

# Phuket Gazette

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## Floods leave travelers stranded

NEARLY 100 foreigners expecting to board flights to Koh Samui and other travelers bound for southern provinces by bus were left stranded this week due to the lethal flooding in the region.

Phuket Airport director Pratuang Sornkham told the *Gazette* that flights from Phuket to Koh Samui were initially suspended on Tuesday.

"Flooding has forced the airport at Surat Thani to close. About 100 passengers, 90% of them foreigners, have been stuck in Phuket," he said.

"We have spoken with them and all of them understand the situation," he added.

Also on Wednesday, Phuket Provincial Transport Office (PPTO) Chief Kanok Siri-panichkorn announced that bus services from Phuket to Trang, Phattalung, Haad Yai, Satun, Sungai Kolok and Betong had been canceled.

Travelers were urged to check with PPTO at 076-211977, 076-220791 or call a hotline set up at 1584 before making plans to travel to flooded areas in the South.

— **Atchaa Khamlo**

# Patong one-way traffic plan stalls

By **Atchaa Khamlo**

PATONG Municipality's plans to redress the busy resort town's traffic woes have stalled.

The municipality wanted to reverse the one-way system, set up a tuk-tuk depot behind Jungceylon and clear the long lines of parked vehicles along the town's cluttered streets — all before the tourism high season starts.

At the project's current speed, that will not happen.

At the heart of the problem is reversing the one-way system.

Patong Municipality and Kathu Police agree that traffic flow will be reversed, but disagree on minor points of implementation.

Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao told the *Gazette*, "We may have to meet a few more times before we come to agreement."

"The next meeting may be around the middle of this month."

Adding to the delay, Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhabaan pointed out that such plans must be publicly announced at least one



**SEEING RED:** Tuk-tuks queue along Patong's beach road. Photo: Apinun Saitong

month before being put into effect.. He also pointed out that reversing the traffic flow will require new traffic signs to be posted and road lines to be repainted.

While the details of the one-way system are being hammered out, Patong Municipality wants to go ahead with the tuk-tuk depot and clearing the streets from the overcrowded parking.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat

Sukhabaan explained, "Patong Municipality is offering to set up a taxi call center. The taxis will park in the same places, but only a few at a time so they do not obstruct traffic."

"They will rotate being parked at arranged points [as done at "taxi ranks"], and not park in long lines like they do now," he said.

However, Lt Col Arayapan believes setting up the taxi depot and clearing the tuk-tuks from lining

the streets may be putting the cart before the horse. "The taxi call center can be set up after the changes to the one-way system have been made and the new traffic signs are posted."

"About 70% of parking spaces along the road and much of the red-and-white no-parking zones are occupied by taxis and tuk-tuks. There are very few spaces left for people with cars," he said.

"We are trying to get the project done before high season, but we're not sure if it's possible — it's not easy," he added.

Patong's top policeman also called for some help in implementing the project.

"All related organizations, such as the Transportation Office and the Provincial Office, need to help us as Kathu Police and Patong Municipality cannot do much by ourselves," he said.

"We are rushing to implement the plan as we want to get it done, but people must understand that we are trying to resolve problems that have been here for over 10 years," he added.

## Fans, family hold vigil for FC Phuket star

PHUKET has turned out in droves to support of FC Phuket star midfielder Camara Ahmed, who remains comatose in the intensive care unit at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Camara, from the Ivory Coast, collapsed on field from a heart attack at Surakul Stadium last Saturday during the FC Phuket match against Chainat FC.

He was revived en route to hospital, but has been in a coma since.

Candlelight prayers were held for the star player on Wednesday and scores of people have arrived at the hospital to wish him well.

"Camara's condition has remained the same. His pulse is normal, but the doctors are closely monitoring his condition," said FC Phuket administrator Kazi Hans.

"We are also coordinating with his family. His mother is currently awaiting visa application approval so she can come to see him."

Camara's brother, Kone Lassine, 37, arrived from his home in Chonburi to join Wednesday's vigil.

Mr Lassine and his fiancée, joined by FC Phuket players, club president Paiboon Upatising and about 100 fans, gathered in

front of Camara's room to fold paper into bird shapes as a sign of good health, before massing in front of the building to light candles and pray for Camara.

"I am supposed to go back to Ivory Coast to see my mom before she joins the haj to Mecca, but I have to be here instead," said Mr Lassine.

"I know Thai people have good hearts, but it is still very surprising to see such goodwill and sincere support like this. It is unbelievable to see how good FC Phuket and their fans take care of my brother," he added.

— **Pimwara Choksakulpan**



**The candlelight vigil.** Photo: Apinun Saitong

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## This Week

**Kusoldharm crisis hits Patong**  
Sacking of 33 volunteers in Patong sparks outrage. **Page 8**

### Business



Heavy rains hurt Phuket fishermen's net profits. **Page 13**

### Food for thought



Dinner and a show at Kathu's Palazzo. **Page 15**

### Construction



Environmental Impact Assessment for Kata condo upheld. **Page 23**

### Classifieds

Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. **Pages 26-38**

### Sport



A bittersweet victory for FC Phuket in promotion playoffs. **Page 39**



# Bangla landmark to reopen as nightclub

CONSTRUCTION crews are working overtime to ensure the site of the old Bangla Boxing Stadium in Patong will be ready for a grand reopening on November 13 as the Factory Bar nightclub.

Hailed as the biggest new night entertainment venue in Phuket, with a capacity of nearly 1,000 party goers, the club will feature a 26-meter-long bar, dance floor and imported Scandinavian decor with a modern-industrial design.

The club will be operated by the Seduction Group Thailand, which established Seduction Beach Club & Disco on Soi Bangla four years ago.

A key feature of the new club will be panoramic views through floor-to-ceiling openings along the two streetside exteriors of the venue.

The design team, with about 50 successful Factory clubs in Scandinavia to their credit, has been flown in specially to oversee construction.

The redevelopment of the site at the top of Soi Bangla comes just weeks after the closure of Baan Sukhothai Hotel, one of the longest continually operating hotels in Patong.



**NEW LEASE ON LIFE:** The venue has gone from Shark to Boxer to Factory.

The venue, located opposite Jungceylon shopping center, was once home to the famed Shark discotheque and then the short-lived Star Wars nightclub.

With the tourist high season approaching, the club's management will be targeting foreign clientele.

"As Phuket continues to grow as an international tourist destination, we aim to cater to the increasing number of foreign visi-

tors who demand a high standard of hassle-free entertainment at world-class venues, said Seduction Group Thailand's Managing Director Santeri Nurmi.

"The new Factory Bar will bring much-needed contemporary addition to the Patong night entertainment scene, which we are confident will be a key factor in attracting more international tourists, he said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Young couple die in head-on smash

A YOUNG couple on a motorbike died instantly in a head-on collision with a pickup truck in Phuket on Wednesday.

Police are now seeking the driver, who abandoned the wrecked vehicle at the scene and fled on foot.

Arriving at the scene on Chao Fa East Road in Chalong shortly after 6am, officers found the bodies of 28-year-old Prasertsri Panchanan, from Maha Sarakham province, and Marisa Sawangyen, 22, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Both had suffered massive head trauma and other injuries.

Crashed into a large road sign



The pickup hit the young couple head-on, then smashed into a large road sign. The blue sign on the right instructs bicycles and motorbikes to keep left.

nearby was the pickup, bearing Udon Thani license plates.

Witnesses said Mr Prasertsri was riding southbound toward Chalong Circle with Miss Marisa riding pillion when they approached the scene of an accident involving two motorbikes.

In order to avoid the vehicles and injured people in the road, Mr

Prasertsri apparently steered into the oncoming lane.

His motorbike collided head-on with the pickup, which then crashed into the roadside sign.

Both the driver of the pickup and a passenger with him immediately fled on foot.

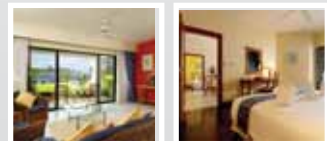
They are now sought by Chalong Police.

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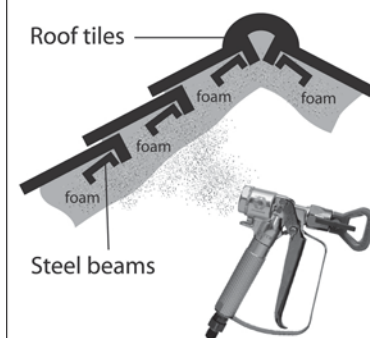
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HEAVE: Some 200 people joined in to save the boats from the storm.

## Fisherman race to save longtail boats

WIND-driven waves damaged seven longtail boats anchored in Bang Tao Bay on Tuesday.

After receiving a report that the effects of the tropical depression passing over Phuket would start to be felt at 3am, over 100 small boat owners moved their vessels to safe anchorage at Ao Reang, near the Amanpuri resort.

Not all of the vessels could be moved in time, however. At least eight longtails and small fishing boats sunk in Bang Tao Bay.

By about 5am, waves as high as four meters had caused most of the remaining boats to break anchor and run aground in the surf line at Bang Tao Beach.

A team of villagers assembled in the darkness to help salvage the

remaining boats, which quickly filled with sand and water.

The team was able to manually bail out the sand and water from seven longtails and small fishing boats, then manually push them far enough ashore to prevent further damage.

One capsized boat remained about 20 meters offshore, its anchor line preventing it from beaching.

Seree Soison, president of the Bang Tao Longtail Boat Club, said all of the damaged boats were put to sea 15 days earlier following extensive repairs and repainting ahead of the upcoming tourism high season. He estimated engine repair work alone would cost about 15,000 baht per vessel.

## Cabinet approves Bt2.6bn for new convention center

THE Thai Cabinet has approved plans for the long-awaited International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) in Mai Khao to go ahead, with construction likely to get under way mid-2012.

The announcement was made at a public hearing for the mega-project last week.

"The EIA [environmental impact assessment] by Phuket Rajabhat University, which is costing 11.5 million baht, should be finished by December this year," said Pitak

Direksunthorn of the Treasury Department.

"It will take until July to choose a construction contractor and the final plans have to be drawn up, which will take until about December 2011. Then another EIA must be conducted to assess the impact of the final design.

"Construction is likely to start in April 2012," he said.

# Hungarian to be deported over fraud

By Atchaa Khamlo

IMMIGRATION officers are moving to have a Hungarian man deported by Saturday following his arrest for defrauding travelers and local tour companies of more than one million baht.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak told the press on Tuesday that his officers tracked down Zoltan Arpad Horvah, 28, after receiving a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs late last year.

Horvah was arrested on October 28 at his rented house at Chaofa Garden Home, where he lived with his parents.

He was held in custody at Chalong Police Station then later transferred to the holding cells at Phuket Immigration.

He stands accused by Hungarian authorities of collecting advance payments of more than one million baht for tour packages and services but with no intention of providing them.

Col Panuwat explained that Horvah touted overly cheap tour packages through his company Thpages Online Media.

The package included accommodation, meals and flight tickets for 360 euros.

"More than 100 Hungarians transferred money [to him] by Western Union, but they never received their flight tickets," said Col Panuwat.

Disgruntled tourists filed complaints with police in Budapest, he explained.

"When the amount totaled over one million baht, the Hungarian authorities contacted the Thai Min-



Zoltan Horvah (pictured) is expected to have been deported by Saturday.

istry of Foreign Affairs," he said.

To promote the packages, Horvah is alleged to have also claimed that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Hungary was supporting the promotion, explaining why the tour packages were so cheap.

Horvah's operations also snared people in Spain and Australia, said Col Panuwat, adding that local tourism operators in Samui, Phang Nga and Phuket had also been tricked by the alleged scam.

"After we caught him, about five Thai tourist businesses, such as boat operators and hotel representatives, came to get back their money, about 500,000 baht.

"His friends paid back some money to help him, but more

people will probably come forward [with claims] now that his story is out," said Col Panuwat.

Uthai Graidist, owner of Elixir Resort on Koh Yao Yai, said he had lost about 150,000 baht.

Mr Uthai said Horvah had been using the resort to host tour agency representatives on "familiarization trips", known in the trade simple as a "fam trips", since October last year.

Mr Horvah had been traveling to Phuket since 2003, but his passport expired on May 20 this year, giving the Phuket authorities a reason of their own to have Horvah deported.

"We will contact the Hungarian embassy to send him back to Hungary," said the colonel.

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# The Great Rubber Duck Race returns

AFTER the success of its first fund-raising Race Day in November last year, the Phuket Community Foundation (PCF) has announced the charity event will return on January 23, 2011.

Making the announcement at the Blue Elephant restaurant, Alasdair Forbes, vice president of PCF and chair of the Race Day organizing committee, promised the event – which will include dragon boat, kayak, raft and cardboard box races – will be “bigger and better” than last year.

“This time we’ll be at the Latitude marquee in Laguna Phuket, so everyone will be able to see everything that’s going on,” he explained.

“This will include, of course, the Great Phuket Rubber Duck Race 2011, which is being sponsored this year by Esme Paya and her Dream Gallery in Rawai.

“Last time we had 1,000 ducks. This time we’ll have many more.

“We’ve over a million baht worth of prizes for the duck race, including a three-day cruise on the fabulous five-star wooden sailing yacht *Silolona* – for 10 people. That prize alone is worth around 800,000 baht.”

Other prizes will include a four-night stay for two in a Banyan Tree pool villa, with four rounds of golf, four 90-minute spa sessions and dinner for two with wine at Tré restaurant; two nights in a pool villa at the Dewa Resort on Nai Yang Beach; an Apple iPad donated by Lee Marine; a Day’s sailing for four with Yachtpro; and 20 children’s tickets for Splash Jungle.

“There will be more,” Mr Forbes said. “Duck Race tickets are now on sale at some 30 locations around the island, or you can buy them online through the PCF website [www.phuketcharity.org]

“In addition, we’ll have a stage with plenty of entertainment, including a Delightful Duckies costume contest for little girls, a dance show, a live band and – the highlight – a performance by master illusionist Joe Conrad.”

Food and drink will be provided by local businesses, including Indochine, Watermark, Wine & Taste, Gitano, the Blue Elephant, BonCafé, Lady Pie and others.

Other activities have been arranged, including rides in vintage cars from the Phuket Classic Car



The PCF is looking to beat last year’s record of 1,000 ducks in the Great Phuket Rubber Duck Race. Photo: PCF

Club, a “beat-the-goalie” competition, a trampoline and an arts corner for quieter kids.

“We’re very grateful to Laguna Phuket for their magnificent venue and all the help they are giving us,

and to all the other sponsors. We’ve been overwhelmed by their generosity.

“And don’t forget,” he added, “to make this a true Race Day, we need energetic people to sign up

for the races on the water. They can do that through the website, too.”

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are co-sponsors for the PCF Race Day.

## Patong motorcade to support helmet campaign

ABOUT 500 Phuket motorbike riders are expected to make their way along the beach road in Patong on November 16 to highlight the importance of wearing safety helmets.

Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao said the motorcade of “safe riders” is part of an island-wide campaign to raise road-safety awareness.

The motorcade comes before the January 1 deadline when Kathu Police will begin the enforcement of the law requiring all motorbike passengers to wear helmets, Lt Col Arayapan said.

Kathu Police already fine motorbike riders not wearing helmets, but thus far passengers have largely been exempt, he said.

To get the motorcade off to a rolling start, Lt Col Arayapan has enlisted the support of Preechavade “Prab” Keesin, president of

the Patong Taxi Federation and son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin.

