up urge to point my finger out the window and tell my seatmate the horrific story, but the moment passes and all too soon I'm fumbling for baht at the airport parking lot toll booth.

## As the One-Two-Go brand is absorbed into its parent company, we take a look back to that fateful day in 2007 when 89 people perished.

On the day of the crash, I was driving past the airport just minutes before the accident occurred, headed to Phang Nga with clients for a meeting in Natai.

Wind gusts were bouncing my SUV around and I recall trading small talk in the pounding rain about how lucky we were not to be flying that day.

While I traversed the Sarasin Bridge, an emergency vehicle sped by southbound on the other bridge with sirens screaming. Within half an hour calls started coming in from people asking whether I had heard about the crash.

For more than a year after, passengers on planes taxiing to or from the terminal could spot the wreckage of the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 that had been moved to near the beachfront.

Eventually the Airports of Thailand (AoT) authorities put up netting so while you could see the outline of the plane, oblivious passengers were unaware of the history behind the heap of machinery.

Again and again I had this compulsion to grab the person sitting in the next seat and tell them exactly what happened.

Viewing the scene was like watching one of those horror movies where you turn away at the last moment but can't help but catch the bloody ending out of the corner of your eye.

Whenever I speed past that familiar strip of red clay dirt beside the runway that looks just like any other to the unsuspecting eye, sadness comes over me that is hard to describe.

You can't help but know deep down that even if the incident didn't directly affect your own family, the lives lost were all someone's husband or wife, child, sweetheart.

Lives un-lived and dreams burst into flames when the plane caught fire.

It was debated by many local residents at the time in talks over coffee or a beer or two, why the crash came and went to quickly into our collective memory on the island. Perhaps the hangover from the tragedy of the tsunami was still fresh and people had simply had sensory overload from the ongoing series of catastrophes.

Recently in the news it was announced that One-Two-Go's parent airline has announced the consolidation of the brand into the



### Property Watch

By Bill Barnett



**UNDETERRED:** Tourists arrive at Phuket International Airport. Many are unaware, or undeterred, by the One-Two-Go crash in 2007. Photo: Elizabeth Branca.

Orient Thai namesake. For now the IATA coded "OG" flights that became synonymous with the accident will cease to exist. Even that link has now been erased from the storyline.

In these days of continual sensory overload, in which we live an instant at a time with more media coming at us than any other time in human history – you can't help but feel numb to such disasters.

There's just too much news for us to process emotionally.

While tourism over years has marched on, and while embarrassingly no fitting memorial exists today for so many who lost their lives (noted, there is one small memorial at the airport), it's good to reflect on the value of life looking back at both the good and the sad times of life in Phuket with value and respect.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through [www.c9hotelworks.com](http://www.c9hotelworks.com).

## In brief...

### Developers expect new zoning regulations

NEW zoning regulations are expected to be laid out in the Government Gazette towards the end of this year for Phuket and Phang Nga. The move follows changes in the past few months to Phuket's environment regula-

tions and Phang Nga's town planning regulations.

Some anxious developers have been fast tracking their work for permit submissions to beat what is expected to be new tighter legislation.

### Direct from Moscow

LEADING Russian airline Aeroflot will start its direct Moscow-Phuket route on December 29th.

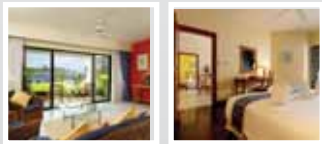
Sources say there will be three flights a week on the new winter schedule using the new Airbus A-300 aircraft.

## LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

#### 1 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.5 M



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- lagoon view
- leasehold

#### 2 Sheraton Island Villa THB 18.5 M



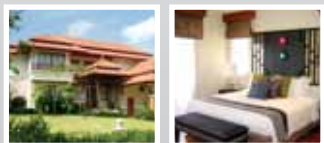
- 2 beds 2 baths Villa
- fully furnished • freehold
- pool & garden view

#### 3 Laguna Townhomes THB 26 M



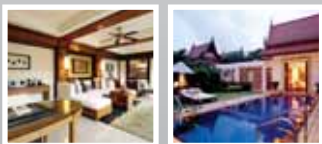
- 5 beds 4 baths Townhome
- fully furnished
- lagoon view • private pool

#### 4 Laguna Village Residence I THB 28.5 M



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- lagoon view • private pool

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## MARKET ANALYSIS

# Yields in Q2 remain flat, room rates cut

By Anand Singh

YIELDS for income-producing property investments have remained largely flat for the second quarter of 2010 in Thailand's major real estate markets, according to a report by leading real estate firm CB Richard Ellis.

In Phuket, the hotel industry continues to recover from the 2009 slump as tourist arrivals increase from last year.

But increased competition from other key Asian tourist destinations and the significant increase in supply of hotel rooms in Phuket have contributed to a decrease in average daily room rates by 9% percent from last year, according to a report from C9 Hotelworks.

