

# Phuket Gazette

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**EXCLUSIVE**



## Camara's recovery continues

THE brother of stricken FC Phuket star Camara Ahmed speaks to the *Phuket Gazette* about the player's slow recovery following a massive heart attack during a game late last year.

Camara Lancina gives a candid and heartfelt account of his brother's predicament and future prospects.

He also talks about the work he is doing with local children in return for the "generosity" that FC Phuket and Thailand have shown his family.

See page 43 for full story

# ATM scams run rife

By Nicholas Altstadt and Atchaa Khamlo

AN ENGLISH expat has gone public about 814,000 baht allegedly stolen from his bank account in an ATM scam.

Following the *Phuket Gazette* online report of the arrest of a Romanian gang for ATM fraud in Patong last Sunday, Paul Treherne felt it was time to let other people know about his own ordeal.

The four Romanians were arrested for stealing as much as 100 million baht through ATM card scams.

It is believed that fraudsters in the United Kingdom used "skimmers" to read data from genuine ATM cards.

Stored on USB drives, the data later transferred to blank ATM cards in Thailand, police said.

The scammers then allegedly used the counterfeit cards to make fraudulent withdrawals from their victims' accounts.

Mr Treherne claims that his Thai Military Bank (TMB) card was cleverly "skimmed" right behind his back as he used an ATM at the United Overseas Bank (UOB) on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road in Patong on January 27.

In surveillance footage shown to the *Gazette* by Mr Treherne, he



The 'helpful' man hands off Mr Treherne's ATM card to his accomplice while he is preoccupied with the cash machine. Image: YouTube

was seen using an ATM as what appeared to be a European man wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses approached from behind.

After Mr Treherne received his cash, he walked away from the machine. The suspect then produced a 1,000-baht note and called to him.

"He said, 'Hey, you've not gotten all of your money from the ATM. This just came out of it,'" Mr Treherne said.

"The guy sounded French. He explained that he had this problem before and told me that I

needed to check my account to be sure everything was correct," he said.

In the video, the suspect hovered around Mr Treherne, "helping" him with his "problem" as another man wearing a motorcycle helmet and carrying a shoulder bag approached an adjacent ATM.

In what appeared to be a very practiced maneuver, the "helper" managed to get possession of Mr Treherne's ATM card and pass it to the man in the motorcycle helmet.

The second suspect then

opened his bag and put the card inside, running it through a skimmer, Mr Treherne believes.

The card was then passed back to the helper who managed to get it back to Mr Treherne while he was still preoccupied with the ATM.

It wasn't until February 5 that Mr Treherne realized his account had been plundered.

Through a series of withdrawals using a counterfeit card in Pattaya and Bangkok, the thieves managed to steal 814,000 baht from Mr Treherne's account.

Mr Treherne and his wife filed a report with Patong Police on February 5.

They later filed charges with the Pattaya Police after learning that four Frenchmen were arrested there in February for a similar scam. "One of the guys arrested in Pattaya - the skinny fellow - I'm sure he's the one in the motorcycle helmet that skimmed my card," he said.

Mr Treherne was also shown photographs from one ATM in Bangkok depicting a man with Arab features allegedly withdrawing money from his account.

Capt Teerasak Boonsaeng of Patong Police said they believe the gang responsible for Mr Treherne's case has yet to be arrested.

Continued on page 3

# Phuket heeds Japan's call for aid

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

THE Phuket Tsunami Relief Center for Japan has been set up at Provincial Hall as a collection point for donations to aid survivors of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11.

The center was established on Tuesday following talks between Phuket Japanese Association President Kazushi Miyashita and Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

"Seven years ago when the tsunami hit Phuket, we received help from many countries, including Japan. This time Japan is suffering. It's our time to return help," Governor Tri said.

"I am very glad that the center has been set up to help our country," said Mr Miyashita.

"Japan is short of gasoline, medicine, batteries, children's necessities, blankets and many other things. But we prefer financial donations because it is very difficult to deliver goods in the affected areas.

"Trains have stopped running and many roads are still closed," he said.