The federation has more than 1,000 members, including tuk-tuk, motorbike and car taxi drivers.

The motorbikes will depart from the junction of Phang Muang Sai Khor Road and Prachanukroh Road at 3:30pm.

Behind the motorbikes will be people walking along the route in a show of support.

Any people wanting to join the procession are asked to be at the junction no later than 2pm.

Participants will make their way toward the beach, then progress along the beach road to Patong Sports Field, where an officiating ceremony will be held followed by a football tourney and on-stage entertainment.

Roads along the route will be closed to traffic during the parade.

– *Pimwara Choksakulpan*

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# Talking sex, saving lives

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

IT IS no secret that prostitution is rife on Phuket, yet it is rare when a modicum of common sense prevails over public policy.

One of the best examples is the ongoing campaign by the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) to ensure sex workers have regular health checks.

On the frontlines as head of the PPHO's Aids division is Eam-orn Kittitornkul, a 22-year veteran of public health work in Thailand.

Ms Eam-orn and her team do not debate the legality of prostitution, nor do they lecture on morality; they simply go out on the streets once a month to educate and check the health of scores of women on Phuket engaged in the world's oldest profession.

The officers have one goal in mind: protecting the women's health. They conduct regular checkups, educate on safe sex,

and do blood testing for HIV/Aids – free of charge.

It has proved a challenge to get women to come forward and have the checkups. That takes trust, and trust takes time.

"The relationship between female sex workers and public health officers and volunteers has been more than just friends for a while now," says Ms Eam-orn.

"We're like family, and that helps us to convince them to get health checkups," she explains.

The statistics add weight to her argument: In July 2009, there were 6,457 people in Phuket known to have HIV/Aids. As of July this year, that number had risen to 6,951.

That's 494 new HIV/Aids cases "arriving" in the province in a single year – more than one per day.

According to PPHO statistics, 93.13% of those in Phuket with HIV/Aids contracted the condition



Public Health officer Eam-orn Kittitornkul takes a blood sample from a sex worker in Phuket Town for a HIV/Aids test. Photo: Sitthipong Nongkaew

through unprotected sex.

Adding to the problem is the array of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) that make their way around the island. An estimated 80% of reported STD infections occur through heterosexual sex.

That's just the ones the PPHO knows about. Many STD infections are treated at private clinics.

To encourage more women to step up and have health checks, Ms Eam-orn and her team recently ran the Phuket part of a national campaign launched under the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The campaign included road shows in four major tourism and economic areas – Bangkok,

Chonburi, Chiang Mai and Phuket – with the aim of breaking down the social stigma faced by female sex workers.

The program asserted that by not looking down on themselves, female sex workers would be more likely to take better care of their health, which would lead to fewer incidences of STDs.

The number of reported STD cases in Phuket has fallen from 558 last year to 429 this year.

In Phuket, Ms Eam-orn and her team took the campaign to the heart of Phuket Town's sex industry: Phun Pol Rd Soi 11.

They spoke to the women and showed a short film highlighting that female sex workers have the same human rights as others and should not let their occupation shame them into avoiding medical services.

Sao (not her real name), a 36-year-old sex worker originally from Suphanburi, said, "I know that society looks down on us all the time, but whether we feel insulted by it is up to us. I normally come for health checks about twice a month, or if possible once a week.

"It is important to look after our health, such as by using condoms. I have to be careful and refuse customers who ask to not use one," she added.

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# Death plunge driver may face charges

THE driver of the van that plunged off a raised expressway and exploded on Halloween may face charges for the accident, which has so far claimed nine lives.

The crash happened around 5pm close to the Rama VI exit of the Chaeng Wattana expressway in Bangkok.

The driver of the van, Viroj Pansombat, 56, remains in intensive care with fractured ribs and bleeding in his lungs, *The Nation* reported.

Mr Viroj could be charged with reckless driving causing death, police said. If found guilty, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

Mr Viroj may also face three other charges, according to *Kom Chad Luek*.

Lt Col Wathit Ittakul of Expressway Traffic Control said Mr Viroj was using the wrong type of van for the work he was doing.

In addition, the van was designed to take 12 passengers, yet there were 16 in the vehicle when it crashed, Col Wathit said. Mr Viroj was also allegedly operating a service without a public transport license.

Police said the van swerved and hit the expressway wall before plunging from the road near Samsen School.

The van's gas cylinder then exploded.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze before rescue workers cut the van open to get injured passengers out.

Many of the bodies of the dead were charred beyond recognition.

Mr Viroj's son, Weerayut Pansombat, said he was told that a female passenger shouted out during the trip that she smelled gas.

"My dad looked back," Mr Weerayut said. "By the time he refocused his attention on the steering wheel, the van was close to a fork in the road. He must have tried to apply the brakes but it was too late."

— *Phuket Gazette*



The packed van burst into flames after falling from the expressway. Photo: The Nation

# Floods devastate South

## British PM blasted over Thai trip

### AROUND THE nation

THE flooding that submerged cities in the North and Northeast of Thailand over the past two weeks has now hit the South, pushing the nationwide death toll from the disaster to 105 at the time of going to press.

Haad Yai, Songkhla's largest city, was hit by a 40-hour downpour which by November 3 had left large swathes of the city under water. Haad Yai Mayor Phrai Phattana described the floods as the worst in 100 years, according to *Kom Chad Luek*.

This year's inundation was even worse than in 2000, said Mr Phrai.

In that year, the city was paralyzed for five days in a disaster some described as "the worst flood in Thai history".

This year's rainfall had set a record level, said Mr Phrai. Thousands of people were stranded in



THE GREAT FLOOD: A 40-hour downpour has crippled Haad Yai and other parts of southern Thailand. Photo: AFP

their homes, and long queues of vehicles were blocking roads as residents tried to flee up-country.

Mr Phrai estimated that about 80 % of urban areas and 30,000 households had been affected, with about 10,000 residents stranded in their homes, *The Nation* reported.

At the time of writing, the Haad Yai provincial irrigation office said flood water should subside in urban areas within two or three days if pump-aided drainage continued at the current rate. Areas near some canals will require more time because they had swollen to a high level, the agency said.

In addition to Songkhla, the floods spread to eight other provinces in the South: Phatthalung, Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Satun, Trang, Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani.

In Nakhon Sri Thammarat, two people drowned, bringing flood fatalities across the country to 105, including three foreigners, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

In Pattani, floods on main streets in urban areas caused heavy traffic congestion, and a warning was issued to fishing trawlers against going offshore.

About 2,650 families in Satun have suffered days of heavy rain, while 100 families in Narathiwat have faced chest-level floods.

— *Phuket Gazette*

HUMAN rights campaigners have attacked British Prime Minister David Cameron over reports he plans to spend Christmas in Thailand, according to the *Mirror*.

Thailand continues to apply a repressive state of emergency in Bangkok, while no-one has yet been held accountable for the deaths of 91 people during this year's red-shirt protests.

Mr Cameron should "think very carefully about the message he is sending," said opposition Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn.

It is believed Mr Cameron, 44, will spend time with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, 46. The two leaders were contemporaries at Britain's prestigious Eton College and Oxford University, though it is unclear whether they know each other.

"I believe he [Cameron] is traveling to Bangkok at the end of this year around Christmas time and he's going to spend some time in Bangkok and some time at one of our beaches," a Thai source told *The Nation*.

The news comes shortly after the red-shirt United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) petitioned the International Criminal Court (ICC) to charge Mr Abhisit and 14 other senior leaders with crimes against humanity.

*The Daily Telegraph* said the UDD accused the leaders, mostly from the military, of ordering targeted assassinations, torture, illegal detention and inhumane acts.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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# Patong hit by rescue worker crisis

By Janpen Upatising

THE Kusoldharm Foundation, the island's largest provider of emergency rescue services, terminated all of its volunteer staff in Patong in late September.

The volunteers are now demanding a clear explanation as to why they were let go, and the right to set up their own rescue club.

The dismissal affected all 33 Patong volunteers, who were locked out of their operations center near Kathu Police Station.

The former volunteers recently set up their own "Phuket Rescue Volunteer Club" to work in Patong. They even had a new logo attached to their rescue vehicle.

Their efforts have thus far been in vain. Patong Municipality on October 27 turned down their request to register as a club.

Citing a copy of the dismissal report received by the municipality, Mayor Pian Keesin said the application was refused due to the "profile" of the applicants.

Kusoldharm Foundation Phuket President Benjawan Tamphanuwat called the situation an "internal issue" and declined to go into detail as to why the volunteers were no longer wanted. "Those former volunteers have done something wrong to us and we don't want them. That's it," she said.

As Patong is a small area, she said, four to five rescue staff there would be more than enough to cover the town. "When there's an

accident, it won't be a problem. There will be someone to help. But it must be someone who knows correct rescue techniques and has undergone training," she said.

There are now seven paid Kusoldharm workers in Patong, all of whom who receive monthly training, Mrs Benjawan said. "We will add more staff for the high season. Just give us some time – we are doing our best," she added.

Copies of the dismissal report were sent to several government agencies, including Kathu Police, Patong Municipality and Patong Hospital. "The notice informs them those volunteers no longer represent us. They are not allowed to wear Kusoldharm uniforms, use our logo or use Kusoldharm as a reference," she said.

"I think this conflict should come to an end. If it cannot be resolved, then legal action may be necessary," she said.

Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao said, "This [dismissal] doesn't bother us because [the volunteers] have caused so much trouble in the past. They also had issues with Patong Hospital."

"The former volunteers assisted the injured carelessly... Their actions sometimes caused more pain or injury," he said.

Col Arayapan alleged that the former volunteers sometimes accepted payment for their work, including transport fees for delivering patients to certain hospitals.



ROLL CALL: Adisorn Chaipolrit points to the honors board of the dismissed Kusoldharm volunteers in Patong.

"I've looked at their profiles. Each was involved with the foundation for their own benefit. They don't have salaries and are not wealthy."

"I think they joined the organization because they could get money for taking people to hospital," said Col Arayapan.

"It is Kusoldharm Foundation's job to control volunteer behavior. The organization must train their people well, otherwise bad things will happen," he said.

Even if the volunteers set up their own foundation, Kathu Police will not work with them, he said. "They used to argue with male nurses and snatch patients away... It's the hospital's responsibility to send their own staff, who know how to treat patients," he said.

It wasn't only medical staff whose work was compromised, he maintained. "The volunteers sometimes arrived at accident scenes early and tampered with evidence. In some cases involving foreigners, belongings were reported missing," he said.

Col Arayapan also said the vol-

unteers were involved in illegal drug use, adding that one was charged with possession of narcotics after marijuana was found in his home.

Patong Hospital Director Dr Phumin Silaphan, however, had a different take on the relationship between the volunteers and his staff. "As far as I know, there weren't any problems with our staff or with the way the volunteers delivered patients to hospital. Paid rescue staff and volunteers worked together in the past. The results were okay."

"But we have never seen how the volunteers act on their own when assisting injured people, so we can't really evaluate all of their work," he said.

Dr Phumin dismissed the idea that his staff paid anyone to bring accident victims to Patong Hospital, which is government run. Such a policy would create more work than the staff there could handle, he added.

Lhor Thamsri, one of the dismissed volunteers, refuted the allegations of illegal drug use. "We can challenge them to test our

urine, but they are not brave enough to accept. If they can't detect drugs in our urine, the board members should all be dismissed."

"Drug issues in the foundation are related to their staff, not us. We have been defamed," he said.

Mr Lhor also denied the ex-volunteers accepted payment for services rendered. "We never received any money for sending injured people to hospital. We just wanted to help them. Money was never the issue because we worked for free," he said.

The ex-volunteers say they want to resolve the issue through direct negotiations.

"We don't want this to go to court. We don't have the money. What we do want is to meet with the foundation so they can explain the reason for dismissal."

Fellow former volunteer Adisorn Chaipolrit said, "If they don't want us to work for them, that's fine, but they must repair the damage they have done to our reputations... We have helped the community, but now we feel neglected and hurt."

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## FC Phuket: Keep fighting for Camara

I hope the best for young Camara Ahmed, the FC Phuket player who had a heart attack during play last weekend. My thoughts go out to his family and teammates.

It's a shock to see someone so young and healthy suffer from such a serious medical condition, yet it's not all that uncommon for young athletes to overexert themselves leading to such catastrophe.

The human body is not immune, no matter how old. Let's hope that athletes around the world continue to learn from these tragedies and become more aware of the health of not only themselves, but their teammates as well.

It's been a great season for FC Phuket, and as I've seen, Camara has been a driving force behind that. Let's keep it up FC Phuket and win this tournament for him!

*True green  
Phuket*

## Medication not the solution

One of the first things you learn when you get to Thailand is that Thai people do not express anger out of fear that they'll lose face in front of others for not being able to control themselves effectively.

This arises from their Buddhist beliefs. It's a noble quality to have and many in the West can learn a lot from it.

They are always happy and celebrating life – or so it seems.

I'm just wondering what they do when they get depressed.

Recently, I had a bout of "life

# Saving lives is not an 'internal affair'

## Phuket Gazette

**THE en masse dismissal of Patong-based volunteer rescue workers by the Kusoldharm Foundation once again raises the need for better standards in emergency medical rescue services, not just in Patong but across all of Phuket.**

As a privately administered organization, Kusoldharm Foundation has the right to dismiss volunteers whose conduct is unbecoming to the organization, but to terminate the services of all 33 volunteers without offering any public explanation is somewhat surprising action coming from the island's largest and most well-funded charity (see page 8 for a *Gazette* exclusive).

To be fired from a paid position is one thing, but to be told that services rendered free-of-charge will no longer be accepted is an even more serious affront, one that naturally raises question about what exactly lies at the heart of the dispute between the organization and its former volunteers.

Both sides mention the possibility of a court case, but neither care to let on what charges might be laid – or against whom.

When the motivation for the actions of any group or individual come into question, it is generally a good idea to follow the money trail. Unfortunately, the Kusoldharm Foundation currently under the direction of President Benjawan Tamphanuwat, releases very little information about its management decisions and finances.

Shedding some light on the issues involved was Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao, who charged the ex-volunteers with using their positions for their own personal benefit, such as by accepting payment

for delivering patients to certain hospitals.

Col Arayapan also charged the ex-volunteers with having poor rescue skills that put accident victims at extra risk, tampering with evidence at accident scenes, and drug use. He also mentioned that valuables were often reported missing from accident scenes by foreign tourists who received assistance.

But there are always two sides to every story. The director of Patong Hospital said he wasn't aware of any problems arising from the volunteers' work, while charges of involvement in illegal drugs use was backed up with reference to a single case of marijuana possession.

There is no question that Kusoldharm will need to beef up its staff in Patong in time for the rapidly approaching high season, when the increase in the number of people on the ground and the various enjoyments they pursue virtually guarantee a higher accident rate. Achieving this through an increase in professionally-trained staff would be great – if it can be accomplished.

The worst situation, one to be avoided at all costs, would be to allow two rival rescue operations to operate in the seaside town. Patong has enough problems as it is without laying down the framework that could lead to violent confrontations between rival emergency rescue services. Such confrontations have been well documented in other parts of Thailand where their areas of coverage have been allowed to overlap.

assessment, her conclusion was to take me off my current antidepressants and put me on new ones. No weening or psychological counseling to help me with my issues – it was cut and dry with her.