During the first eight months of 2010, the most notable

property transaction in Phuket was the sale of the Dusit Laguna Resort by Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc to Dusit Thani Plc which took place in August 2010. The Thai hotel brand had been managing the Singaporean owned property for 23 years prior to the deal.

Dusit Thani Plc. acquired the property for over 2.7 billion baht, or around US\$ 90 million, according to data from the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

The Bank of Thailand held the benchmark interest rate at 1.25 percent per annum throughout most of the second quarter of 2010.

The benchmark rate was hiked on July 14 this year by 25 basis points. According to CBRE, property investment yields are likely to remain if there is no significant increase in bank deposit rates or government bond yields.

# Checking in on health



**FOCUS ON WELLNESS:** The PIA Mind Centre (pictured) is just one of the facilities that will be open to guests staying at the Thanyachitra resort.

PHUKET'S hospitality market has a newcomer that aims to cater to an audience seeking a healthy, active and balanced lifestyle. The Thanyapura Hospitality Group is set to launch three new properties in Phuket and Khao Sok, starting from next month.

The 38-room Thanyachitra Retreat, located near the Phuket International Academy (PIA), will be the first to open in mid-November. Plans are afoot to open the 77-room Thanyachiva Lifestyle Resort by November next year.

The group aims to promote health and wellness for guests by offering a wide range of health promoting facilities and services

in its resorts, including a diverse choice of sports, meditation, yoga and organic cuisine.

"The accommodation, facilities and services we provide at Thanyapura Hospitality Group ensures that we are opening with a wide range of options and locations that will appeal to leisure travelers and companies that may be looking for venues to host their events", says Chief Operating Officer Martin Michalik.

The Thanyapura Group will also be launching the Thanyamundra Organic Resort in Khao-Sok in mid-November this year.

The Thanyamundra is described as a sustainable five-star organic



resort. Located on a working organic farm adjacent to Khao-Sok National Park, it hosts two luxury villas, with seven suites and two rooms. Some of its facilities include a state-of-the-art fitness center, a 50 meter lap swimming pool, facilities for meditation and yoga as well as an organic cooking school that will utilize the produce from the organic farm.

The Thanyachitra Retreat in Phuket will offer comfortable accommodation with access to the PIA's facilities, including Mind Center's meditation and yoga programs as well as facilities in the PIA's Sports and Leisure Club.

— Anand Singh



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# Breath of fresh air in your sanctuary

## Gardening

By Green Sleeves

THE canna lily is not technically a lily, nor is it a shrub. It's a perennial herb.

Interestingly, its American origins mean that it is more sub-tropical than tropical, yet it is prominent in Phuket's floral landscape.

It grows unattended on the verges of many roadside ditches, and decorates its watery environment with bright splashes of color.

An additional benefit these lilies offer is a capacity to absorb pollutants in the vicinity of their roots. This is apt for Phuket, since judging by the unsavory odors that sometimes waft around there may be plenty of that.

This is a benefit the original planter, if there ever was one, was probably unaware of.

While the wild canna is usually pink in color and can grow three meters tall, the majority of cultivars are likely to stop at a meter and a half.

The hybrid canna or *putta raksa* is a truly spectacular plant, with broad and bright green leaves which grow nearly vertically from fleshy stems. The leaves tend to grow in a slender roll, and then gradually unfurl.

Over the years, horticulturists have marveled at the beauty of this plant, and have produced cultivators in a variety of colors, one of which has purple leaves.

But the real glory is the flower, which appears at the end of these long stems in a range of hues.

The most distinctive of these are the flamboyant red, both scarlet and a deeper crimson and the yellow, orange, or yellow suffused with orange.

And a real bonus is that as each flower fades, it is supplanted by another. In this way, one single stemmed lily may bloom for several weeks.

Since cannas appreciate a

plenty of water, they can be a useful feature of a water garden. Put them in a pot at the edge of your pond or waterfall with the bottom inch or so submerged, and they will flourish.

More usually though, cannas are grown together in beds in a manner similar to that of heliconias, where their massed flowers will create a dramatic impact. Along Nai Harn Road, such a display of multi-colored cannas fronted the Da Vinci restaurant. Unhappily, the recent road-widening scheme has meant that the spectacle has gone.

Another nice option is to use cannas in a mixed bed, so that their massive leaves nicely complement the foliage of other shrubs, without taking up too much horizontal space.

Make sure that the soil your cannas are growing from does not get bone dry. Although cannas are sun-lovers, they do not respond to arid conditions.

Cannas develop from swollen underground stems called rhizomes. These are effective at storing starch ie energy, and can spread rapidly given the right conditions.

Some gardeners lift these rhizomes and replant them afresh every year, but frankly, a little judicious thinning is easier.

The author has successfully propagated them from seed, a process sped up if the iron-hard seeds are soaked, or scratched to assist germination.

Note though that many cultivars are sterile, and their round seed pods will contain nothing usable.

Once cannas have finished blooming and the leaves are beginning to wilt or discolor, remove the seed pods and after a day or two, cut the stems back at ground level.