Gov Tri explained that all monies received by the center will be transferred to the Ministry of Interior, then on to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will pass them on to the Japanese government through the proper channels.

Donations can be made in person at the center, located on the first floor of Provincial Hall, or by bank transfer to: Phuket Tsunami Relief Center for Japan, Account No. 805-0-41578-3, Krungthai Bank, Phuket Branch.

The relief center (076-216333) is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm and it is currently scheduled to stop accepting donations at midday on March 26.

Meanwhile, Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Jungceylon shopping complex in Patong have also set up collection points where donations of cash and relief items are accepted.

See also Love Aid for Japan on page 23



**Shockwaves reach Phuket**  
 The *Gazette's* Nicholas Altstadt reports on how the disaster has affected the Japanese community in Phuket.  
 See page 14 for full story

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## This Week

### News

The island's first Provincial Administration Organization Hospital is set to open in May. **Page 6**

### Business



Middle East mayhem is meddling with global oil prices. **Page 12**

### Let's get together



Local musicians are organizing a festival to help Japan. **Page 23**

### Health



Hygiene regulations are being enforced on 'fish spas'. **Page 24**

### Design



Peek into Bill Bensley's latest design - The Nest. **Page 31**

### Sport

The Gazette now has three sports pages. This week read up on FC Phuket, sailing races and Thai national football. **Pages 45-47**

### Saturday



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### Sunday



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### Monday



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### Tuesday



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### Wednesday



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### Thursday



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# Phuket special needs center facing crisis

THE Center for Special Education in Phuket is facing a budgetary and staffing crisis because the number of disabled children on the island is going up every year, its director says.

Wanida Suraban said the center, in Kathu, now looks after 191 children with problems including blindness, learning disabilities, communication problems, deafness, autism and other conditions.

The center has 15 teachers who provide education both on and off-site. About 40 to 50 children come every day to the center, where they are taught in preparation to join their peers in mainstream education.

At the same time, the center also runs an off-site education program in which teachers visit children at their homes.

Most of the children who receive this service have serious conditions that prevent their parents or guardians from bringing them to the center.

"We also run a knowledge training program for parents and guardians under our 'Turning Homes into Schools, Turning Par-



Students at the Center for Special Education brush their teeth after lunch.

ents into Teachers' program," said Mrs Wanida.

The center has been running the program for two years and now has 82 families enrolled, she said.

The program aims to teach parents to address children's educational needs in the home. The center also helps families reconfigure their homes so they

are suitable for the care of disabled children.

"Parents and guardians of the children have to submit a daily report on how their child is developing and what problems they face. Our teachers then go in and help them look after the children and fix those problems," she said.

- Nation Breaking News

## Excise office busts smoke smugglers

OFFICIALS from the Phuket Excise Office have seized 956 packs of illegally imported cigarettes and packs of tobacco with a total street value of about 100,000 baht.

Most of the contraband was imported by post, said excise officer Chingchai Borwornthanasan.

Three people were arrested in the raid: Yusaree Yun, Ussamarn Wangdee and Je-padeemoh Yun.

The cigarettes and tobacco seized were expensive brands popular with tourists, said Mr Chingchai. Brands including Absolute, Gudang Garam and Baragu, among others imported from Malaysia, Indonesia and India were among those seized.

Surat Sangnet, head of suppression at the Phuket Excise Office, said the raid on shops in



Some of the contraband seized.

Pa Khlok Village 3 followed a week-long investigation by Excise officers.

All three suspects were charged with possession of smuggled cigarettes and tobacco with intent to sell. If convicted, each faces a fine of up to 15 times the tax not paid - or a jail sentence.

- Yodsak Jarana

## KATHU BLACKOUT

THE Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) has announced a scheduled blackout in Kathu in order to carry out maintenance on high-voltage power lines, install new lines and move utility poles.

The work will be carried out from 9am to 5pm.

Areas to be affected by the blackout include: Along Wichit Songkram Road, from Soi Bang Thong (opposite the entrance to Phuket Water Ski Cable Way) to Kathu Municipality offices, including some areas along Soi Bang Thong, Bang Thong Village, Baan Bang Thong Hillside and Baan Poh Thong Village.