After questioning, I learned that because the meds cause drowsiness and I wouldn't be able to drink alcohol, I would basically be stuck at home with myself.

Is this standard treatment in Thailand? Is everyone suffering from depression here condemned to an unsocial state of solitude?

*Name and address supplied*

## Why does Thailand welcome criminals?

I am relatively new to Thailand and I love the place and respect its laws. I also understand that as a sovereign country, Thailand has the right to undertake or refuse extraditions as it sees fit.

What I don't understand is how easy it seems for fugitive criminals from all over the world to settle and live here.

At Phuket Immigration a week ago, I met two criminals: a Ukrainian with a Belize passport and a Frenchman with a Vanuatu passport.

Both told me with big smiles that they live and work in Phuket with "no problem".

Is that the kind of publicity Thailand really needs?

If Thailand does not want to extradite, that's their business, but at least deny these people residence so they go somewhere else. The country would be better and get much better publicity on an international level.

*Name and address supplied*

## Phuket Gazette

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## Issues & Answers...

### Are metered taxis making more?

I have noticed that the metered taxis at Phuket International Airport are now charging 50 baht on the meter in addition to the standard 100 baht minimum fare one must pay before you get into the taxi.

When I queried the drivers, they said, "We can do this one. No problem!" Is it legal for metered taxis to do this?

I have also caught a few out having a cloth over the meter screen when I got into the taxi. By the time we got to the front gate of the airport, the fare was already 80 baht.

The reply to this was, "Oh! Big sorry, I forget."

*Kangaloo  
Patong*

**Chansit Wonglee, manager of Phuket Taxi Meter Co, replies:**

Having the meter start at 50 baht is not new. This is the same

therapist is a natural part of life. Almost everyone I know has one and it is considered healthy.

When the doctor eventually called me in, after a very brief

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as in Bangkok, where they start the meter at 35 baht.

This practice is standard around the world, and we have the legal right to charge it.

It makes sure that if a passenger gets in the taxi and then travels only a very short distance, that the taxi driver stills collects enough money to pay for the gas and time in taking that passenger.

This 50 baht is separate from the 100 baht because the 100-baht fee goes directly towards the costs of running the taxi counter and our fees for operating at the airport. This money does not go to the driver.

As for drivers cheating passen-

gers, I admit that this problem sometimes occurs.

If you think you have been cheated by any of our drivers, remember the taxi's license plate number and inform me.

I am stationed at the company's counter on the first floor of the airport from 1pm to 8pm every day.

I will issue the driver a warning, and if it happens again I will cancel that driver's scheduled times to pick up passengers at the airport.

### Is Phuket tap water safe to drink?

Is tap water safe to drink in Phuket?

*Jack  
Chalong*

**Pisak Chalayut, manager of the Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority (PPWA), replies:**

The PPWA is responsible for the mains water supply in Wichit, Chalong, Rawai, Kata, Karon,



# Patong Hospital needs to excel in healthcare

## FIRST PERSON

ABOUT two to 300 patients come to Patong Hospital daily. However, the hospital has only 60 nurses, which is not enough.

We want to get 10 more nurses to ease the workload, as the ones we have now are working more than usual to keep the hospital going.

Currently there are 12 doctors working here, and by next June we will have three more returning; they worked here for a few years and were given scholarships for further education.

After they finish their specialized degree programs, they will return to improve the hospital. They will be able to handle more difficult procedures.

Once the three return, the number of patients wanting to see them will grow and they will no longer need to seek treatment elsewhere.

To accommodate the increase, we will need more staff and more beds.

That's why we're building a new inpatient building with an additional 60 beds.

Construction will begin in January or February next year and is expected to finish in 2012.

I hope that with the new building and doctors, the hospital will be able to provide better treatment to people in Patong and patients will no longer need to be taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital (in Phuket Town) for treatment.



**Dr Phumin Silaphan, 37,** has been working as a surgeon for the past 15 years and has been the director of Patong Hospital for a year. Here he talks about the future of the hospital and its role as a representative of Thailand.



Patong Hospital is tackling challenges to meet the 'international' demand.

The hospital will continue developing to support tourism as well.

Many foreigners visit Phuket, or even Patong, directly. Because of that, the standard of the hospital should be higher than public hospitals in general, so the tourists can be sure that if they

are sick, the hospital can treat them well.

I know that [for foreigners who come to] Patong Hospital, our hospital facilities and our medical staff become representative of all hospitals throughout Thailand.



UNDER SIEGE: Soldiers stand guard at a school in Yala. Photo: AFP

## Time is now for healing the South

### Island View

By Nicholas Altstadt

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

FLOODWATERS threatening scores of people throughout southern Thailand have critical implications for the ongoing Muslim insurgency devastating the border regions.

There is a "peephole" of hope in this disaster and the moment is now.

As Thailand reacts to a natural calamity, it's safe to say the nation has a clear common goal: stay alive, hold out, clean up and get on.

Deeply rooted beneath the floodwaters are tensions manifested in acts of violence perpetrated almost daily against soldiers, police, government workers, teachers and innocent civilians.

Whatever the justification for the decades long, largely ethnic-Malay Muslim insurgency, it is concern for "the now" that seems largely absent, and the young are paying the price.

According to a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report published in September, insurgents in the Deep South are suspected in the killings of at least 108 government teachers and 27 other education personnel since January 2004.

In 2010 alone, the report says, 14 government teachers have been killed.

Justification for such attacks is usually based on the fact that public schools are part of the Thai government.

The extent to which an oppressed population will go to deliver what it feels is justice are well documented – from Palestine to Tiananmen. A dejected, stigmatized and impoverished citizenry will go to desperate measures to get what it wants. Justifiable or not.

What is inexcusable are acts of depravity and the wholesale slaughter of innocent people, or those deemed guilty by association. It is equally reprehensible for any government to respond to depravity in kind.

The HRW report went on that security forces have conducted raids and searches for suspected insurgents and weapons at Islamic schools. "On some occasions, they have made mass arbitrary arrests of students, or the raids have turned violent, endangering students and teachers," it said.

Governments should not take

positions of authority for granted. In most cases, they have the financial and human resources to take the moral high ground – it's the will to do so that's questionable.

Not only does maintaining the status quo fail to quell the rebellion, it also risks alienating new generations and creating enemies "from within". One common practice of the Thai military that needs a thorough review is the use of schools as operations bases.

"While school security might require the presence of government forces near schools, there are many disturbing instances of troops using schools for extended counterinsurgency activities," a HRW senior researcher said. "The government shouldn't interfere with children's education just because it wants somewhere convenient to set up military camps."

This has led to a fear that schools will become a more attractive target for insurgents.

"I had nothing against the soldiers when they were outside the school... But when they moved into the school, I feared there would be an attack on the school, so... I withdrew my children..." one mother said.

In this climate of fear, it may seem impossible to find a way out, and it may just be that this latest natural disaster provides a sliver of an opportunity.

I'm no advocate of Milton Friedman's "shockonomics", crusading for privatization of everything in the wake of war or natural disaster, but the time is now for the government to put into action a rational, realistic, transparent and fast-paced relief and reconstruction plan for all in the troubled South.

Now is the time to bring people together – regardless of language, ethnicity, sex, color, creed or political affiliation – and cooperate to stay alive, hold out, clean up, get on... and get better.

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

Patong, Kathu, Koh Kaew and some areas in Phuket Town (in other areas of Phuket Town, Phuket Municipality is responsible for providing mains water supply).

However, please note that some villages in these areas use their own water supply.

Areas not supplied by us have their mains water supplied by their local administrative organization or have their own water supply, such as at Phuket International Airport.

I cannot say how clean water from those supplies is, but I can say that tap water from the PPWA is clean enough to drink because we check and analyze water quality every day.

Sometimes after we have fixed mains water pipes, the water turns red. Just let the water flow for a while and it will become clear again.

If you have problems about water turning red or want more information about your supply, please check where you get your supply from and contact that office directly, because so many people incorrectly presume that



The Potable Water Zone building on Patong Hill. Photo: Apinun Saitong

they get their water supply from us.

But if you do need to contact us, call 076-319173.

**Sawong Sri-in, Director of the Waterworks Department at Phuket City Municipality, replies:**

The Phuket City Municipality buys tap water from the PPWA and we also produce some ourselves.

I can say that generally our tap water is safe to drink. We check

and analyze our water quality every day.

But some mains water pipes have been in use for a long time, and this might cause some sediment to be carried by the water passing through the pipes. This of course is after we have treated the water to potable standard.

For more information, call the Phuket City Municipality at 076-240760 and ask to be put through to the Waterworks Department.



## On The Move *Introducing the island's movers and shakers*



Thailand's only Maître Cuisinier de France, **Jean-Noël Lumineau**, has been appointed as the Boathouse Wine & Grill's Executive Chef. Chef Lumineau earned his distinction as Maître Cuisinier de France, an elite group of famous chefs with about 700 members worldwide, 13 years ago. Chef Lumineau was executive chef at the Michelin-star rated Château Hôtel Le Prieuré for 25 years.



Indigo Pearl has appointed **Anna Olsson** as Director of Sales and Marketing. Ms Olsson has a Diploma in Hotel Management from Les Roches Swiss Hotel Management School in Switzerland. She also attended training courses and workshops in Sales & Revenue Management. Ms Olsson has over 10 years work experience with five-star deluxe companies such as Jumeirah, Kempinski and Rosewood hotels.



The Adamas Resort & Spa recently welcomed **Kamolsuk Phasuk** as their new Personal Assistant to the General Manager. Mr Phasuk will be responsible for market analysis. He can speak four languages and just achieved his Master's Degree in International Business in Hotel and Tourism Management from The University Centre Cesar Ritz in Switzerland.

# Check-in queues a thing of the past

By Alastair Carthew

SELF service at airports is gaining popularity globally. Although it may be a while before we see some of the sophisticated methods being used around the world, at Phuket International Airport (PIA), it is inevitable that self service will soon become the norm.

Airlines with direct flights to PIA, such as Tiger Airways of Australia, have already introduced kiosk check-in and a sophisticated SMS boarding pass technology.

Others are either introducing this, or will need to follow suit to remain competitive. Airline terminology for self service is Common Use Self Service (CUSS).

In many ways PIA, with its tourist based passenger traffic, does not have the same needs for self service technology that larger, hub airports do, as most of the passengers do not have the

same sense of urgency.

However, a huge number of Phuket visitors come from countries like Germany, Sweden, Australia and Japan, where highly sophisticated self service check-in and baggage tagging and tracing is in use.

Expectation from such visitors, if nothing else, will pressure PIA to take on more self service through techniques like kiosks.

The airport's projected passenger volumes of a seven million passenger increase to 13 million by 2014, will also force the introduction of CUSS just to meet demand.

Baggage, the bane of many a traveler's journey, also has an influence in this area.

A recent poll by the national daily USA Today, found that of the top 10 things that annoy passengers the most, luggage charges were ranked number one, and not being able to reach a live service

representative was fourth, whilst long waits at the baggage claim was last on the list.

These are all relevant to the huge increase in self-service technology. To demonstrate just how self service is expanding, SITA (Société Internationale de Télécommunications Aéronautiques), a leading air transport and IT communications specialist company, conducted a self-service survey this year taking a representative sample of 287.6 million passengers using seven international airports all over the world.

It found that 74% of passengers booked online; 61% checked in online, and 71% checked-in at a self-service kiosk.

About 70% of passengers would tag their own bag if they could and 75% were interested in off airport bag drop-off.

So self service is growing with the need for airlines to cope with



**TURNING TREND:** Self-check-in could soon be all the rage in Phuket.

increasing numbers of travelers, and because airlines want to keep their costs low and make traveling as seamless and enjoyable as possible for the client.

We are moving toward the so-called "unstaffed airport," which sounds great, but there are one or two issues.

Firstly, the issue identified in the USA Today survey regarding the lack of "live people" around.

And secondly, passengers still need to be taught about new technologies, such as fingerprint based biometrics for baggage handling.

This technology, which is al-

ready in use in Sweden, involves the passenger imprinting a finger print on a machine at check in, which matches their identity with the bag.

Airlines require that a passenger with baggage also boards the same plane.

The process does not hinder the efficiency of the check-in and boarding process. The fingerprint is erased at the end of the flight to protect personal integrity.

This, and many other forms of self service are revolutionizing the passenger experience.

It is only a matter of time before PIA joins the party.

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# Deluge swamps fishing industry

By Anand Singh

SEVERE rains holding the country under siege may cause significant revenue losses for Phuket's fishing industry.

According to Teerapong Apaipatdee, a researcher at the Phuket Fisheries Operative Center, the rains may cause damage to livestock in ponds that are used to farm saltwater fish and shrimps.

"It may cause the salt content in saltwater shrimp farms to shift. This may lead to massive amounts of livestock dying from the sudden change in water quality.

"It also makes them more

susceptible to outbreaks of diseases," Mr Teerapong said.

Anticipating further heavy rains, shrimp farmers may harvest their livestock prematurely.

The smaller shrimps therefore cannot fetch the desired prices in the market, leading to further loss in revenue, said Mr Teerapong.

Phuket shrimp farms produce up to five million kilograms of shrimp each year.

The Thai Meteorological Department last week warned small vessels from taking to sea in anticipation of more bad weather.

This is also likely to weigh heavily on Phuket's offshore

fishing industry because inactive fishing boats not only forego fishing revenue, but owners still have to pay laborers' wages even if the boats stay ashore.

According to Mr Teerapong, this is likely to encourage many fishing boats to defy the Met Office's warning and may lead to increased accidents and losses at sea.

He also urged the government sector to step in to help fishing and marine farming industries that are being affected in Phuket and elsewhere.

"If the severe weather persists, we may see revenue from fisheries and shrimp farming fall by as



**BLEAK TIMES:** Severe weather is damaging the fishing industry. Photo: Jim Welch

much as 50%", Mr Teerapong warned.

"Prices of farmed shrimps are likely to stay the same in the short term due to abundant stocks. However in three to four months, prices may start to rise due to shortages

in young shrimps, which may have been destroyed or prematurely harvested. Prices of offshore catch may rise by as much as 20% in the next couple of weeks as fishing vessels are not able to operate," he added.

## Lenient PIA landing fees to lure international airlines

LANDING fees at five airports across Thailand will be reduced by the Airports of Thailand (AOT) in a bid to raise the number of incoming international flights.

Phuket International Airport (PIA) is one of the airports where AOT will implement its new incentives scheme, effective from November 1.

The new scheme will be in place for three years and aims to encourage international airlines to open new international routes to PIA and four other destinations in Thailand.

The terms and conditions of the scheme state that if an international airline starts operating scheduled flights that connect Phuket with a new city, they will receive a 95% reduction in

airport landing fees.

As an added bonus, scheduled flights that land during off-peak hours, which is anytime from 1am to 8:59am and 10pm to midnight, will also receive a bonus of 70 baht per passenger.

Airlines that wish to start operating an existing route from Phuket will not receive the 95% reduction in landing fees.

They will however receive a bonus of 60 baht per passenger if they land during off-peak hours, and a bonus of 40 baht per passenger if they land during the peak hours.

Chartered flights that want to start operations between Phuket and a new international city will also receive a 95% reduction in landing fees.

Off-peak landing bonuses for

chartered flights will however, only be 35 baht per passenger, less than the passenger bonus for non-chartered flights.