It seems a draconian measure, but the plant will have already stored food in its root system, and will shoot up again after a period of rest.

**NATURAL BEAUTY:**  
The canna lily is a great feature for your Phuket garden. It is pretty to look at, easy to grow and even helps ease pollution.

Although cannas can be cultivated in pots, they are surprisingly uncommon in plant nurseries. If you do find some to buy, ensure that they are started off in good quality soil, and are given a good initial soaking. And make sure that your purchase has a shoot or growing point as well as top growth.

This perennial herb rates very highly on looks, highly on ease of cultivation and adaptability, and fairly highly on resistance to disease.

Like the *heliconia* it will need plenty of water to give its best, and it can suffer from rust which turns the leaves an unsightly brown. For some reason, canna flowers attract sun birds, though there is no scent.

*If you have a garden that you would like to be featured, please email [pcampbell45@gmail.com](mailto:pcampbell45@gmail.com)*



## Tip of the week

### Help balance nature

DON'T use herbicides in your garden unless you have something very specific in mind, such as the elimination of weeds in your lawn.

In this case, you will need a selective weed-killer like Paraquat.

This will help kill off the broad-leaved weeds whilst still leaving your lawn in relatively good shape.

The downside is that it is the most toxic of all herbicides.

In Thailand, when you see a green plot suddenly gone brown and sere, it is obvious that someone has

been spraying it with a non-selective weed-killer.

It's probably Roundup, a herbicide developed in America, which uses the rather strong chemical glyphosate.

While it is less poisonous than old-fashioned chemicals such as sodium chlorate, and should decompose fairly quickly, its immediate impact is terminal on any plant life it comes in contact with.

And it will affect animal life too. Even seed-eating birds will suffer from the loss of food and habitat in your garden.

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# Phuket Gazette

NATIONWIDE Edition October 9 - 15, 2010 PhuketGazette.Net

## Festival reels in millions

By Pimwara Chokasakulpan

TURISTES coming to Phuket for the annual Vegetarian Festival from October 8-16 are expected to pump at least 200 million baht into the local economy during the week-long festival.

Occupancy rates in Phuket Town stood at 50%-60% on Tuesday.

vacations in Thailand and the three-day China National Day holiday on Monday that marks the start of a long holiday period in China.

Adding to the influx are two more direct flight services to Phuket, both landing on the island for the first time on October 12. Qatar Airlines inaugural Doha-Kuala Lumpur-Phuket will arrive at 10:30 am.

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# Phuket Gazette

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Phuket cop sought over bar demolition

Phuket babies may need to carry ID cards

Phuket: The House of Representatives yesterday passed the bill reading of a Bill to require one-year-old babies nationwide to have an identification card.

The bill, proposed by the Interior Minister, would lower the requirement age for carrying an ID card from 15 to one year.

Following a debate of more than an hour, the bill was approved, with 222 to 81 votes, with 5 abstentions.

The House set up a 25-member panel to vet the bill in seven... Full story

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Opposite Boat Lagoon. 24sq wah, 3 beds, 2 baths. Email: info@allaboutweb anddesign.com

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Sakdidee Rd. Near Poly Phuket. 47sq wah. Price: 1.7 million baht. Contact K. Sunit. Tel: 081-787 9021.

**TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG**

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

**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 ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

**1 RAI PASAK 8 FOR SALE**

Chanote title. 5 minutes from Laguna Phuket. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

**2 STORY HOUSE, RAWAI**

3 bed, 3 bath. European kitchen. Built-in wardrobes. Self contained bungalow, all on 715 sqm of land. 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-078 1112 (English), 087-628 3673 (Thai). Email: neil482010@hotmail.com

**HOUSE IN KATHU FOR SALE**

A nicely decorated single house with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and an open-plan kitchen. At a good location in Kathu. Price: 3.5 million baht. Available for rent. Tel: 081-440 0101.

**OCEANFRONT PLOTS FOR SALE**

12 oceanfront plots with 15 meter water frontage. Each 600sqm and ready to build. They're in a peaceful, natural area opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Direct sale from owner. Price: 3.9 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha\_phuket@yahoo.com

**KATA RESIDENCE FROM 8.5 MTB**

Big 2-bedroom apartments, 140sqm. Now 8.5 million baht. Free transfer fee. Free furnishing. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**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

**CHARMING HOME & POOL**

Exclusive hillside. Big pool and shady garden. 3 bed, 4 bath. Office. Very nice. Freehold. Secure. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

**PATONG STUDIO, 28SQM**

Freehold, all new and furnished. Price: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

**NICE PLOT**

For sale. Near Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo area), ready to build housing. Price: 7.2 million baht. Chanote title included. Please contact owner. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

**SUPER DEAL, KATA BEACH**

Beverly Hills Villa. Big pool-garden, 3 bedrooms. From 19 million baht; now selling for 16 million baht! Free furnishing. Free transfer fee. Chanote title, one year free finance. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**TROPICAL VILLA FOR SALE**