For more information, call the PEA Operations and Maintenance Department at 076-211663, ext 45311.

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**FAMOUS NIGHTCLUB PATONG**

**Warrant issued for driver of overturned tour bus**

POLICE have confirmed that an arrest warrant has been issued for the driver of the tour bus that overturned in Phuket last week.

Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao told the *Gazette* the warrant was issued on Monday.

The double-deck tour bus had 53 people on board when it overturned on Patong Hill, two kilometers short of its final destination after returning from Udon Thani.

In the confusion immediately after the accident, the *Gazette* was told that the driver was not injured and was at Patong Police Station for questioning.

However, the *Gazette* has since been told that the driver was slightly injured and last seen at Patong Hospital.

"We continue to search for him, but we haven't caught him yet. We know his name is Yongyut and his nickname is Nuan, but we don't know his surname," Col Arayapan said.

- Atchaa Khamlo

# Swede denies phone theft

By Atchaa Khamlo

SWEDISH tourist John Redling, 38, has denied charges against him involving the theft of 85 Nokia mobile phones from a delivery truck in Patong.

The devices were reported stolen from a pickup in the basement parking lot of Jungceylon shopping complex on March 3.

Following a one-week investigation, the Swede was arrested in his Nanai Road apartment the following Thursday.

Suphon Tinphoe and Jiraporn Thonghoon of Nokia distributor Silk Telecom Co Ltd reported an unspecified number of telephones stolen from the cab of their delivery pickup on March 3, said Patong Police duty officer Weerapong Rakkittoo.

Police said a call to one of the stolen phones was picked up by Kathu resident Sinchai Ladleua.

Under questioning, Mr Sinchai said he bought the phone from Poramate "Karn" Deesamer, a 34-year-old resident of Nanai Road in Patong.

Another woman called in for questioning, Waraporn Jaidee, likewise reported having bought a



Swedish national John Redling denies the theft charges.

phone from Mr Poramate.

Subsequent investigation led police to the home of Mr Poramate, where eight more phones were recovered.

Mr Poramate told police he bought the phones from Reuthairat Raksasin, a 29-year-old from Khon Kaen working in Patong.

Police set up a sting operation in which Mr Poramate called Ms Reuthairat to arrange an appointment to buy more mobile phones, Capt Weerapong said.

Police accompanied Mr Poramate to Mr Redling's apartment on Nanai Road, where Ms Reuthairat was also staying.

Twenty-four telephones match-

ing the serial numbers of the stolen devices were found in the room.

Mr Poramate and Ms Reuthairat were charged with receipt and sale of stolen goods.

Mr Redling was charged with the theft of 85 mobile phones.

He denied the charges, however, telling the *Gazette* that he acquired the telephones "duty free" and gave them to Ms Reuthairat to sell because she was short of money.

However, Ms Reuthairat was apparently not the only one in financial distress.

Capt Weerapong said that the permit-to-stay in Mr Redling's passport had expired 10 days before his arrest.

He was also two months behind in his rent and 20,000 baht behind on vehicle payments, he added.

Mr Redling told the *Gazette* he was a carpenter in Sweden and a regular visitor to Phuket.

He had been coming to Phuket annually for the past five years and planned to stay two weeks on his current visit.

Patong Police have thus far recovered 52 of the 85 missing telephones.

## Scammed in paradise

From page 1

"Right now we are trying to compose a sketch of the suspect and issue an arrest warrant," he said.

Mr Treherne praised Kathu Police for their handling of the case.

"They have their eyes open and have been very helpful - especially Capt Teerasak. These guys are diligent and on top of the case," he said.

However, Mr Treherne is very dissatisfied with TMB in their response.

"They have not responded to any of my emails other than to issue an automatic response saying that my complaint was noted and

that someone would contact me as soon as possible," he said.

"They are not taking responsibility for this. They [the suspects] didn't steal my money - they used a fake ATM card, not mine, to take money from TMB in a different city. They should give me back my money," he said.

"If this is the way it's going to be, I don't feel my money is safe with them," he added.