Chartered flights that operate an already existing route will not receive a landing fee reduction. Instead, they will receive a cash bonus incentive of 30 baht per passenger if they land during off-peak hours, and 20 baht per passenger if they land during peak hours.

The cut in landing fees and the passenger bonus hopes to encourage international airlines to start operating more and more new routes connecting Phuket with cities abroad.

According to the terms and conditions handed out by the AOT, a new route will only be classified as such for one year, after which

point it will be considered an existing route.

As such, a carrier that starts operating between Phuket and a new international city will only receive landing fee reductions for a period of one year, after which it will continue to receive only passenger bonuses.


According to data provided by AOT, any international airline may take part in the incentive scheme, as long as they have a clean record and no outstanding debts


with the company.

Airlines that have taken part in the previous Aviation Marketing Incentive Program, which ended on October 31, may also participate in the new scheme.

Data from PIA shows that from May to October this year, 31 carriers have been operating from PIA, of which 25 are foreign airlines operating chartered and regular flights to 28 international cities in Asia and Europe.

— Anand Singh





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# Memoirs of a dreary madman

## Books

By James Eckardt

### My Booky Wook

By Russell Brand

THE British comedian and actor Russell Brand has been in the news lately for his big Hindu wedding in India to singer Katy Perry.

By the time this comes to press, they may be divorced.

Brand is a notorious philanderer and in fact his autobiography *My Booky Wook* (It Books, London, 2009, 353pp) opens up in a sex addicts clinic in Philadelphia. Subtitled "A Memoir of Sex, Drugs and Stand-Up", this is a simply awful book, painfully stupid to read.

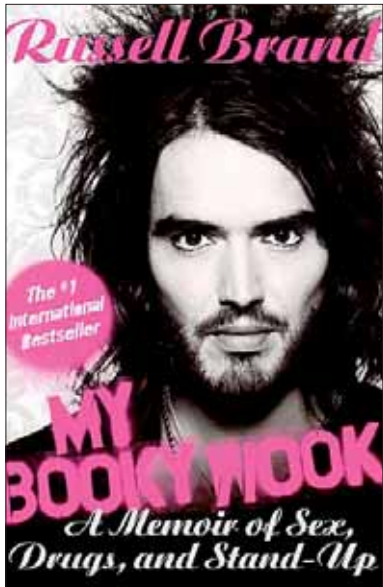
Reviewers are quoted as comparing Brand to Ricky Gervais, Eddie Izzard, Jim Carroll and George Best.

They are wrong. He is simply himself, over and over and over: a drunk, heroin and crack addict, and compulsive womanizer.

Over a dozen times in the book he calls himself as a "solipsistic".

A self-proclaimed self-obsessed, self-centered, self-deluded, selfish and boring.

For a comedian, he is a horrible, humorless blowhard. The book comes with 13 color childhood photos and another 17 as a teenager and adult, and ends with thanks to his hairdresser, housemaid and makeup artist.



He starts off with the usual dreary English childhood in Essex, his indifferent school days, his vegetarianism, his grubby masturbation sessions, and his first love:

"I wanted love and a partner, salvation damn it; this was before I became a bounder."

The book, and Brand himself, only become alive when he's standing backstage before a high school play:

"There was five minutes more, standing there with the tension, stifling the urge to vomit – already drained – nothing left to give but a performance. And then I walked out onto the stage for the first time in my life. The light. The light so bright that all that remains is you and the darkness. You feel the audience breathing.

It's like holding a gun or standing on a precipice and knowing you must jump. It feels slow and fast . . . It's like falling in love and being utterly alone with God; you taste your own mouth and feel your own skin and I knew who I was and that it wasn't who I'd been up till then. I'd never been so far away and I knew I was home."

The rest of the book doesn't match this level of intensity, though he does manage to toss off a few jokes: "Children don't need drugs, because they have sweets."

Mostly it's a dreary round of blowing his chances at acting school, blowing his chances at standup comedy, blowing his chances on television by epic bouts of boozing and heroin snorting.

Also trampling on the many women who threw themselves at his feet.

It's boring and repetitious and you wish he would just get on to doing something significant that merits reading of the book.

Then he enters drug rehab and the book becomes even more boring. The last chapter consists of diary entries during his time in the American sex addiction clinic.

Here's two: "I'm now in the grounds watching frolicking squirrels who seemingly have no idea that they are at a center for sexual addiction. They come only for the vim of spring. In the spazz bus the whole group sang 'The Star-Spangled Banner'. – fifteen pervers in unison. They all know it. American sex crooks are still patriots."

"Had to write a victims' list – a litany of the women I've wronged as a result of my sexual addiction. I feel like Saddam Hussein trying to pick up individual Kurds . . ."

There are flashes of brilliant comedy and wordplay, but that's all that can be said of this ultimately dreary book.



**BIG BREAK:** 'Forgetting Sarah Marshall' starring Kirsten Bell and Russell Brand was the British actor's big Hollywood break in 2008.

## Behind the pages

Lee Child

BRITISH-born thriller and mystery writer Lee Child shot into top five lists around the world in September with his 15<sup>th</sup> Jack Reacher novel *Worth Dying For*.

Jack Reacher is the main character in Child's books, who has come a long way since his first appearance in *The Killing Floor* published in 1997.

Reacher is a vigilante ex-military cop who travels across America – carrying only a toothbrush and expired passport – killing the abusers of women and children, executing his own kind of justice.

In *Worth Dying For* Child has crafted another intriguing cast of protagonists and love inter-



**EATING BULLETS:** Author Lee Child.

ests to keep Reacher busy, on his great American tour of justice.

– Nicky Vermeulen

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# Fine dining with a twist

## On the Menu

By Bruce Stanley

PALAZZO Theatre Restaurant opened last week to the applause of Phuket's hospitality industry. It certainly is one of the best new attractions to arrive on the island.

Vladislav and Alexandra Bond are an attractive classically trained couple who met at the College of Performing and Circus Arts in the former Soviet Union. They have worked and performed together in Europe at the Monte Carlo Festival and with Circus of the Future.

"In Russia, the circus is considered an art form like ballet and the other fine arts. We've traveled and followed the growth of theater and performance throughout our careers and wanted to make our own theater experience on Phuket, the region's Monte Carlo," said Alexandra.

It is also an opportunity to introduce their own style of entertainment which is more modern and sensual than traditional circus fare.

There is certainly a lot to put a smile on the face. First, there is the enchanting theater designed and built based on traditional circus spaces found in Europe. The circular room is draped in red curtains with stained glass windows and professional theater lighting. There are enough tables to seat about 200 guests comfortably, from round tables for six to intimate tables for two as well as plush booths for families or small parties. Large white candles in silver holders light the room.

The program at Palazzo is almost four hours of engaging entertainment mixed with haute cuisine. Chef Maya Noosawat and



Shrimps spun in crispy noodles.

Richard Randall have created a five-course dinner menu that is served between thrilling and amusing performances.

The main course is a generous portion of duck wellington that has been preceded by a lobster bisque, a beef carpaccio with Japanese

caviar and a tasty combination of shrimp, wrapped in crispy noodles, with marinated scallops. Dessert is a cream cheese mousse with dragon fruit sauce. The combination of flavors leaves the taste as satisfied as the eyes and emotions are with the show.

So much talent has been brought together at Palazzo. Performers from seven countries fill the stages and the air during the evening including aerial artists, singers,



INTERNATIONAL STARS: Performers from seven countries display their captivating acts at Palazzo.

acrobats, dancers and magicians. There are two stages, one in the center of the room from which performers capture interest.

Master of ceremonies is trained opera singer, Dmitri Pronin, a former acrobat on horseback with the Moscow Circus.

"I was born in the distant Urals in a village where the Tsar and his family were murdered. I always had performance in my blood and was accepted as the only candidate of 300 applicants to the prestigious St Petersburg Academy of Acting.

"While I had a big voice and wanted to sing and tap dance, I soon realized my way out of the Soviet Union was by joining the circus so I could tour abroad."



DYNAMIC DUO: Palazzo creators Vladislav and Alexandra Bond

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# Jumping through hoops for ethics

IN 2004 an agency within the Ministry of Education called the Thailand Council of Teachers (TCT) mandated that foreigners applying for most teaching licenses take a 20-hour Thai culture and ethics course.

The objective of the course is for foreigners to understand Thai society and professional ethics as they relate to the teaching profession—particularly in the case of teaching minors.

The nationwide syllabus is broken down into hourly increments: language and culture (six hours), professional ethics (six hours), Thai society (four hours), Thai etiquette (two hours), and Thai art and music (two hours).

It took three years for the course to gather steam, but by 2007 teachers in many provinces were required to attend the course and pay fees in excess of 6,000 baht. Schools slowly began footing the bill and costs came down by a considerable percentage. Now, most schools pay but some still refuse.

The course is typically taken over a weekend and although required for work purposes,

most schools expect teachers to attend during their personal time.

Often, teachers have to travel long distances to find an accredited course and a minimum two night's accommodation is also paid for by the teacher.

Let's be fair: These costs and inconveniences aren't too much to pay for professional development.

Most teachers want to improve their craft and hardly any can negate the benefits of building cultural awareness.

So on its surface, the course appears to be fairly innocuous—even useful. However, once you scratch the surface, the course gets rather irritating in the eyes of many past and future attendees.

Take the case of foreign teachers who have lived in Thailand for many years and speak Thai at advanced levels: Many of these teachers are married to Thais, have homes, are enthusiastically aware of Thai society and have no need to learn the basic *wai* gesture, nor be guided through the basics of the Thai alphabet.

They don't commit major

## In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

cultural *faux pas* at school and they generally get along with Thai staff. For these teachers, the course is a weekend of costly redundancy.

Sporadic enforcement of the course can be another irritant for teachers. In some provinces the course is mandatory, in others it is not. It can even vary from schools in the same province.

Even though the course was supposed to come into effect in schools nationwide in 2004, six years later, this is not the case.

The ethics portion of the course is considered by many foreign teachers as a slap in the face. Why? Because it is common knowledge that some teachers with minimal experience have either been asked to forge students' marks or have seen corporal punishment go ignored.

Most foreigners know corporal punishment is against Thai law and that manipulating a failing student's performance isn't ethical.

Basically, sitting this course is



**TEACHER TIME:** Foreign teachers working in Thailand are required to take a culture and ethics course.

paramount to stock brokers sitting an ethics course written by Bernie Madoff. The worst part is that trying to fight the TCT's course won't be as successful as the US government's case ag-

ainst ol' Bernie. This is one hoop teachers will need to negotiate.

If you have a TEFL or TESOL issue you want addressed, contact Eric at [kru.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:kru.phuket@gmail.com)

# Quality is top priority in education reform

PRIME Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva urged administrators and teachers under the Office of the Basic Education Commission (Obec) to focus on improving "students' quality" in the second decade of Thailand's education reform.

The reform focuses on four main areas: quality of students, which aims at producing better citizens; quality of teachers, which targets improving their

teaching styles and methods; updating schools and other learning resources to suit the modern world; and improving educational administration.

"Education reform focuses on quality of students. The adjusted percentage of academic content and educational and learning activities," PM Abhisit said last month.

He added that students will

benefit from a push towards more extra-curricular activities with help and participation from local communities, local administrative organisations, parents and educational service area offices helping to provide different activities for students.

Moreover, Mr Abhisit said students' English-language proficiency would be improved so that they would have more access to

the world's biggest knowledge resource, the Internet.

"About 90% of knowledge available on the Internet is in English," he said, adding that English would help prepare them as global citizens.

He said teachers would have to encourage students to be eager to learn in a fast-changing world, along with instilling in them a sense of community, so they would work to serve their communities after graduation.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Chinnaworn Boonyakiat said another focus of the reform was teaching students to think analytically. This should be implemented

"concretely" and people would see the change within three years, he said.

Another new initiative in the reform is to put into practice a "youth researcher" project to teach students to think and solve problems and have them study their communities.

Also, they proposed adjusting curriculums to be more flexible to suit students with different needs.

Of the four areas, the area of students' quality improvement was the first to be officially announced to the public. More announcements are expected soon.

— The Nation

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# Harold Schwarz

HAROLD Schwarz is the creator and chef of the popular Tatonka restaurant, which offers some of the most original dining fare on Phuket. He calls his menu "Globetrotter cuisine" as he has combined many of the tastes he discovered and developed while working in an array of kitchens around the world.

Tatonka, which means buffalo in the Sioux language, opened in the mid-1990s and quickly became a fixture on the island's dining circuit. The success of the restaurant was immediate due to the unique menu, relaxed service and comfortable outdoor setting. Located in Tinlay Place near the entrance to Laguna Phuket, Tatonka sees Harold in the kitchen every day except Wednesdays.

By day, he goes to the markets where he selects the freshest local ingredients according to the season. He is open only for dinner which allows him time to supervise all aspects of the business.

"I maintain a small menu of 15 appetizers and 15 main courses which have proven popular with local residents who support my cuisine. I also present unique cocktails such as the T.Tonka, a combination of tamarind and lime juice with dark rum, apricot brandy and soda. It's an example of how I like to mix flavors."

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

Harold was born in the Bavarian Alps near the Austrian border. He grew up in the countryside and learned to bake from his mother. He decided to take a three-year apprenticeship in the kitchens of a one-star Michelin restaurant near his home where he discovered his love of cooking. He wanted a job that would allow him to travel and work around the world.

By 1986, he was accepted to work in a three-star Michelin restaurant in Munich, and after a year was invited to work at a five-star golf resort in Bermuda.

"I've always been into fitness and appreciated the opportunities to play tennis and cycle year-round in Bermuda."

He traveled around America, then returned to Europe to strengthen his culinary skills and build his resume. He spent the next few years working in the Swiss and French Alps for the ski seasons, with the summers in Cannes where he survived some of the roughest working conditions with celebrity chefs.

By 1990, he was again ready for overseas adventures and was recruited by the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach, California, where he prepared sumptuous banquets under the eyes of the resident French chef.

He then moved to Aspen, Colorado, where he learned the contemporary cuisine of that region which included fresh local venison and the flavors from the American Southwest.