Lovely villa with a guest house, pool and shop for sale in Rawai. Price: 14.5 million baht. Visit: bigjuice.com

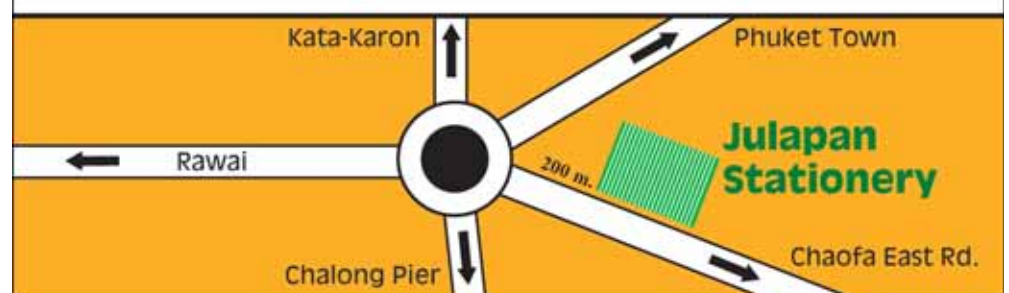
**CHEAP LAND FOR SALE**

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

**OCEANFRONT PLOTS FOR SALE**

12 oceanfront plots with 15 meter water frontage. Each 600sqm and ready to build. They're in a peaceful, natural area opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Direct sale from owner. 3.9 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha\_phuket@yahoo.com

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**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**







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- Hydraulic passarelle
- Bimini and sunpads

445,000 Euro

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► Jeanneau 43 DS (2000)

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► Princess 20M (1997)

MAJOR REDUCTION

549,000 Euro

► Searay 400A Sundancer (2007)

REDUCED

\$299,000 USD

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Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office  
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437  
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729  
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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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**MOTORSAILER 33'**

Neptunian 33. Single-handed, blue water cruising yacht. VHF, radar, autohelm, GPS, depth. Completely refurbished. 2 cabins. Hot water. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

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20m long, built 2007. One of the nicest we've seen. Price: 5 million baht. Includes mooring. More details, visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

**JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY 35'**

2003, great pocket cruising yacht. Price: US\$79,950. For further information, visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

**WAKE/SKI BOAT FOR SALE**

2-year-old, 4.2 meters long Cholmark boat with a 60Hp Yamaha Enduro engine. Includes trailer, GPS sonar, Waketower and more. Price: 475,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-949 1913. Email: juraj\_t@yahoo.com

**8M SAILING CATAMARAN**

Open bridge, wood, expoxy, fiberglass composite. 15Hp Yahama. All 2 years old, antifouling 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: +49-33-22293 0210. Email: stier@net-print.de

**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

**BAREBOAT WANTED**

Wanted: bareboat motorsailer for one or two weeks around Phuket for a Swiss inventer and a Lincolnshire farmer with 30 years experience. Please text Graham as above for more information. Tel: +44-179-0763249, +44-777-447 3916. Email: gla myman@btinternet.com

**BAYLINER 245Hp (2009)**

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

**FAST TOUR/ FISHING BOAT**

One owner, wonderful, fast tour boat, RIB rigid foam, 150Hp engine with Yamaha 5Hp for security. Full electronics, toilet, large sun cover. Up to 8 people, cruising at 25/30 knots in comfort. Priced to sell! Below US\$35,000. Hurry, best offer accepted. Tel: 076-270703, 087-2654268. Email: henkt@hku.hk

**40 FT CRUISING YACHT**

Fast fiberglass boat well equipped for cruising. It's been used for circumnavigation. Sale price: US\$85,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

**WHARRAM TIKI 26' (2010)**

As good as new with a 6Hp 4-stroke O/B, dinghy & out-board engine and mooring. Only 1.3 million baht! o.n.o. See our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

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See: www.boatshedphuket.com We are a "No sale, no fee" broker. Contact Alan on 084-842 6146.

**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

**12M MOTOR YACHT (1992)**

G.R.P. Cummings Diesel 300Hp engine. Just rebuilt. Price: 2.5 million baht. For more info, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

**SWAN 42 CRUISER/ RACER**

Discounted to US\$119,950. Must sell. Ready for King's Cup. Please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

**DINGHY BOAT**

9-meter long boat with 205Hp, 4-stroke Suzuki engine. 1 year-old in good condition. Price: 890,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 082-815 3132.

**55 FT CRUISING CATAMARAN**

6 double cabins, 105sqm sails. 2009 in composite, no engine. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

**43 FT ROBERTS CRUISING YACHT**

Fiberglass boat with equipment warranty. It is undergoing major refitting. Price: US\$43,500. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

**NEW 35 FT POWER CAT**

Almost completed. All fiber glass with fly-bridge. Perfect for diving, transfers. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

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To ensure clarity,  
please airmail.  
Do not Fax!