Anuchart Chatchayanukorn, manager at TMB's Jungceylon branch, told the *Gazette*, "As I know now, the case is with the police. We have already forwarded the documents and other information to the police and our client."

TMB Bank headquarters was repeatedly "unavailable" for comment.

## Italian man gunned down in Pa Khlok

POLICE believe a business deal is the prime motive for the murder of Luciano Butti, 61.

Mr Butti was gunned down while riding a rented motorbike along the Heroines' Monument-Pa Khlok Road on Tuesday night.

However, officers are also investigating Mr Butti's ongoing divorce proceedings at the time of his death.

Mr Butti was murdered the night before he was due to appear in court, said Lt Col Phisit Cheunphet of Thalang Police.

Mr Butti, who ran a bungalow rental business on Phi Phi Island, arrived in Phuket on Tuesday and saw his lawyer in Kathu from 5pm to 7pm that day.

During his meeting, he received

a phone call. The lawyer told police he heard Mr Butti say in English, "I am busy right now. I cannot talk."

Police are investigating that phone call. Officers believe Mr Butti was lured to Pa Khlok by his killer specifically so he would ride along the dimly-lit road, where he could be ambushed, Lt Col Phisit said.

CCTV footage showed Mr Butti visiting Ao Po Grand Marina after 7pm.

His body was found by the roadside 200 meters from the entrance to Bang Pae Waterfall. He was shot while riding towards the Heroine's Monument.

He was hit four times: in the chest, right collarbone, abdomen and left wrist.

Three 11mm bullet casings and three unspent 11mm bullets were found at the scene.

Police found 22,100 baht cash in Mr Butti's shorts, but not in a wallet.

- *Phuket Gazette*



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# Female drug mule makes final call

POLICE arrested a woman who stashed almost 2,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills on top of a phone booth in front of Piboonsawaddee Municipal School, a primary school on Damrong Road in Phuket Town.

Officers asked the press not to release the identity of the woman, as doing so could compromise the ongoing investigation into who supplied her with the narcotics.

The 36-year-old Phuket native was arrested on March 11 on charges of possession of 2,430 *ya bah* pills with intent to sell.

Phuket City Deputy Superintendent Chaiwat Auykham said the arrest followed a tip-off. After the woman made the drop-off, police followed her to nearby Amphur Road, where she lives and works.

Police found 600 pills inside the home and placed the woman under arrest.

Officers then returned to the phone booth, where they found a box containing a new car air filter.

Inside the filter were 1,830 *ya bah* pills in nine packages, Lt Col



The air filter and boxes used to conceal the drugs.

Chaiwat said. "She said she was ordered to pick up the box of *ya bah* from Phuket Bus Terminal 1 [on Phang Nga Road], where it arrived aboard a bus from Sungai Kolok in Narathiwat," said Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong.

"She said she was hired for 12,000 baht for this job [receiving and delivering the *ya bah*] and that it was her second time doing so," Maj Gen Pekad said.

Her confession would be "very useful" in helping investigators bring down the drug network that hired her, he said.

# Jilted boyfriend leaves ex armless

A MAN in Pathum Thani allegedly launched a crazed sword attack on his ex-girlfriend, severing one of her arms before grabbing the limb and fleeing.

Victim Mali Phuangprachang, who works at a beauty salon, is recovering in Viparam Hospital. The 33-year-old has been left without her right forearm. She also suffered a gash to her face that required 22 stitches.

Doctors had to perform emergency surgery to reattach her left arm, which was also nearly severed in the attack.

Her current boyfriend, an Englishman identified only as "Mark", was also injured.

Police are searching for the attacker, identified by Miss Mali as her former boyfriend Sonthaya Katuphueak, age 35.

The attack happened on March 2 after Mrs Mali and Mark spent the day at a local festival at Thupatemi Stadium.



Pavena Hongsakul, founder of the Pavena Foundation for Children and Women, visited Miss Mali in hospital following the attack.

When the couple returned to Miss Mali's apartment on Lamukka Road Miss Mali heard someone calling out her name, Mrs Pavena said.