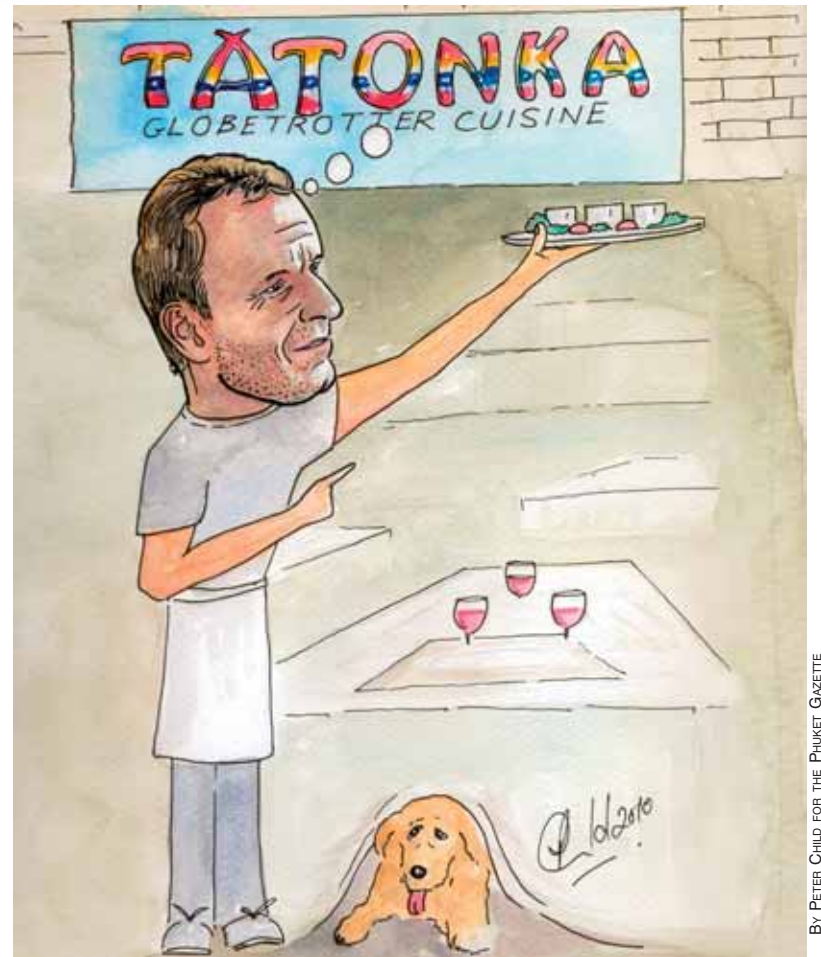
Harold spent the next few years traveling and cooking where he picked up many of his ideas for food. He worked at the Kapalua Bay Resort in Hawaii and spent months cooking in rough conditions on a fishing boat off the coast of Alaska.

Then a friend asked him to work in Munich before offering him the chance to be part of the opening team for a Paulaner German restaurant in Bangkok.

"I immediately fell in love with Thailand and the Thai people but I am not a city man, so I looked for work on Phuket."

I was lucky to be hired by the Dusit Thani Laguna Resort. My dream of living on a tropical island had come true."

Harold is a big lover of animals. He built a house eight years ago and shares it with his partner, Khun Yen, nine dogs and six cats.



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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# Charming Ayudhaya

Find enchantment in Thailand's ancient capital at the Klong Sabua Floating Market and Water Theatre

By Lesley Chittayanon

AN HOUR'S drive from Bangkok in Thailand's historic heartland is Ayudhaya Klong Sabua Floating Market and Water Theatre.

This unique attraction has been reeling in hundreds of visitors every weekend since it opened almost two years ago.

Market shoppers expecting the flotilla of vendor boats found in Damnoen Saduak will be disappointed, as the stalls aren't floating but instead dot a group of lotus ponds.

A tempting selection of Thai snacks are on offer including barbecued bananas in coconut milk, sticky rice stuffed with jackfruit, papaya salad and spring rolls. Coupons are on offer to buy your nibbles, and unused coupons will be refunded.

Live performances take place in the ponds, with performers gliding across the water surface in traditional dress, acting out scenes from Thai folk tales and *Sepaa* recitals. A bamboo platform sits just a few centimeters under the surface, so dancers appear to walk on water. Traditional music accompanies the show, and excitement

builds as a drum beat gathers momentum.

Shows are based on tales including "The Charms of Kaki", "The Twelve Maidens" and "The Golden Goby".

There are 11 shows in total performed in rotation.

The elegant performances are laced with romantic passages, comical sketches and action scenes. The fight scenes are the most dramatic, and usually the outcome of a romantic entanglement.

As the male characters battle over their lovers they make huge splashes which cause the audience to whoop with delight.

Even though the shows are narrated in Thai, non-Thai speaking foreigners can still follow the story, and at times you may find yourself lost in the beauty of the performance. The water theater and floating market have become major tourist attractions in the area, so arrive early to bag a seat with the best view. It's a fantastic photographic opportunity, and unlike Vietnam's water puppet shows, you don't need to worry about getting wet, so it's safe to take some snaps.

Performances run every Saturday, Sunday and public holidays



**WALKING ON WATER:** The unique show breathes life into fading traditional theater in Ayudhaya every weekend.

with five shows each day (11am, 12pm, 1.30pm, 3pm and 4.30pm). Entry to the market and theater is 50 baht for adults and 25 baht for children. Toddlers can enjoy the experience free of charge.

Not only does the water theater breathe new life into the fading tradition of Thai *Sepaa* plays, it makes the art form accessible to a wider audience, including foreigners.

After returning to reality at the end of the performance, visitors can learn more about Thailand's agricultural industry.

A mock-up rice paddy field shows how the grain grows, while a bamboo shack housing a collection of tools serves as a modest exhibition center.

Organizer, Supamas Sitisara, describes the overall experience: "Visitors to our floating market and water theater can learn about Thai culture and appreciate the natural landscape of Old Ayudhaya, while enjoying a world class Thai theatrical performance."

She also revealed plans for additional elements.

"Next year we will open a craft village at the site, in keeping with



**TRADITION:** Performers act out scenes from Thai folk tales.

the traditional nature of the project."

The market and theater provides a refreshing escape for travelers suffering temple-overload. It's the ideal side trip from Bangkok or Ayudhaya.

Other attractions in the vicinity worth visiting include King Narasuan Monument, Wat Naphrameru and the Elephant Kraal Pavilion.

Wat Naphrameru dates back to 1503 and has a particularly colorful history. It is thought to have served as a royal cremation site,

once used for a king. Later, the temple was used as a shootout point by the Burmese. However, while attempting to fire canons at the palace, the Burmese king's canon exploded and he died almost instantly.

The market and theater are situated in Klong Sabua sub-district, Phra Nakhon Sri Ayudhaya district in Ayudhaya province.

For further information, contact T: 02-6109458 or visit [www.ayutthayafloatingmarket.com](http://www.ayutthayafloatingmarket.com)

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### November 6-15. Win free RPM Health Club Memberships

Royal Phuket Marina Health Club is launching a free contest at: [facebook.com/royalphuketmarina](http://facebook.com/royalphuketmarina) where you can win fantastic prizes such as a RPM Health Club day pass, monthly memberships (6,420 baht value) and a grand prize of a yearly membership (39,396 baht value). Just "Like" RPM's Facebook page and tag yourself in the 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. You could win prizes. Contact Michael Alan Forrest T: 081-9588199 E: [michael@royalphuketmarina.com](mailto:michael@royalphuketmarina.com) for more information.

### November 7-30. Palazzo dinner show discount

Phuket residents go half price when the Palazzo Theater & Restaurant in Kathu opens for its first season. Palazzo invites local residents to the first European dinner show in Phuket for half price deals through November from 7-11:30pm. Price includes a four-hour spectacular show and five-course dinner for 1,600 baht only. (The usual price is 3,200 baht). This offer is limited! Tickets can be purchased at the Palazzo. Discount only applies to residents of Phuket in possession of an ID card or work permit. Two tickets per person maximum. Contact Wat on T: 084-6298833 (Thai) or Alex on T: 082-8101518 (English), E: [mail@phuket-palazzo.com](mailto:mail@phuket-palazzo.com) or visit W: [phuket-palazzo.com](http://phuket-palazzo.com) for more information.

## November 13 – One Night in Rio



Don't miss the Phuket International Women's Club annual event on November 13 at the Hilton Arcadia. The "One Night in Rio" bash promises an evening of fun, dancing, entertainment, Brazilian-themed buffet, cocktails and free-flow drinks. A live band and DJ will help keep the party going into the early hours. To support the PIWC's educational scholarship program there will be fantastic prizes, including flights to Brazil sponsored by Qatar Airways, artwork, hotel stays, sailing and boating trips, all donated by local businesses. Not to mention the raffles and silent auctions. This is the ideal opportunity to help local students, pick up some bargain Christmas gifts and have a great evening. Tickets are 3,000 baht per person. Contact Sue on T: 087-277 6948 or E: [info@phuketiwc.com](mailto:info@phuketiwc.com) for tickets.

### November 7-13. Maharlika at Six Senses Sanctuary

Internationally acclaimed Maharlika massage specialist, Victor Quemuel, is available for your needs. Prices for the Maharlika massage are 7,500 baht for 70 minutes, Maharlika thread peeling facial for 7,500 baht for 70 minutes and Maharlika VIP Ritual (facial and massage) for 12,000 baht for 90 minutes. Contact T: 076-371400, E: [pr-naka@sixsenses.com](mailto:pr-naka@sixsenses.com) or visit W: [sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuary](http://sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuary) Phuket for more information.

### November 7-30. International experts at Six Senses Sanctuary

Dr Chet Collins will allow full consideration of underlying medical conditions when determining the appropriate techniques to use for

your treatment. Individual treatment goals may include accelerating your flexibility, rapidly resolving a specific physical condition, or optimizing your wellness plan results. Prices are 13,500 baht for 90 minutes, 9,000 baht for 60 minutes and 5,000 baht for 30 minutes. Contact T: 076-371400, E: [pr-naka@sixsenses.com](mailto:pr-naka@sixsenses.com) or visit W: [sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuary](http://sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuary) Phuket for more information.

### November 11. Free Investment Clinic

Wondering where or when to invest your money? Need help understanding stocks, funds or fees? Is now the time to buy Google, Apple or Microsoft shares? Get your questions answered at the free Investment Clinic Q&A sessions while enjoying a cup of coffee. Every Thursday night at Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong. Join President of Freeman Capital Management Don Freeman, and learn how to find the best stocks at the right time and when to sell to protect your profits. Contact Don Freeman on T: 089-970 5795, E: [freemancapital@gmail.com](mailto:freemancapital@gmail.com) or visit W: [freemancapital.net](http://freemancapital.net) for more information.

### November 12. Curry Friday

Every second Friday at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa from 7 to 11:30pm. Take the opportunity to enjoy an authen-

tic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet. Selections include all-time favorites chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and many more served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Contact Seemat Raju on T: 076-286464, E: [sm@karonseasand.com](mailto:sm@karonseasand.com) or visit W: [karonseasand.com](http://karonseasand.com)

### November 13. Venerable Matthieu Ricard talk exhibition

Train your mind and change your brain with French academic-turned-Buddhist monk, Venerable Matthieu Ricard. He is scheduled to be talking at PIA Mind Center presenting cutting edge information from leading researchers around the world on the benefits of contemplative practices. His talk will be followed by a photo

exhibition of his extraordinary portraits and landscapes which will be on sale. Proceeds from the photographs will go to the humanitarian projects of Karuna-Shechen. Event price is 500 baht per person. Accommodation packages are available upon request for anyone traveling to this event from outside of Phuket and Thailand. Talk session is from 2-5:30pm and the photo exhibition starts at 5:30pm. For more information contact Michelle or Weena on T: 076-336030, E: [mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com](mailto:mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com) or visit W: [phuketinternationalacademy.com](http://phuketinternationalacademy.com)

### November 17-20. Phuket International Sport Fishing 2010

Registration for the tournament will be on November 17 from 5pm onwards. Fishing will take place over the following three days. The prize-giving party is on the 20<sup>th</sup>. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. Contact Uwe Schitteck on T: 076-282036, E: [uweschitteck@yahoo.com](mailto:uweschitteck@yahoo.com) or visit W: [phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com](http://phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com) for more information.

### November 19. AustCham meet

AustCham Phuket are meeting at New Westin Hotel in Koh Siray at 3pm for a discussion on finance trends. This will be followed by *Sundowners*, AustCham Thailand's business networking event at 6pm. contact Susan Usher on T: 0818955690 or E: [susan@lady-pie.com](mailto:susan@lady-pie.com) for more information.

### November 21. Loy Krathong

One of Thailand's most beautiful festivals is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month, which is usually in November. The idea is to worship the river Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck and start a new. Banana leaf lanterns and floating paper lanterns are set free in the sky and on water.

## Free Computer Clinics

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**MASTER CHEF:** Marseille-born chef Michel Portos owns his own restaurant in France and is the director of Bordeaux's celebrated Saint-James Hotel. Photos: Alexandra Andersson



By Alexandra Andersson

FRENCH two-star Michelin chef Michel Portos hosted a decadent weekend of champagne and outstanding cuisine at The Pavilions resort in Kamala last week.

Michelin-starred chefs are renowned for their exceptional culinary skills, according to the prestigious Michelin Red Guide. The first issue was released in 1900, and it is thought to be the eldest publication of its kind.

Jean Christophe Nager, general manager of The Pavilions (right), said he was honored to host such a talented chef at the resort's Plantation Club restaurant.

Special dinners like this benefit both the chef and the resort, he said.

"Asia is a pool of inspiration and ideas for such creative people. They use

their experiences here to adapt their cuisine and give it a contemporary, and evolving edge," he adds.

At the weekend dinners, chef Portos served wondrously unique dishes: scallop and grapefruit risotto, oyster tartar with apple and lemongrass guacamole to name a few.

Some guests said chef Portos struck a perfect balance between texture, acidity and flavor in his dishes. A main course of pan-sauteed veal brisket with tangy tomatoes and boquerone anchovies was a highlight for many. Succulent, simple and wickedly moreish. Each course was partnered by terrific wines: The Château Villa Bel Air White AOC Graves Blanc 2003 was one popular choice.

Although this was the flamboyant French chef's first trip to Thailand, he promised to be back in Phuket soon enough. If he continues to design set dinners like this, let's hope he is true to his word.



Natasha Eldred from Shine PR Phuket (left) with the CEO of Pavilion Resorts Priscilla Andre.

**YOUR  
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## Coming together for food



**JOINING IN:** From left are Suparat Boonthai, Porntita Bheungnoi and general manager Jason Nuell from The Renaissance with Olga Kurmakaeva and Sathirapong Na Takuatoong from Exotic Voyage. Photos: Apinun Saithong

The Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa took part in a recent Marriott worldwide culinary event.



From left are Choi Jung Suk, Jason Nuell and Mr Cung.



Kulchada Boonrawd, Renaissance marketing manager.

## Hat party

Horse racing fans headed down to Indochine last week to watch the Melbourne Cup.



**LOVELY LADIES:** Linda Berry Mennerdahl and Annie Peters.



**HATTE:** Clowe

## THAI BUFFET DINNER

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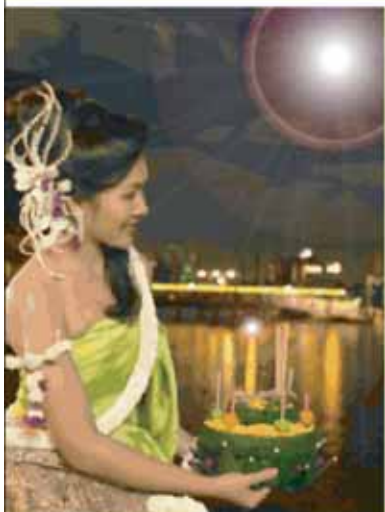
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**FASHION:** The latest Katalina Collection was on show in Phuket last week. Pictured (above, white) is the brand's business development manager Nuchanin Noenmai and owner Katalina Boner (far right, holding flowers).

## Walk the line



**IN CHARACTER:** From left are Kruewan Junwong, Weerachai Boonmak, Nenruthai Sawadee and (back) Charlie Maurer.

# Dressed to thrill

Revelers all over the island turned up at parties all over the island to celebrate Halloween. Here's some of what went on in Patong and at Friendship Beach...



**ERS:** Sudawadee Thongthirath (left) and Shelley s. Photos: Nicky Vermeulen



**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC:** Danielle Lalonde (left) and Tico Molinari enjoy some pop classics from resident band Tropical Rythm.