**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES****Word Detective: Blood****Crossword puzzle:**

1	L	E	S	T	5	S	A	I	L	9	D	U	N	C	E
14	A	L	A	R	15	P	A	N	E	16	O	N	S	E	T
17	D	O	N	A	18	R	A	I	D	19	S	C	A	P	E
20	S	I	G	N	E	21	E	22	T	23	P	E	E		
					24	S	E	E		25	R	E	D	R	E
29	A	C	T	I	N	32	A	A	H	S	34	E	L	E	M
35	G	I	R	L		36	A	B	B	O	T	37	M	A	C
38	A	N	I	L		39	C	H	O	S	E	40	O	T	R
41	M	E	N	U		42	H	O	V	E	R	43	N	E	E
44	I	M	A	M		45	I	R	O	N		46	M	I	S
47	C	A	L	I	P	E	R			49	S	A	O		
					50	N	A	R	E	S	52	M	O	U	T
56	A	T	B	A	T	59	N	O	T	61	S	H	O	E	
62	I	R	A	T	E	63	C	I	S	T	64	L	I	N	A
65	M	A	T	E	R	66	E	L	K	E	67	Y	S	E	R



**PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR**

Right To Play seeks Thai with fluent English, computer literacy, training and experience to work on education program. Please contact Khun Alisa. Tel: 02-652 9274, 076-321435, 081-122 4803. Fax: 076-321435. Email: info.righttoplayasia@gmail.com

**VILLA MANAGER REQUIRED**

Must be an experienced manager with excellent spoken and written English, good communication skills, and the ability to structure systems and organize staff, as well as look after guests. We are looking for a Thai person with all skills. Tel: 084-000 0001. Please send your CV to bookings@villachangrang.com

**STAFF WANTED**

Need a Thai man to help captain on sailing boat in Chalong. Salary fixed + commission. Start on November 1st. Must understand English. Tel: 087-277 7395. Email: delphine@sweetdreamers.info

**SALES EXECUTIVE**

Seeking sales person to visit hotels, massage centers, spas, wellness stores and more. Must speak Thai and English. Compensation: base salary + commissions on sales. Tel: 087-466 8640. Send CV or resume to xalan71@hotmail.com

**LOOKING FOR ACCOUNTS ASST**

1 position. Knowledge of basic accounting and English required. Tel: 084-849 7212. Email your resume to: zeycoth@gmail.com

**STAFF WANTED**

European-managed restaurant and hotel requires an experienced seafood chef, the salary depends on level of experience. Good opportunity. Other positions; English speaking bartenders, waitresses, waiters and kitchen helpers. English speaking hotel receptionists and driver. Guaranteed all season jobs. Hotel located at Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: 075-637767, 083-640 8003, 085-150 4840 (English & Thai). Fax: 075-637812. Email: aningrestaurant@hotmail.com

**TELESALES**

Seeking self-motivated native English speakers with excellent communication skills for a telemarketing position. Must be comfortable and confident on the phone. Experience in the service industry or telesales would be an advantage. Salary: basic, plus commission. Email: careers@pp-intl.com

**TRAINER, PHUKET OFFICE**

Right To Play seeks Thai with experience in Adult Education and Workshop Facilitation. Should be fluent English and computer literate. Please contact Khun Alisa. Tel: 02-652 9274, 089-776 6835, 081-122 4803. Fax: 076-321435. Email: info.righttoplayasia@gmail.com Website: www.righttoplay.com

**LIVE-IN NANNY / MAID WANTED**

Experienced live-in nanny to help with 3 children, aged 5, 6 and 7, at the Boat Lagoon. All children at school from 8am to 4pm. Cooking and English speaking skills would be a plus, as would a sense of humour. Tel: 081-893 7027. Email: potter.ian@gmail.com

**HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED**

Full time housekeeper wanted. Should speak English and must like dogs. Cooking Thai and farang food, cleaning house and office in Chermgtalay area. Call K. Sudarat: 081-978 2725. Fax: 076-326144. Email: dae@techworx-projects.com

**WEB DESIGN JOBS**

Seeking Dutch-speaking customer care reps, web and print designers, Photoshop illustrator. Tel: 084-620 2829. Please send CV to gianni@ictneo.eu

**THEATRE & RESTAURANT**

Palazzo looking for Stage manager and Light-Sound technicians. Must be experienced in the entertainment industry and have good English. Positions: Floor manager, Bar manager, Bar tender, Waiters, with artistic skills and ability to perform in the Entertainment area. Please contact: 076-202277. Email: info@phuket-palazzo.com

**BLISS LOUNGE**

We are looking for staff. Bliss Lounge Patong:  
- Bartender (Thai national)  
Good fixed salary, tips and bonuses  
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Thai national is required,  
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- Waitress  
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Good fixed salary, tips and bonuses. Positions available now! Interested? Visit us at Patong or give us a call! Tel: 085-619 4963 (Thai/English). Please send your CV to email: info@blissphuket.com Address: 58/6 Bangla Rd. Soi Patong Resort-Patong Beach