When she turned around she saw Mr Sonthaya, her ex-boyfriend of more than two years, brandishing a meter-long sword, Mrs Pavena said.

Mr Sonthaya allegedly aimed a blow at Miss Mali's face. When she put up her hands to protect herself, the sword almost severed

both of her arms. He then hacked off her right arm with the sword, she said.

"When she [nigh literally] had no arms to defend herself, Mr Sonthaya slashed her head with the sword, opening up a wound that needed 22 stitches," said Mrs Pawena.

"He also hacked at her body in several places. Afterwards he picked up her right arm and ran off with it."

Miss Mali's left arm was left hanging by the skin. Doctors performed emergency surgery to reattach the nerves and blood vessels inside the limb.

Mrs Pawena said Mark, also injured in the attack, was sent to Bangkok Hospital for treatment. British Embassy officials visited him during his recovery.

Officers from Khukhot District Police are continuing their search for Mr Sonthaya.

- Manager Online

# Serial thieves nabbed

THREE teenagers were charged with breaking and entering and theft from at least 20 Phuket homes.

Chalong Police arrested the trio - aged 17, 16 and 14 - on March 9. The arrests followed Chalong Police patrol officers spotting a young teen in Soi Thanuthep riding a motorbike that had been reported stolen.

The officers stopped the 14-year-old and asked him to prove ownership the bike, which he failed to do.

Subsequent investigation led to the arrests of the other two boys.

All three confessed their most recent break-in was on Tuesday last week, when they stole items from the house of Canadian Robert Kief, 43, police said.

Mr Kief, retired and living in Phuket for two years, and his wife were present at the police station on March 10, when the arrests were announced.

They will file for damages to a



Mr and Mrs Kief identify the laptop computers stolen from their home.

door and a gate made during the break-in, they told police.

Mrs Kief identified three laptop computers, a digital camera and a Samsung mobile phone as all stolen from their house.

"The stolen items had already been sold - it was not easy to track them down," said Chalong Police investigation chief Maj Jaran Bangprasert.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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# Tourist Police under review

By Stephen Fein

MEMBERS of a special government working committee were in Phuket last week to gather information for a study on whether Immigration Police and Tourist Police should be transferred from the Royal Thai Police for administration by different government agencies.

Among those who visited the Tourist Police station in Phuket Town were committee chairman Asst Prof Noppadon Inna, special consultant Rewat Chumchaloern and committee members including Pol Lt Gen Chatchawal Suksomjit.

The team arrived at about 9am on March 11. They were formally greeted by local police officers and members of the local Volunteer Tourist Police led by Claude de Crissey.

After the closed session, Capt Torpan Pusuntia of the Tourist Police station in Phuket Town explained that the committee was on a fact-finding mission to Immigration and Tourist Police headquarters in the region, where they collect data and meet and lis-

ten to the opinions of local officers.

Among the data gathered were how many tourists visited each region annually and how many used the Tourist Police 1155 "Your First Friend" hotline since it was established in 2009.

"It's like in the past there was a Royal Thai Police firefighting unit, but it was later dissolved and their responsibilities were transferred to local administrative organizations... so they are studying which of the responsibilities we currently carry out actually fall under the mandate of the Royal Thai Police," Capt Torpan explained.

While in Phuket, committee members and consultants also conferred with the heads of Phuket Airport Immigration, Phuket Immigration and toured Chalong Bay, where a large marina expansion project is underway that will include improved Immigration controls for tourists who arrive by sea.

When the committee is finished its work it will present its findings and recommendations to Cabinet, which will have the final



Tourist Police salute committee members who will help decide their fate.

say over the fate of the two police branches, he added.

Capt Torpan said he was unaware of any specific deadline for the committee to make its recommendations, however.

The Tourist Police headquarters in Phuket Town is responsible for tourist safety in Phang Nga as well as Phuket, Capt Torpan explained.

The station's 25 officers represent just one tourist police officer per 281,751 foreign tourists who visit the two provinces annually, he said.