**BOO:** Sian Cazebe (above) and Bandid Kaewanna (right) party the night away.

**ON BANGLA:** Pannarai Suwancharoensin (left) in black and Sonya Cazebe in silver. Photos: Tommy Karlsson



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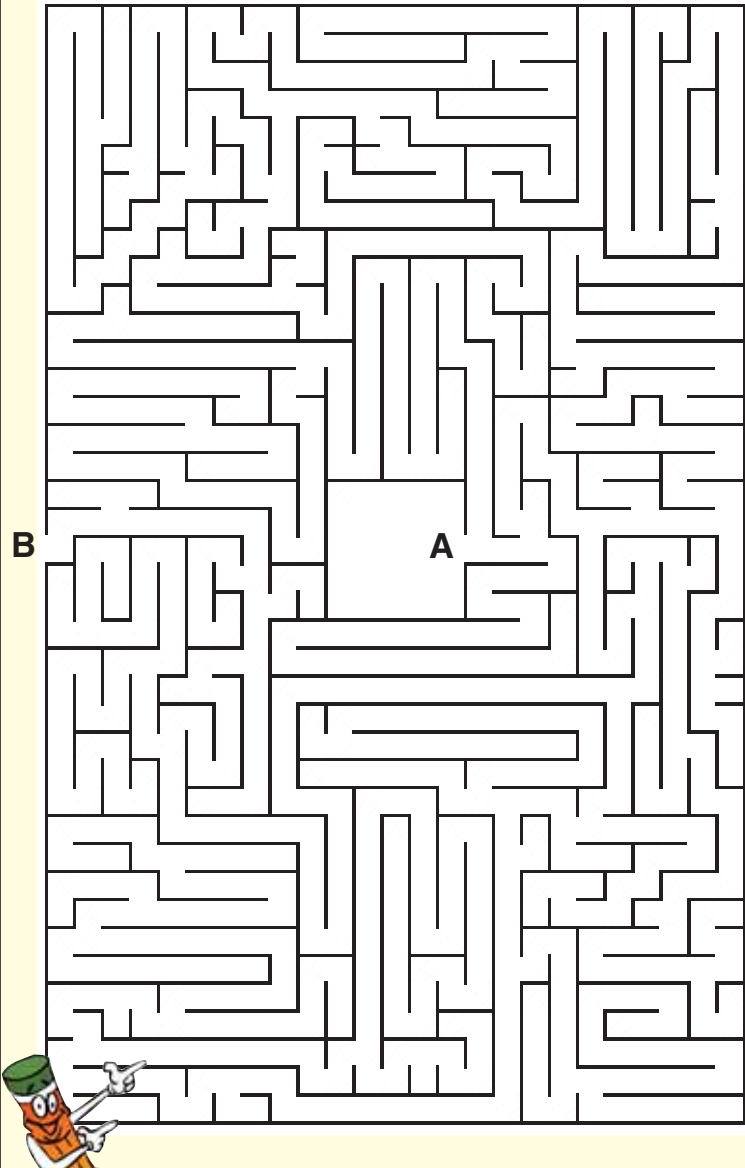


*at Mom Tri's Kitchen*





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

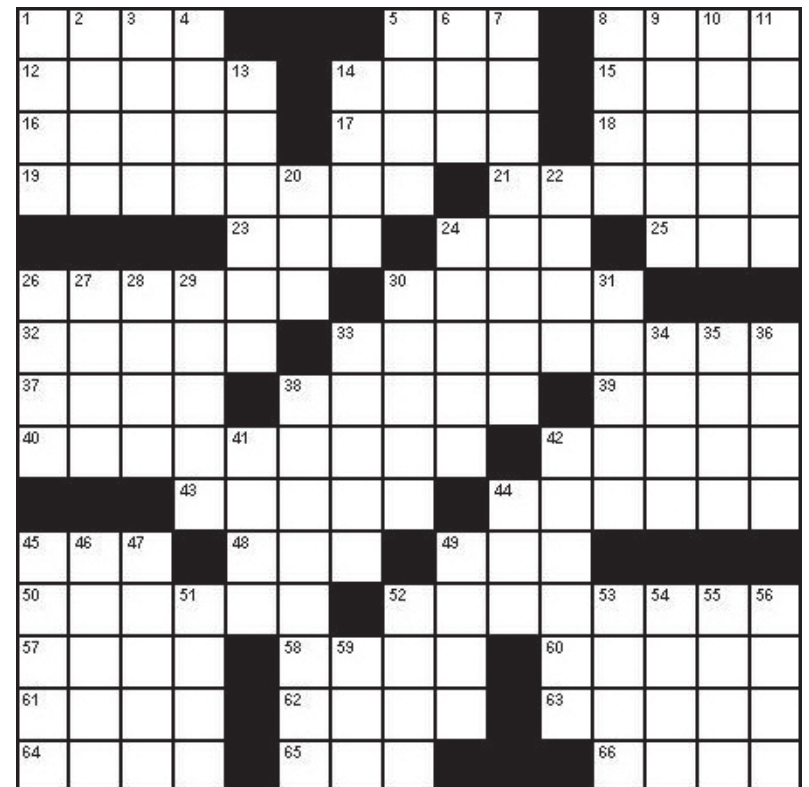


#### Across

1. Attack a fly
5. Large container
8. Swell
12. Boat crafted from birchbark
14. Domesticated cattle of India
15. Hoodwink
16. Nut of an oak
17. Make — for it
18. Formerly
19. Pecuniary
21. Water channel
23. TKO caller
24. Cornerstone abbreviation
25. Botanist Gray
26. Passes by degrees
30. Flower segment
32. White poplar tree
33. Storage building
37. Dextrous, lively
38. Prehistoric chisel-like tool
39. Some nest eggs
40. Breeding stallion
42. Dice game
43. Immerse
44. End of a threat
45. Dadaist Jean
48. Blotto
49. Clean air organism
50. Large beer mug
52. Person living in cozy house
57. Bread spread
58. It may be floated
60. Chou —
61. Defense group since 1949
62. Assns
63. Tempest
64. Student's final
65. Born
66. Competent

#### Down

1. Con
2. Site of D. Koresh stronghold
3. Bartlett's abbreviation
4. Raced
5. Extremely
6. Aladdin's monkey
7. Rare lustrous metallic element
8. Sharpen
9. Artery that feeds the trunk



10. Urns
11. More
13. Dinner course
14. Middle Eastern coffee holder
20. Loser to DDE
22. D-Day beach
24. Causing goose bumps
26. Puts down
27. Blind as —
28. Andean country
29. Snow conveyances
30. Analyze a sentence
31. France's longest river
33. Sausage
34. Orsk's river

35. Enervates
36. Mexican slang: 'guy'
38. Clear broth
41. Gap
42. Boxes
44. Choose
45. All together
46. Make less tense
47. Michelangelo work
49. Seemingly forever
51. Adverse fate
52. Prison
53. Organization promotes theater
54. Dollop
55. British nobleman
56. Hoar
59. Metal-bearing mineral

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Puzzle solutions on page 33

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Those born under the sign of Scorpio are advised to listen to their inner voice this week. A fire sign appears anxious to call the shots, but the stars suggest that you could be led in the wrong direction. Where romance is concerned, an air sign captures your heart this weekend. If your birthday lies in the week ahead, expect more security in the coming year. The number three is lucky on Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Certain Sagittarians will be faced with a dilemma this week. The astral atmosphere is not conducive to easy decision making – it would be best to delay making commitments until after the middle of November. Your romantic life is predicted to become more enjoyable. Those who are getting to know someone special should see that this relationship holds promise. Wear gold to encourage more luck with finances.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): A mixed week lies ahead for those born under the sign of Capricorn. In the world of work some disappointment is indicated – if this involves a job application

being rejected, it could be a blessing in disguise. The start of next year is predicted to bring a sparkling opportunity. Those in a committed relationship could find that their partner's restless mood is hard to understand. If you are single, Aries makes an offer that's hard to refuse.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Aquarians often have the ability to fall on their feet and this should also be the case this week. Where work and housing is concerned, your luck is strong. Romance is not quite as well-starred – expect your trust to be put to the test this weekend. Those who are single may not get the response they hope for from another air sign, but Taurus is keen to show their interest.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): The stars suggest that a tempting job offer could come out of the blue this week. If your heart is not really in a change of employment, it would be more sensible to stay where you are. Next year is forecast to bring chances of promotion and financial gain. A romantic relationship is more secure when you are honest about your feelings. Wear butterscotch to sweeten your mood.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): As the end of the year approaches many Arians will be thinking of getting away at Christmas. This week, the offer of an unusual trip is forecast to come your way. Those who have recently embarked on a new relationship could find that these vacation plans do not please their partner. Work is non eventful this week, making it easy to be sidetracked. The number six can be lucky this weekend.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Those born under the sign of Taurus are forecast to enjoy meeting like-minded people this week. Romance with a water sign could be sparked by one of these encounters. The stars suggest that your down to earth attitude could mean that you miss out on an exciting work opportunity. Where money is concerned, luck crosses your path mid-week. Wear the color midnight blue to encourage a more creative outlook.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Many Geminis will be relieved when an overdue debt is paid this week. The stars suggest that your finances will receive another unexpected boost – possibly a work related bonus. Romance needs careful attention when a partner's problems disturb domestic harmony. If you are single, Capricorn has what it takes to float your boat, but winning their heart could require careful planning. A dream you have this weekend reminds you of unfinished business.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): A change of pace is forecast for many Cancerians this week. Work matters are liable to require faster handling and this could involve forfeiting some free time. An idea that you dropped like a hot stone last month becomes more attractive when seen from a fresh perspective. Love is sweet and sour. A relationship with an earth sign becomes stressful when opinions clash. Finding romance with another water sign has Cupid's support.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Your enthusiasm is commendable, but stronger focus would help Leos to achieve more. The stars suggest that scattered energy is all that stands in

your way of success this week. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for appointments concerning finances – expect an air sign to finally see your point of view. Avoid getting irritable when you don't get your way this weekend. A romantic relationship is forecast for a test.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Your overcritical attitude could land you in hot water this week. Those born under the sign of Virgo who are bursting to tell someone what they really think should take a deep breath before speaking. In the world of work, the prospects of collaborating with a fire sign appear promising, but final details should not be agreed until nearer the end of this month. The number eight is lucky this weekend.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): The stars predict that sharing secrets could lead to regrets. Librans who are tempted to confess this weekend should think twice before doing so. Your positive energy ensures that minor obstacles can be overcome at work early next week. A recent tendency to live life in the fast lane may be taking its toll on your well-being. An earth sign friend has a sensible suggestion to help you relax more.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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## Kata condo EIA upheld

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

A PROVINCIAL review committee has upheld the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the Kata Royal Condominium project.

Construction of the seven-story condo block was ordered to halt last month after local residents filed complaints about the building blocking views of nearby Koh Pu (Crab Island).

Central to the residents' complaint was that the EIA was not conducted properly.

Natural Resources and Environment Phuket Office Director Ongart Chanachanmongkol, who heads the committee, said, "The committee confirmed the approval. If they [the residents] are still dissatisfied, they can file a complaint with Administrative Court."

However, the committee confirming the EIA as legal does not automatically lift the ban on construction at the site, which has stopped at five floors.

That decision remains the responsibility of Karon Municipality.

Wanchai Saetan, the Director of the Public Works Division at Karon Municipality, said the municipality first needs to receive the official letter from the review committee, signed by the governor, before it can lift the ban on construction.

Joe Kasisopha, one of the three partners in the project, told the *Gazette*, "I have not yet been informed of the decision, but I can say we have done everything legally. The party suffering the most is us."

"If we can go on with the con-



The EIA for the Kata Royal Condominium project (pictured here covered with green dust protective sheets) has been upheld. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

struction, we won't sue anyone. We don't want to be in trouble with the community," he added.

Yet community leader Manop Chailiam remains undeterred by the decision.

"If construction continues, we will keep protesting and we will file complaints at the government office in Bangkok. Karon villagers will not give up for sure," he told the *Gazette*.

EIAs for 24 other construction projects are under review by the committee.

Most of the EIAs, filed from

September 1 to October 7, are under review as standard procedure. Some have already been approved, but others require further investigation, said Mr Ongart.

"The biggest concern of committee members is the geo-technical and foundation engineering aspects of the projects, as many of them are planned to be located on sloping areas."

"As earthquakes seem to be occurring more often [than previously], this might raise the risk of landslides and endanger lives," he said.

### EIAs currently under review

**Patong:** Sleep With Me Hotel (286 rooms); The Crystal Patong condominium (113 units), Fisherman Harbour Hotel (380 rooms), All Season Patong Hotel (318 rooms); Kasemsup Condotel (313 units).

**Phuket Town:** Phuket Modern Place Apartment (93 rooms); Baan Phet Ploy 2 Apartment, under the name "Gems Apartment" (50 rooms); Baan Klang Muang Phuket Housing Estate (88 plots); Siam Niramit Apartment (79 rooms); an as-yet-unnamed apartment block (12 rooms).

**Koh Kaew:** Chaofa Garden Home 3 Koh Kaew Housing Estate (325 plots).

**Kathu:** I Condo (51 units).

**Wichit:** The City Condominium (1,410 units); All Suite Housing (87 houses); The Best Point Condominium – Phase 1 (74 units).

**Chalong:** Condotel Buri 1 (79 units); Rungnapa Hotel (70 rooms).

**Rawai:** The Palm Rawai Resort (20 villas); Phuket SK Home Saiyuan Housing Estate (20 plots).

**Kamala:** My Condo Kamala 1 Condominium (49 units).

**Cherng Talay:** Andaman Seaview Resort (32 rooms).

**Thalang:** Sri Thalang Village Housing Estate (42 plots); Thanyachiva Lifestyle Resort (77 rooms); Pruksa Ville 45 Housing Estate (248 plots).

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# Taking it to the streets

**ROAD VIEW:** Improvements have been ongoing to the Heroines Monument intersection on Thepkasattri Road, en route from the airport. Photo: Gazette file

SITTING on the cusp of tourism's high season year after year I always start to get a small twitch in the corner of my eye and sweaty palms as each November rolls around.

Short of heading to the hospital for the nearest defibrillator to kick start my mood, I realize it's just a case of those dreaded traffic jam blues.

It's like one of those movie nightmare sequences – tossing and turning on angst-ridden bed sheets imagining traffic backed up on Thepkasattri Road all the way up to the Myanmar border.

Or visions of an endless line of sputtering buses dipping and climbing the west coast highway then suddenly without warning all simultaneously starting to roll backwards, creating a cataclysmic steamroller for man and car

alike, like in some wacky cartoon.

Last I checked Phuket was still an island, but over the past few years the urban sprawl and growing network of spiderweb roadways, byways and sois has become more and more maze-like by the minute.

I am not exactly complaining here, this is the price the island pays for a booming tourism industry, and frankly speaking the gathering of masses of people into cities or areas of economic prosperity is hardly a Thailand-specific problem.

Feeding, clothing, employing and moving the mass of mankind from here to there and back again is a task that even Iron Man or his superhero friends would call in sick for.

As a discipline, urban planning focuses on land use, transporta-



**Property Watch**

**By Bill Barnett**

tion and is eventually documented for implementation by zoning and restrictions.

Government-funded infrastructure and regulatory bodies over public transport add spice into a melting pot already brimming with potential pitfalls and hazards.