**Zeyco Thailand, a leading custom-built Kitchen and Wardrobe supplier, is seeking**

**Sales Designer**

- Thai National
- Own Car
- Basic conversational English required
- Knowledge of basic cabinet design a plus
- Salary plus benefits 20,000++ baht

**Designer (In-House)**

- Thai National
- Knowledge of Auto CAD, Photoshop, Sketch up and 3D Max a plus
- Basic conversational English required
- Salary 13,000 - 15,000 baht

Call ...076-612661, 089-8745996  
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**New French & Thai restaurant and guest house in Nai Yang Beach is recruiting immediately...**

- Chef de Cuisine (international/French cuisine)
- Chef de Partie / Demi-chef de partie / Commis
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Barmen / Barmaids
- Waiters / Waitresses
- Cook helpers
- Housekeeping

**Good benefits!**

Under Thai and French management. Good command of English required.

Interested? Please send your CV to [la.maison@ymail.com](mailto:la.maison@ymail.com) or contact us on 089-993-3964 (Thai and English)  
Address: 74/9 Moo 3 T.Saku A.Thalang Phuket 83110

**G-1 Land Co.,Ltd.****Positions:**

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Sales                             | 2 |
| • Administration                    | 3 |
| • Administration ( Night time ) Man | 2 |
| • PR                                | 1 |
| • Waitress                          | 2 |
| • Maid                              | 5 |

**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](mailto:info@kamalaregent.com) or [info@theregent.com](mailto:info@theregent.com)

**British International School, Phuket**

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

- **Housekeeping**
- **Building Maintenance**
- **System Maintenance**
- **PE Assistant**  
Qualifications
  - Thai National
  - University Degree, Physical Education Major or related fields
  - Good English, Positive, willing & hard working
  - Knowledge of local schools or clubs to arrange fixtures
  - Knowledge of local facilities & sports opportunities
  - Coaching qualification to coach a team such as Basketball or etc.
  - Be able to work flexible day 1 pm. to 6 pm. all day Saturday
- **IT Technician**  
Qualifications
  - Male or Female / Thai national
  - Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related fields
  - Excellent knowledge of Computer hardware and software
  - Ability to communicate in English
  - Able to work in team and independently
  - Hard working and team work attitudes
  - Excellent communication and coordination skills

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



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Fax: 076 238711-20 # 1130  
E-mail: [patcharakorn@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:patcharakorn@bisphuket.ac.th) or [sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th)



Phuket International Hospital is a leading provider of Plastic Surgery to overseas clients and is seeking to employ a Foreign Coordinator.

**Foreign Coordinator  
Phuket International Aesthetic Center**

This is a full time position open to both Thai and Foreign nationals

Duties include assisting the hospital with the daily management and administration of our plastic surgery department.

**Essential Qualifications**

- Excellent English language skills, including written skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Good computer skills
- Willingness to work on weekends

**Desirable Qualifications**

- Clinical, nursing or other relevant health care skills or experience
- Marketing or Management experience
- Professional presentation
- Demonstrated ability to meet defined objectives and deadlines

Interested candidates should contact Peter Davison for a position description and forward their CV-supporting documents to [peter@phuketinternationalhospital.com](mailto:peter@phuketinternationalhospital.com)

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# Yes

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We are opening soon and looking for  
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**Don't wait!**

Contact us via phone 076-393-550-1 or email your resume to  
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Check us out at [www.fourpoints.com/phuket](http://www.fourpoints.com/phuket)

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**FOUR POINTS**  
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Panwa**

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- Executive Assistant Manager
- Chief Accountant
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Purchasing Manager
- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Security Manager
- Laundry Manager
- Concierge
- Recreation Manager
- Spa Manager
- Executive Sous Chef
- Restaurant Manager

spg.      

## Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has experienced over 10 years as professional in printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide, which co-operate with our business partner-ship company as a headquarter in Europe.

We are expanding our production department and looking for an active colleague to work in our team department as a position of "Text-Editor". Interested candidate must be a fast learner, self-motivated, creative, and keen to learn a new thing & IT and also a team player.

### Text & Content Editor

#### Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Text and content checking + correcting
- Combination of text and figure in page layout
- Work with editing text program
- Art or imagination of design
- Team working and cooperate with other related department

#### Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai Nationality
- Fluent German Language in reading + writing
- Any Vocational, Diploma or higher education related field of study
- Good knowledge of Computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently
- Experiences of text editor would be advantaged

#### Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at: **VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)**

42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130

Tel: (00)66-76-380600 Fax: (00)66-76-380605 email: [info@vsdma.com](mailto:info@vsdma.com)

## Assistant Required For Real Estate Agent

**Koh Samui**

**Salary 15-20,000 THB**

**Thai national with good English, both written and spoken. Must be computer literate and have a minimum of 1 year experience in a real estate company.**

**In the first instance, please submit your CV with covering letter to [emma@palmgroupasia.com](mailto:emma@palmgroupasia.com)**

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[www.exotissimo.com](http://www.exotissimo.com)

**ARE YOU READY FOR TRAVEL?**

Exotissimo Travel is one of Asia's leading destination management companies.