However, they do enjoy the help of a large number of Volunteer Tourist Police. Thus far 200 volunteers have passed the mandatory training, which includes first aid

training. Of these 112 are on active duty in Phuket and Phang Nga: 76 Thais and 36 foreigners.

Thanks to their language abilities and familiarity with Thailand, the foreign volunteers provide invaluable assistance in dealing with compatriots who face problems during their stays here, Capt Torpan said.

Among the languages spoken by the volunteers are English, French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Norwegian, Swedish, Icelandic, Malay, Dutch, German, Polish, Hindi, Nepalese, Burmese, Hebrew, Japanese and Thai.

They want to recruit more Russian-speaking volunteers to help tourists from that country, he said.

The Tourist Police volunteers are one of three foreign volunteer police groups operating in Phuket.

Region 8 Police also have a number of foreigners working as volunteers, as do Phuket Immigration headquarters in Phuket Town.

Meanwhile, work on a shelter for down-on-their-luck tourists is "almost complete", but there is still no set date for when the two-room facility will open, Capt Torpan said.

## 191 hotline overhauled, relaunched

PHUKET police have relaunched the 191 emergency hotline in Phuket after overhauling the system, which was plagued with problems – including emergency calls being lost or misdirected.

"The old system saw 191 calls not reaching the correct police stations, many calls mistakenly put through to Thalang and Chalong [police stations]," said Phuket City Police Superintendent Chote Chitchai.

"This new system directs calls to the center, where officers answer calls and pass reports directly to dispatch officers in the radio room next door," he added.

Dispatch officers then notify the relevant police station of the report by radio, he added.

On hand to officially open the



The system will stop calls being misdirected or lost entirely, say police.

call center on March 10 was Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen.

The new system also allows officers answering calls to identify the number of the phone used

to call the center and approximate where the call was made from.

"This will help officers deal with prank calls," Col Chote said. – *Atchaa Khamlo*

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# New hospital to open in May

By Janpen Upatising

THE hunt is on for qualified medical staff to work at the first Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) Hospital, announced this week to open by the end of May.

The hospital, on Sri Sena Road in Phuket Town, will be the first in the country to be administered by a provincial authority.

"The outpatient department will open around the end of May, while the inpatient department will go into service in July," *OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising said on Wednesday during a tour of the new facility.

Dr Tanatip Suppradit, adviser to Thonburi Hospital Group, which has been contracted to run the facility, said staff at the new hospital will include experienced personnel from Thonburi Hospital and local medical workers.

"The hospital will help reduce the load on the other, overcrowded hospitals in Phuket," said Dr Tanatip, who is also an assistant to the secretary general of the Medical Council of Thailand.

## Schedule of tentative room tariffs per day:

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- Single bed 2,350 baht
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- Child 1,000 baht
- Infant 300 baht

The new hospital will run as a "secondary" treatment facility. "Complicated cases requiring specialists in brain, cardiac or cancer cases will be transferred to other hospitals," said Dr Boon Wanasin, advising president of Thonburi Hospital Group.

"Resident doctors will be able to deal with basic ailments such as headaches and colds as well as internal medicine, obstetrics and orthopedic treatments," explained Hospital Director Dr Yee Yitathasiri.

"We will try to hire specialists. They may not be able to stay on five working days a week, but they may be available on weekends or a few working days each week," he added.



The hospital is scheduled to launch outpatient services in May.

"Once the hospital has provided services for a period, I expect we will be able to expand our range of treatments," he said.

Dr Yee is currently assistant executive director at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok.

"My job there is to recruit doctors. However, I will step down from that position to work full time

as Hospital Director at the *OrBorJor* Hospital," he said.

The main building at the hospital is 10 stories, comprising mainly inpatient rooms.

A separate five-story wing includes more inpatient rooms and a staff dormitory.

Altogether, the hospital will have 129 patient beds, with room

to be expanded to 190 beds in the future.

"We expect to be able to treat 300 outpatients and 20 inpatients per day. It will take us about two months to test develop the administrative system," said Dr Boon.

"We do not want to profit from this hospital. We know we will certainly lose money, but we want this hospital to become a place to train interns," he explained.