At the end of the day, consensus and compromise, polarizing popular opinion and just plain politics often play lead roles in this storyline. I'm not sure the Doobie Brothers ever imagined such chaos would ensue when crafting out the hit tune *Takin' it to the Streets*.

The bad news is things are going to get worse.

Now that caught your eye, let's see how Mr Sandman treats you tonight.

Practically, while there is outer growth into "Greater

Phuket" and neighboring Phang Nga and Krabi provinces, the reality is Phuket with its burgeoning hotel pipeline, airport expansion raising capacity from 6.5 to 12.5 million passengers and a supporting service industry expanding all have the island bursting at the seams.

Something has got to give. While both the ancient Greeks and Romans made great strides in creating thoughtful long-term plans for development, this problem might be better thrown to our local plumber.

There is a main road artery running from the Sarasin Bridge to the bottom of the island in Rawai. This is the big pipe. But as anyway who hits the highway at 8am or 5pm call tell you, the pipe isn't big enough.

Of course we also have smaller pipes twisting down the coastal areas, and then branching out in so many directions, altogether creating a bit of a plumber's nightmare. But yet again, the pipes are clogged, and

the obvious solution is that we need bigger pipes.

But as we all know, when the areas for the pipes were planned, they were not done in a way that allowed them to be replaced with bigger ones.

Dispensing with all this plumber talk, quality public transport is long overdue. There are lots of long-term schemes out there – light rail systems, Patong tunnels, new contentious airport highways and better public buses.

But for now, Phuket clearly needs a mega-transport plumber as never before.

While waiting for that hero to arrive, the rest of the population is going to have to get cozy with their own trucks, cars and motorbikes, as they will be spending increasingly longer periods of time together during the high season to come.

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



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# Chipping away at design conformity

By Alexandra Andersson

A SWEDISH woman living in Chalong is chipping away at the cornerstone of traditionalist Scandinavian design one taboo at a time.

Functionality and simplicity go out the window when Christina Folkesson decorates.

The 52-year-old expat has turned her two-story detached home into a luxurious and eclectic homage to both ancient and modern design principles. And minimalism has been kept to a well – minimum.

“I like some Scandinavian design, but I’m not into the bare Ikea look,” she says.

There’s a wealth of eye-catching furnishings in this home to ponder.

Plush fake fur throws are combined with oversize Asian sculptures, chandeliers and cabinets displaying extensive Alessi kitchenware collections dot the downstairs area.

Growing up in Sweden, Christina took inspiration from nature.

## LUXURY living

She was a creative child and would make her own decor items by sewing or collecting moss, sticks and stones from the forest.

In stark contrast to her extravagant Phuket home today, Christina’s childhood home was neat and rustic – a traditional Nordic home.

Age and travel hasn’t vanquished Christina’s passion for handicrafts. When she is not thinking of ways to expand her home, she works as a jewelry designer.

Many of the sofas, magazine racks, cupboards, curtains and cushions found in Christina’s home have been custom made.

Large Buddha figurines, Vietnamese paintings, Chinese sculptures and Persian rugs adorn the interior, echoing the designer’s love of Asian antiques and furnishings.

Christina said a 15-year stint in



**MELTING POT:** A chandelier hangs above a Persian rug and Buddha.

Hong Kong piqued her interest in Asian antiques and interest in modern design concepts.

Inside her Phuket home, it feels like Asia is joining hands with Europe. The design personifies Christina’s transient life that leaves an indelible impression on a newcomer to this wonderful home.

In 1999, Christina’s Hong Kong home was featured in *Home Jour-*



**AT HOME:** Christina likes to use a selection of Asian fabrics, custom-made cushions, curtains and throws to give her home an eclectic feel.

*nal*, which raved about the Swede’s design mastery.

“A mixture of treasured and casual defines each room, providing both visual intrigue and a comfortable, inviting feeling,” the article noted.

Such recognition is not without due cause. Her intuition for design is undeniable. She has not copied any designers or followed any

trends. She knows what she likes and that’s what she goes with.

Christina said doubling the number of mirrors you have in your home is one way to create the illusion of space, without making your home feel cluttered.

*If you would like your home featured in the Gazette, please contact alex@phuketgazette.net*

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# Creeping into your garden

MANY of the decent-sized gardens in Phuket are enclosed by sturdy concrete walls. Although often beautiful in their own right, they are ideal as a site for flowering vines.

It is not uncommon to see creepers in Phuket, sumptuously draped over a high boundary walls and replete with masses of pendulous, trumpet-shaped flowers in cream, pink and red clusters. Aesthetically, they can provide a veritable feast for the eyes.

Rangoon creeper or Chinese honeysuckle, which in Thailand is known as *lep mue nang* bears the odd Latin name, *quisqualis indica*, which means "What is it?"

Originally, this vine grew wild in scrubland and secondary forest in the Philippines, India, Malaysia, and of course, Burma (hence the name).

It has long been valued in traditional medicine for its effective antihelminthic properties, which help kill worms in the gut.

Horticulturalists soon realized that it was also well worth cultivating as a garden shrub: which is when it began "creeping" rapidly throughout the rest of Southeast Asia.

Rangoon creepers can come into full flower when fed by the monsoon rains, which give the foliage a lush appearance.

The abundant leaves which are produced in opposite pairs, are an added delight.

Bright green, evergreen and slightly glossy, they often have a reddish tinge when young.

A very vigorous grower, *quisqualis indica* needs the support of a trellis, pergola, fence or wall to give off its best.

While the long branches quickly become woody, since it is a lignous vine, they are often not robust enough to support the full weight of the flower trusses unaided.

Remember too that the creeper does not produce tendrils, whereby it could attach itself more



Photos: Eran Finkle

**FRAGRANT BEAUTY:** The beautiful Rangoon creeper has a pleasant aroma.

## Gardening By Green Sleeves

securely to its surroundings.

In technical terms the flowers are terminal racemes, which means that the flowers are borne on short stalks of about equal length at equal distances along an elongated axis and open in succession toward the apex.

They have a distinctive feature: they open white or pale cream, then turn pink on day two, and finally red on day three.

This is rather like the cotton rose or *hibiscus mutabilis*, which undergoes the same visual mutation in one day. The buds are elegantly poised at the end of slender stalks.

Once in full bloom, the opulent, tricolored clusters of tubular flowers have the additional benefit of being fragrant.

*Quisqualis* is very easy to propagate. In certain parts of the globe where conditions are ideal, it has become invasive, but this has not occurred in Thailand.

Ideally, the vine prefers slightly acid soil, which may make it difficult to grow in the alkaline conditions that one often finds in newly developed plots. If this is the case, a few spadefuls of good loam or compost should help.

It can be grown from seeds or cuttings, and will even respond to pruning if you are what the specimen to be more ornamental.

Some leaf-eating insects such as grasshoppers are partial to its foliage, but the plant seems to be remarkably free from disease. And it will do well in full sun or filtered shade.

The *quisqualis* scores very high for visual appearance, high for the vigor of its growth and its general adaptability.

There is also the added value of fragrance. *Quisqualis* only loses a few Brownie points on account of its scandent habit, and a tendency to be top-heavy.

As with most living things, if it is given support, it will be content.

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



The Rangoon creeper, or Chinese honeysuckle, is known as 'lep mue nang' in Thai.

## Tip of the week

### It's all about your trees and shrubs

LAST week we considered deploying small trees and shrubs as ornamental lawn specimens.

However, they can also be used to frame an appealing view or, conversely, to block out an unpleasant one.

This can be achieved in two ways: by planting a densely foliated tree or shrub, or by the close planting of one or more specimens to create a thicket or hedge.

Trees and hedges do not only provide a degree of privacy, they also help to define the garden's boundaries and provide

shelter and shade for the other plants.

You can choose either an informal barrier or hedge, or a more formal one which can be clipped to create a neat and symmetrical appearance.

In general, fast growers will need more trimming to control their growth spurts.

Bamboo, hibiscus, pigeon berry, or azalea will have to be trimmed regularly.

If you need a solitary tall barrier, a good choice would be to select a vigorous tree, such as the fiddlewood.



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

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE



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

### LAND AT PA KHLOK



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

### HOUSE IN KAMALA



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

### NAIHARN LAND

Land in Naiharn Area. Price: 6 million baht per rai. Please call 081-693 9571.

### ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### LAND AT PA KHLOK

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

### VILLA FOR SALE

Bangtao, 2-4 bedrooms, big pool, fully furnished. Includes auto gate, Sat TV. From 3.2 million baht to 11 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

### 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.

### SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE

3.5 rai plot in Chalong with Chanote title. Price: 35 million baht. Tel: 084-759 9700. Email: phuket@mail2world.com

### 3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

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

### 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

### LIVELY HOUSE IN RAWAI



In 111sq. wah of land. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and space around. No furniture, renovated sale for 3.9 million baht o.n.o. Contact to view or for more info. Tel: 087-689 9679, 084-052 2400.

### VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

### QUICK SALE

700sqm of land at a great location in Nai Harn. Includes Chanote title. Located near 7-Eleven, restaurants and bars. A few minutes drive to the beach. Net price: 2.8 million baht. More info Tel: 086-478 0201.

### LAND NEAR BIS

For sale. 2-rai 2-ngarn 48.5 sq wah plot near British International School. Price: 7.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 02-655 0092-3. Tel: 081-899 4543.

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**SEAVIEW LAND 5.95M**

Near Surin/Bangtao. Exclusive new development, ready to build at any time. Million dollar plus homes already built in the area. All utilities available. Fantastic views. Land area: 540sqm, Chanote title included. Leasehold or freehold. Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com

**SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE**

Near Supalai Resort on the east coast of Phuket slope. A 3-rai plot with road and electricity access. Price: 3.15 million baht per rai. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 5989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

**CONDO FOR SALE**

36 sqm studio condo with built-in furniture at the Green Place. Sea and mountain views. Near shopping area. Price: 1.66 million baht. Tel: 076-360833, 081-893 5564 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-360840. Email: khemchartc@royalphuketmarina.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

**NICE HOUSE 88 SQ WAH**

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

**2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM**

Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 087-689 9679, 081-270 0875. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

**SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE**

3.5 rai plot in Chalong with Chanote title. Price: 35 million baht. Tel: 084-759 9700. Email: phuket@mail2world.com

**POOL VILLAS**

In Bangtao area. Fully furnished, 2-4 bedroom units with a large pool, big garden, automatic gate. Includes satellite TV and ADSL. Tel: 084-851 6121. Website: phukethome.ws

**KAMALA BEACH HOUSE**

Price: 2.4 million baht or 55,000 euros. It has 2 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, a small garden and car parking. Contact Khun Mam. Tel: 089-472 5162.

**NOW 2 MTB, CHALONG / PHUKET TOWN**

Newly renovated one-storey house. 2/3 bedrooms + studio, 90sqm. Total special price: **2 million baht**. Free transfer fee. Chanote title. Tel: **081-788 8280**. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**BEST PRICE POOL VILLA**

Thai-Balinese style with L shaped design. 2 garden view bedrooms with open plan living and modern kitchen, 2 ensuite bathrooms. Located near BIS. Premium quality. Land size 144sqm. Price from 3.7 million baht. Tel: 084-293 7923, 080-648 9622 (English). Must visit us: www.phuket-aurasia.com

**PATONG SEA VIEW CONDO**

120sqm, 2-bed, 2-bath apartment with living room, kitchen, terrace, big swimming pool. Freehold. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

**SURIN BEACH**

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

**URGENT SALE****Whole 7-Storey Apartment Building Kata Beach, Phuket**

17 apartments  
Restaurant bar  
Professional equipment  
Pool with terrace  
Room for office + parking  
300 sqm roof for:  
- Roof restaurant  
- Fitness center  
- Penthouse

**12 APARTMENTS ARE LEASED**

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For investors who can make a quick decision **NOW!!**

**19 Million baht**

For whole building, includes chanote (THAI COMPANY)

Tel: +66 081-7888280

Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**NEW TOWNHOUSE**

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

**SPECTACULAR SEAVIEW BANGTAO**

Plots starting at 4.8 million baht. Villas built at any budget, or build your own. Show houses ready for viewing. Tel: 086-267 0157 (English), 089-590 3665 (Thai). Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

**3-BR HOUSE NEAR LOTUS**

2-storey, 150sqm house. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, fully furnished, expensive teak furniture, all like new. 4.3 million baht. Tel: 087-047 1390. Email: japec@loxinfo.co.th

**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

**NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO**

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

**2 BEDROOM APARTMENT**

New condo in a building with pool and garden. In Patong center. Furnished 83 sqm unit on the 6th floor. Freehold. Top standards. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**TWO 1/2 RAI PLOTS**

Located in Soi Pasak 8. Chanote. 5 mins from Laguna Phuket. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

**POOL VILLAS FOR SALE**

Fully furnished 2-bedroom villas at Bangtao Beach with a nice pool. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

**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

**GOOD DEAL**

A 3-bedroom 2-bathroom house on a 700sqm plot. Located in Nai Ham within walking distance to 7-Eleven, restaurants and bars. Price: 4.5 million baht. For more info, please call 086-478 0201.

**30 RAI IN TOWN**

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

**NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE**

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

**URGENT SALE**

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

**2 RAI SEAVIEW NEAR CENTRAL**

Chanote, 180 degree view of Chalong Bay, 5 km to Central. Price: 27 million baht. Must see. Tel: 087-472 7870 (English & Thai). Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

**THAI-STYLE 5-BED POOLVILLA**

Laguna area, 5-bedroom ensuite with jacuzzi. Original Thai-style temple roof, 12m x 6m swimming pool. 33 million baht. Tel: 087-893 4636. Email: annericphuket@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

Private pool villa in Patong. Price: 8.5 million baht. All inclusive! For further details, please see our website at www.sandybeach.asia

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  - 16,000 BTU AC upgrade
  - Muir windlass and remote
  - Raymarine sounder
  - Icom VHF
  - Icemaker, 3 x fridges
  - Fishing chair
- Endurance 35 (1982)** \$85,000 USD
- Swan 42CS (2007)** \$600,000 AUD
- Bertram 510 (2002)** \$1,200,000 Singapore
- Beneteau Flyer 12 (2006)** 245,000 Euro

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Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
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Tel: 076 238 803  
Fax: 076 273 319  
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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  
Email: andrew@leemarine.net

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  
Contact: Mark Heath  
Mobile: 081 787 9408  
Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062  
Email: mark@leemarine.net

### FOUNTAIN PAJOT 44 (2006)

Professionally maintained in excellent condition. Price: EUR 429,950. See our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### 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

### 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

### AZIMUT 46 (2001)

For sale. New listing. Very good condition, mail for brochure. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English), 085-887 7414 (Thai). Email: rico@yachtcharter-asia.com

### WHARRAM TIKI 26' (2010)

As good as new with a 6Hp 4-stroke O/B, dinghy & outboard engine and mooring. Only 1.3 million baht! o.n.o. For more information, see website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### RIVIERA 44' FLYBRIDGE (1984)

Twin 350Hp Cummins diesel engine. Thai commercial Ref. 15+3. Price: US\$ 179,950. For further information, visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### MOTORSAILER 33'

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

### WE NEED NEW LISTINGS

To replace recent sales. Big or small we sell them all. We're a "no sale no fee" brokers. Call Alan. Tel: 084-842 6146. For further info, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### SWISS CAT 20 FT

Made of fiber glass. Comes with a Tohatsu 50Hp trailer with full equipment. Registration: 300,000 baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 089-471 1805.