We require staff for our operations department in Phuket. Your job is to handle the daily operations for inbound tours into Phuket. You will be responsible for checking all files created by reservations staff, booking guides and transportation and ensuring that all aspects of every tour are handled correctly.

It is essential you have a pleasant and out-going manner. You must be an excellent problem solver and be good at dealing with people.

Ideally you should have a minimum of two years experience with a local tour operator or similar position, or at least have an understanding of the complexities of this important job.

You will be a key person in our team and the right applicant can expect an attractive salary with excellent benefits.

#### Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree
- Thai national – male or female
- Min. 2 years experience in a travel company
- Good written and spoken English (German or French speaking is an advantage)
- Good computer skills (word, excel, outlook)
- Good attitude, hard working, ability to work as part of a team.

**Only those with a genuine interest in joining a professional travel company for long-term commitment need apply.**

**Interested parties are invited to send their CVs with a covering letter in English and a current photo to [christophe@exotissimo.com](mailto:christophe@exotissimo.com)**

Applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

**Exotissimo Travel Co., Ltd.**

Tel: 082-805 57 72

Fax: 076-610 182

Email: [christophe@exotissimo.com](mailto:christophe@exotissimo.com)

#### URGENTLY NEEDED

Seeking personnel for following positions:

- Receptionist
- Night receptionist
- Sous chef
- Waiter
- Waitress
- Assistant general manager
- Housekeeping
- Engineer
- Cook

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Patong, Kathu, Phuket  
83150 Tel: 076-345345-7.  
Fax: 076-345099.**

**Mobile: 081-893 0135.  
Email: [accounting@clubbamboo.com](mailto:accounting@clubbamboo.com)**

#### RECEPTIONIST

Cleaner, security wanted. For guesthouse in Patong. Please contact more information. Tel: 082-598 1386.

#### STAFF WANTED

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

#### TEACHER WANTED

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# Champs return for triathlons

By James Goyder

REIGNING Ironman 70.3 world champion Michael Raelert of Germany will head a first-class field of professional triathletes coming to Phuket for two exciting competitions in November.

Mr Raelert, joined by some 900 competitors, will take on the back-to-back challenge of the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) and the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship, all in the space of seven days.

The competitions will be held on consecutive weekends at Laguna Phuket, the LPT taking place on November 28 and Ironman 70.3 on December 5, also the birthday of HM The King.

In addition to Michael Raelert, there are many more Olympic and professional athletes coming to Phuket for the event.

Laguna Triathlon director Debbie Dionysius thinks the number of world-class athletes taking part will attract global media attention.

"The caliber of professional triathlon talent on show, together

## Who to look out for:

Former Ironman 70.3 world champion and 2004 Olympian **Samantha McGlone (Can)**

12-time Iron distance race champion **Belinda Granger (Aus)**

Former LPT champion and Ironman 70.3 winner **Massimo Cigana (It)**

Experienced Ironman **Justin Granger (Aus)**

Recent Ironman 70.3 and Tokoname runner-up **Frederik Croneberg (Swe)**

with enthusiastic amateur fields, will create fascinating sporting spectacles and draw worldwide attention to Phuket," she said.

Pros and amateurs that have entered for both races face the challenge of recovering from the LPT to take on the Ironman 70.3 Championship a week later.

The latter event, to take place on a modified LPT course, has been described as "a turbocharged



**INCOMING: Samantha McGlone will lead the women's pro line-up.**

Laguna Phuket Triathlon."

The LPT course has a 1.8 kilometer swim, 55k bike ride and 12k run. The Ironman 70.3 course has a 1.9k swim, 90k bike ride and 21.1k run, which works out to a total distance of 70.3 miles.

The Ironman 70.3 bike course is particularly challenging. Crossing over the treacherous Thepkasattri Road on a specially-built ramp, competitors will then run into the

picturesque east coast hills before swinging back to Laguna Phuket along a series of steep inclines along the Nai Thon coastline.

To support competitor preparations, triathlon training and related social events are being staged at various venues around Laguna Phuket before, during and after the main events. These will allow opportunities for amateurs to train alongside the pros.

The amateur ranks include Phuket resident Garry Holden, who will attempt both the LPT and Ironman 70.3. His efforts are the latest phase of a fitness lifestyle launched only a year ago with his appearance on TV reality show *The Biggest Loser Asia*, where he managed to shed a staggering 45 kilos of flab in just five months.

He makes his attempt after successfully completing the half marathon category of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon in June, his first-ever running event.

For further information please visit: [www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com](http://www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com) or [www.ironmanphuket.com](http://www.ironmanphuket.com)

## Island reels in fishing tourney

GET your tackle ready for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Phuket International Sport Fishing Tournament (PIST) which will be making a splash off the island from November 17-20.

About 100 fishing enthusiasts and 20 teams are already signed up to take part, with entries still being urged via the tournament's website.

Following "catch and release" rules, fishermen will be angling to reel in plenty of fish over the four-day event, including wahoo, dorado, black marlin, barracuda, yellowfin tuna, sailfish and many more.

Trophies are up for grabs for teams who net the following: most billfish; most points overall; top team on day one, two and three; best lady angler; best junior angler and the heaviest fish caught.

If you would like to sign up, or get out and watch the fishing, see [W:andamanfishingadventures.com](http://W:andamanfishingadventures.com), or [phuketinternationalsportfishing-tournament.com](http://phuketinternationalsportfishing-tournament.com). Alternatively, contact Khun Uw at [E:uweschittek@yahoo.com](mailto:E:uweschittek@yahoo.com), or T: 076-282036 M: 081-7195766.

## Phuket kick off for an Arsenal affiliated football tournament

THE JSSL Arsenal soccer school is returning to Phuket for the third year in a row for the annual Phuket 7s Tournament.

Over 220 parents and children are expected to travel to Phuket with the Singapore based soccer school this December.

The tournament is for local and international teams alike, and will be kicking off on December 12.

JSSL Arsenal is Singapore's largest soccer school with over 800 students. It is affiliated with Arsenal FC in the UK.

The tournament will take place at the British International School and the local teams are welcome to join up free of charge.

The tournament gets underway at 11am, although teams are advised to turn up at least half an hour early to register.

All players who take part will receive a medal, and all games will be refereed.

There will be competitions for five different age groups: Under 7s, Under 9s, Under 11s, Under 15s and Over 15s.

On December 11, they will warm up with friendly matches against the British International School and on Sunday the JSSL Arsenal Phuket 7s will start. Last year there were teams from Singapore and Beijing competing with local Phuket teams.

"We encourage many local teams to come and enjoy themselves at what has become a yearly fun tournament. Phuket has now become a second home for JSSL Arsenal" Harvey Davis, the managing director of JSSL Arsenal said.

Anyone wishing to enter a team in the JSSL Arsenal tournament should contact Harvey Davis at: [harvey.davis@espnstar.com](mailto:harvey.davis@espnstar.com).

— James Goyder

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 The aquatic programmes include aqua aerobics, recreational lap swimming, leisure play, competitive swimming and coaching for a range of sports. The Aquatics Academy is open 7 days a week.  
**Join us for a free trial lesson this October!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Creative Arts**  
 Drama Class with "Denise Bertrand", Phuket's only freelance drama educator.  
**Every Wednesday, from 4:00pm – 5:30pm at Drama Room, PIA Day School**

**First Aid Courses**  
 Aquatics Academy offers internationally recognized certification First Aid Courses with our professionals. Courses start from the 11th October and run through to the end of November 2010.

**BSS Mid-Term Camp**  
 Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS) will be heating up the mid-term break with their highly popular 5 day Brazilian Soccer Camp.  
**October 18th - 22nd, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, for both boys and girls, aged 6 – 16 years old.**  
 Free bus pick up and drop off.

**Interactive Circus Arts Now!**  
 KidzSole for the entire family! Try the "I CAN", Interactive Circus Now programme with a lot of activities, fun and excitement. Do not miss the "Walk On Water" highlight.  
**6-week course starts Saturday, October 30th, 2010**

**Ironkids Camp**  
 PIASLC's first Triathlon specific training camp for kids 6 – 14 years old, where young athletes will learn everything to complete an IRONKIDS Triathlon. Swim, cycle, and run to become an IRONKID!  
**October 18th – 22nd, from 9:00am – 2:30pm**

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# Volleyball ladies gunning for gold

By James Goyder

THE world's best female beach volleyball players have all signed on for this year's Swatch FIVB Phuket Open.

Last year's winners Jennifer Kessy and April Ross will be back to defend their title, but will face some stiff competition.

Despite being the reigning world champions these two will not be the favorites to win the

event, which is once again being held at a specially constructed arena on Karon Beach.

That honor goes to Brazilians Larissa Franca and Juliana Felisberta.

They are currently ranked number one in the world and have won five tournaments already this year to go with the eight tournament wins they hold from 2009.

The rivalry between these two pairings is well established and the

Brazilians will be looking to get revenge on Ross and Kessy who defeated them to win gold at the Swatch FIVB World Championships in Stavanger, Norway, last year.

While those that follow the women's tour closely will be hoping for a juicy Brazil vs USA final, there are several other teams who will hope to have a go at gold. Zhang Xi and Xue Chen from China are the most likely Asian candidates.

Ranked number four in the world, it is assumed they will be the number three seeds.

Sara Goller and Laura Ludwig from Germany are also expected to at least reach the semi-finals.

They have finished second in three separate tournaments this year and will be looking to go one better in Phuket.

The 2010 Swatch FIVB Phuket Open is scheduled to take place from November 2 to 7.

For more information visit: [www.fivb.org](http://www.fivb.org).



SMASHING SUCCESS: Some of the action at the Phuket Open last year.



TIPPED: Brazilians Juliana Felisberta Silva and Larissa Franca. Photo: FIVB

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