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We have customers looking for sensibly priced yachts. 30' to 45'. We're a "no sale, no fee" agency. Call Alan. Tel: 084-842 6146. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### GRP RUNABOUT 4.5M

30Hp Yamaha 2008. Only 30 hours of use. Price only 175,000 baht! Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### SEABOB



Offshore, no limit. High performance product. For more information, please call Alex. Tel: 081-955 5569.

### SIMPSON 12M CATAMARAN

Built to a high standard in UK (1993). Price: US\$169,500. For more details, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY 35'

2003, great pocket cruising yacht. Price: US\$79,950. See our website: 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, 087-265 4268. Email: henkt@hku.hk

### 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

### 55 FT CRUISING CATAMARAN

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

### POWER CATAMARAN

For sale. New 35 foot, fiberglass with fly bridge. Perfect for scuba diving, hotel transfers. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

### 12M MOTOR YACHT (1992)

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

### NEW BOAT SUNNAV 18FT



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

### RIVIERA M430 (2005)

In excellent condition. Twin 425Hp Mercs engine. Price: US\$249,000. For more details, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### MONTEREY 298SS (2006)

Twin 320 Hp Volvo engine. 50 KTS airberth is available. Price: US\$99,950. Visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

### GAME FISHING/DIVE BOAT

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

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### SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

#### Crossword puzzle:

1	S	W	A	T				5	V	A	T		8	W	A	V	E			
12	C	A	N	O	E	13			14	Z	E	B	U		15	H	O	A	X	
16	A	C	O	R	N				17	A	R	U	N		18	E	R	S	T	
19	M	O	N	E	T	20	A	R	Y			21	G	U	T	T	E	R		
						23	R	E	F		24	E	S	T		25	A	S	A	
26	L	A	P	S	E	S			30	P	E	T	A	L						
32	A	B	E	L	E				33	W	A	R	E	H	O	U	S	E		
37	Y	A	R	E				38	B	U	R	I	N		39	I	R	A	S	
40	S	T	U	D	H	O	R	S	E			42	C	R	A	P	S			
						43	S	O	U	S	E		44	O	R	E	L	S	E	
45	A	R	P			46			47	L	I	T		48		49	E	P	A	
50	S	E	I	D	E	L			52	C	O	T		53	T	A	G	E	R	
57	O	L	E	O					58	L	O	A	N		60	E	N	L	A	I
61	N	A	T	O					62	O	R	G	S		63	S	T	O	R	M
64	E	X	A	M					65	N	E	E			66	A	B	L	E	

COFFEE  
break



# Island Job Mart

## Euro Design Furniture

Manufacturer of quality furniture and specialist in interior design  
www.euro-design-furniture.com



For the Showroom in Phuket Hafele Design Centre, We are looking for professional and self-motivated person for following positions;

- Branch / Sales Manager
- Sales / Assistant Manager

### Requirements

Excellent communication skills in English  
Relevant experience in respective position

Please send CV with recent picture and expected salary to Ms.Chonlada email: sales@euro-design-furniture.com.com



## A NEWLY RENOVATED BOUTIQUE RESORT

Royal Phawadee Village is currently looking for capable and reliable employees for the following position :

Accounting Officer	2 Positions
Receptionist	3 Positions
Driver	2 Positions
Housekeeping	2 Positions

Thai nationals only, at least 3 years experience, excellent English skill, great personality, inspired attitude and service-mind required for all positions.

Interested applicant please call Khun Air at 087 5050 135 and submit current resume, expected salary with photo to the email : air@phawadee.com



## LA BOUCHERIE RESTAURANT

soi sansabai

Due to the expansion of our business, La Boucherie Grill and Steakhouse is currently looking for the following position:

Waiter / Waitress	4 Positions
Bartender / Bartendy	2 Positions
Maid	2 Positions

Interested applicant please call Khun Bao at 084 84 9 2122 and submit current resume, expected salary with photo to the email : bao@phawadee.com

## PHUKET BEACH CLUB

The Phuket Beach Club in Bangtao is situated on 64 rai of prime beachfront land. Opening in mid-December, we aim to be the Number One family adventure destination and water sports training centre in Thailand.

With a soon to be completed modern beachfront restaurant, a 150 meter floating pier, an aqua park, ATV park, water sports centre, horse riding and a child minding centre amongst our facilities, it is not hard to see that we are gearing up for a bright future.

We require the following members of staff to help us achieve our goals. ALL applicants must be able to start ASAP.

### Restaurant Staff

- Chef (1)
- 10 Kitchen staff/cooks
- 20 Waiters/Waitresses
- 4 bar staff
- Thai F&B Manager (1).
- 4 Hostesses
- 4 Cleaners
- 4 Security Guards
- 2 General Resort Assistants

All positions apart from Kitchen staff, cleaners and security guards MUST speak English.

### Beach Club Staff

- 6 Lifeguards/Waterpark Attendants
- 1 Waterpark Supervisor
- 4 ATV Operators
- 2 Horse Handlers
- 2 Water Sport Instructors
- 1 Water Sports Administrator

Please email your CV to: paul@phuket-beachclub.com Contact Paul McCarthy. On 084-898 1611. For further details, Visit at www.phuket-beachclub.com

## FREELANCE SALES REP

A quality contemporary furniture manufacturer is looking for an enthusiastic freelance/part-time sales representative, speaking Thai and English, to expand business in Phuket, Bangkok and Samui. Tel: 053-022177. Email: laurentolivier@gmail.com

## SUSHIBOX JOB OFFERS!

Sushibox is opening soon in Ocean Plaza, Soi Bangla, Patong. We are offering the following job opportunities:

- Assistant Manager (1)
- Hostesses (3)
- Waitresses (3)
- Sushi students (3) Earn as you learn how to make sushis!

Excellent salary and working conditions. Call Khun Oy for an appointment. Tel: 083-643 8709, 089-934 8284 (English & Thai). Email: sushibox@gmail.com

## PROPERTY SCOUT WANTED

Real estate company looking for property scout. Find new houses, take photos and talk with webmaster. Thai national with basic English language skills. Tel: 081-968 0309 (Thai). Email: info@houseinphuket.com

## WEBMASTER POSITION

We require an experienced English-speaking Webmaster. Second language a plus. Send CV with photo. Tel: 081-892 7847. Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com Visit at website www.oceanic-global.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



## ONLINE JOB APPLICATION

HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B

www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com /JOB.htm

## WANTED

### SCANDINAVIANS & FINNS FOR WINTER IN GOA

Reputed international Developer Karma Royal Group has four resorts and a thriving Timeshare Sales operation in tropical Goa.

We seek Scandinavian and Finnish sales representatives (trained or inexperienced) for the coming winter season (December to March)

This is your opportunity to escape to the winter sun, work in a professional environment and enjoy the low costs associated with living in India. An opportunity to MAKE MONEY and SAVE MONEY.

For full information email your CV to both royalmark01@hotmail.com and valeska@royalperspective.com

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## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### Advertising Sales

- ▶ Thai, age 26 up with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
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- ▶ Good command of spoken & written English
- ▶ Must have own transportation and drivers license

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to na@phuketgazette.net

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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## Real Estate, Phuket

Ocean Worldwide is a leading real estate agency that offers a proven international marketing system balanced with dedicated personnel who are committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and professionalism. An opportunity is available for an individual to work with our international clients to proficiently communicate information on our recommended Phuket properties. We are looking for a conscientious and ambitious person to join our team.

### Sales Support Executive

You must be enthusiastic, have a positive attitude and possess above average communication skills. You will be expected to liaise with existing and new clients in person, on the telephone and through email correspondence. You will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle with high earning and advancement capabilities. Basic Salary + Commission + International travel expenses for property exhibitions. Thai nationality.

### Administrator

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Bachelor's degree in Accounting. At least 2 years experience in Chief Accountant position or 4 years in Assistant Chief Accountant position in a hotel business. Tel: 076-239707, 083-5033329, 081-8779292. Fax: 076-239708. Or email: [prakaisriroj@hotmail.com](mailto:prakaisriroj@hotmail.com)

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Must have excellent spoken and written English skills. Experience in property or hotel and people management essential. Must be a good communicator, structured and system oriented. Thai national required. Tel: 084-838 1000. Send CV and salary requirement to [info@villachanggrajang.com](mailto:info@villachanggrajang.com)

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Please bring proof of identification, resume and two photographs.

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If you cannot make it on the day, please email your CV to  
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#### Open Position Listing :

#### Room Division

##### Front Office

Guest Service Shift Leader  
Guest Service Agent  
Guest Service Center Shift Leader  
Guest Service Center Agent  
Lobby Assistant (Concierge Bell/Door)

#### Housekeeping

Housekeeping Supervisor  
Linen & Uniform  
Room Attendant  
Public Area Attendant  
Guest Request Runner  
Seamstress

#### A&G - Accounting

Purchasing Manager  
Receiving Officer  
Storeman  
Account Receivable Officer  
Account Payable Officer  
Income Auditor  
Paymaster/General Cashier

#### Engineering

Engineer Administrator  
Technician - Mechanical & Electrical  
Technician - Kitchen & Refrigerator  
Handyman  
Carpenter / Painter  
Gardener Supervisor

#### Food and Beverage Division

##### Food & Beverage

Banquet Manager  
Restaurant Manager  
F&B Secretary  
Bar Shift Leader  
In-Room Dining Shift Leader  
Banquet Shift Leader  
Bartender  
F&B Attendant  
Pool Service Attendant

#### Culinary Department

Sous Chef  
Chef de Partie  
Demi Chef  
Commis  
Pastry Chef  
Steward Shift Leader  
Steward Attendant  
Commissionary Attendant

#### Reservations Department

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# World's best battling it out

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE Phuket Thailand Open smashed onto Karon Beach on Wednesday with the finals being held on Sunday.

Over 500 players from 28 countries are taking part in the year-ending Phuket leg of the 2010 Swatch FIVB Beach Volley World Tour, despite bad weather threatening to dampen proceedings earlier in the week.

Although organizers are keeping an eye on the weather, only heavy rain will be allowed to delay play, said Kaewjai "Pu" Kaewpratoom of event organizers Pentangle Promotions.

The event is expected to generate some 150 million baht, TAT Phuket office Director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon said.

As this newspaper went to print, qualifying matches were getting underway, with main draw matches being Thursday through Sunday on the central court in Karon.

Matches on Saturday and Sun-



**ACTION-PACKED:** One of last year's champions April Ross is in Karon again to defend her team's title.

day start at 3pm and admission is free for spectators.

The final and third-place play-off on Sunday will be broadcast to half a billion homes worldwide.

In Thailand, Sunday's matches

will be broadcast live on NBT.

The FIVB women's world tour this year has been dominated by four countries: Brazil, China, Germany and the US.

Brazil are represented by four

teams, including the world number one pairing of Larissa Franca and Juliana Felisberta Da Silva.

China's top team of Xue Chen and Zhang Xi are looking to extend their run of four

successive podium finishes.

Germany's most successful team of the tournament, Sara Goller and Laura Ludwig, are leading the European charge.

The American teams include both the current world champions and reigning Phuket champions, Jen Kessy-Boss and April Ross as well as current Olympic Champion Kerry Walsh partnered with Nicole Branagh.

Thailand, with three teams in the main draw, will be aiming to improve on their performance last year, when the host nation's best placing was 25<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the Swatch FIVB World Tour tournament, there will be a full supporting program of amateur tournaments, an international Beach Volley Around the World event with teams from Asia and Europe, and a Phuket Inter-hotel challenge supported by Federbrau beer.

As a proud sponsor of this event, the *Gazette* wishes all competitors the best of luck.

## Anapat pips it again in Phuket Dinghy Series

THE second installment of the four part 2010 Phuket Dinghy Series took place at the Sailing in Phuket Club last month.

Seventeen Optimists and seven Lasers competed in the waters, under the shadow of Sarasin Bridge.

Conditions were perfect for sailing when the first of five scheduled races started, but soon deteriorated, with winds alternating between high gusts and dead calm.

Anapat Ngarmdee took another clean sweep at the event, after the five wins he achieved at the opening event of Series II.

He leads the overall series championship so far.

After a slow start, Pongpak Nunkhantod took second place in Series II and holds onto second place in the overall series championship after count back.

In the Laser class Wittaya

Sangsui was the event winner with four wins out of five.

Chat Dawruang took second place to keep his hopes alive in the overall championship.

After two series and 10 races in each class, the overall series championship standings are as follows:

### Optimist:

Anapat Ngarmdee (10)  
Tanakorn Patonma (27)  
Suthisarn Keawnin (73)

### Laser:

Chat Dawruang (15)  
Trairat Manthong (27)  
Mak Sarawat (35)

For the full series results, visit [www.kingscup.com](http://www.kingscup.com).

— James Goyder




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**Thai & English Course: November 29th – 30th, from 9:00am – 2:00pm**

**Aqua Aerobics**  
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# Heart attack mars playoff victory

By Richard Vaughan

FC Phuket managed to cling onto a 1-0 home win against Chainat FC despite one of their star players suffering a heart attack during play last weekend.

Midfielder Camara Ahmed collapsed after a power surging run through the visiting side's half. He was rushed to Bangkok Hospital Phuket where he remained in a stable condition as this newspaper went to print.

FC Phuket advisor Paitoon Chutimakornkul said the hospital's Cardiac Care Unit kept the Ivory Coast player alive after he stopped

breathing while being transported from the ambulance to the hospital.

Hundreds of FC Phuket fans will hope Ahmed makes a full recovery, along with his teammates, coaching staff, and of course, his family.

During the game, striker Thawin Butrasombat gave FC Phuket the lead in the second half, heading into an empty net following a mistake by the visiting goalkeeper.

The win has reignited FC Phuket's playoff campaign, and dream of being promoted to Division One next season.

Billed as a must-win game for the home side, the fans knew how crucial the match was, turning out in

record numbers on the night.

After two matches, FC Phuket trailed group leaders Chainat by four points, with the visitors having collected maximum points so far.

About 25 minutes into the game, following a foul on Adisak Petchluan, teenage midfielder Sarach Yooyen curled a free kick which deflected off the wall into the bottom left corner of the net only for the referee to disallow the goal for reasons still unclear.

From the retake, Diarra Ali forced a spectacular save from the visiting keeper, who flung himself to keep the scores level at halftime.

Within minutes of the restart, the home side were in front.

A cross from the FC Phuket right was met by the Chainat goalkeeper who collided with his own teammate, dropping the ball, which fell to Thawin who com-



UP FOR IT: FC Phuket fought hard for a deserved win. Photos: Apinun Saithong

pleted the simple task of heading the ball into an empty net.

Moments later Camara collapsed and was then rushed off the pitch. Understandably, the manner of his exit left the home side stunned.

This allowed Chainat to work their way back into the match but an outstanding performance from Camara's fellow countryman Nene Bi ensured FC Phuket's lead remained intact.

Thawin could have ensured victory late on as he raced onto a through ball from Sarach, beat the keeper but was unable to find the

back of the net from an acute angle.

The final whistle sparked scenes of jubilation in the stands but on the pitch the FC Phuket players kept their celebrations to a minimum, understandably concerned for their colleague and friend.

FC Phuket manager Arjan Songsamssub expressed his mixed feelings about the match.

"I am happy we won, but I am more concerned about the health of Camara. He has never had any sort of problem like this in the past and this has come as a surprise," he said.

See news pages for more on Camara.

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