"The interns will be able to stay close to patients for three to four months, learning what difficulties they face day to day. This will make them quality doctors and nurses in the future," he added.

This strategy was strongly supported by the *OrBorJor*, Mr Paiboon explained.

"In the future, medical staff will provide services outside the hospital, visiting and examining patients," he said.

A survey already conducted indicated that home consultations were needed for people who could not take themselves to hospital and their friends because family worked long hours, Mr Paiboon said.

## Man killed instantly in high-speed collision

A 31-year-old man died instantly in a high-speed collision north of Phuket Town early on March 11 as he rode his motorbike across Thepkrasattri Road but into the path of an oncoming car.

Lt Patiwat Yodkhuan of Thalang Police reported that Meknoi Seekaew, originally from Phrae province, was riding northbound along Thepkrasattri Road at about 2:20am when the accident occurred.

Mr Meknoi was riding along the east side of the road heading north, against the flow of traffic, he said.

When he approached the U-turn at Baan Nai Kham, about two kilometers south of Thalang Town, he headed across the lanes so that he could continue his journey on the correct side of the road, Lt Patiwat explained.

Mr Meknoi apparently crossed



Rescue workers at the scene.

into the path of an oncoming Honda Civic car traveling at high speed southbound.

The driver was unable to avoid the collision. Mr Meknoi died instantly, Lt Patiwat said.

Mr Meknoi's body was taken to nearby Thalang Hospital to be claimed by relatives.

— Wichai Witthaya

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## General elections in 'June or July'

PRIME Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva last week announced he would dissolve Parliament in the first week of May, paving the way for elections in June or early July.

Last year the red shirt United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) held 10 weeks of protests that aimed to force the prime minister to dissolve Parliament. At least 91 people died and 2,000 were injured during army crackdowns on the demonstration.

The UDD is now urging its supporters to vote for the Pheu Thai Party. Both the UDD and the party have strong links to exiled former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Last Saturday night, Mr Thaksin phoned in from Dubai to 50,000 red supporters gathered at the Democracy Monument on Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue, telling them to vote for Pheu Thai.

"If you vote [for Pheu Thai] to win by a landslide, I would come back to solve Thailand's economic problems and make the country boom again within six months," he said.

# Nuclear scare goes global



THAILAND is reconsidering plans to build its first nuclear power plant in the wake of explosions at reactors in Japan that followed the devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

Under Thailand's 20-year power development plan, the country planned to build five nuclear power plants with a combined capacity of 5,000MW by 2025.

With Japan facing the possibility of a meltdown at the Fukushima plant, just one hour away from Tokyo, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva is considering scrapping the plans.

It is believed the premier already harbored reservations about nuclear power. "We must be sure of the safety system [of the nuclear power plant] as disasters from nature and terrorists in recent years have been more often," he said, according to Dow Jones.

The Japan disaster was described



The Fukushima plant's cooling system was damaged by the tsunami. Photo: AFP/DIGITALGLOBE

by one French nuclear expert as the second-worst in history, more serious than the Three Mile Island disaster in 1979 and second only to the Chernobyl meltdown in 1986.

It is expected to seriously damage the credibility of nuclear power at a time when governments are

under increasing pressure to reduce carbon emissions.

Several EU governments have ordered reviews of nuclear safety, while others suspended plans for new plants. There are currently more than 400 nuclear power plants in the world.

The crisis follows a 9.0 Richter earthquake off the coast of Japan that caused a devastating tsunami.

The tsunami is estimated to have killed 10,000 people and made more than 500,000 homeless. The repair bill is expected to top 5 trillion baht.

- Phuket Gazette

## Chiang Mai deaths put pressure on Thailand

THAILAND is under pressure to investigate a spate of tourist deaths in Chiang Mai, after several apparently healthy people died within weeks of each other.

Three of the victims were young women, prompting comparisons with the mysterious deaths of Norwegian Julie Bergheim, 22, and American Jill St Onge, 27, within hours of each other at the same guesthouse in Koh Phi Phi in May 2009.

In Chiang Mai in early January, American woman Mariam Soraya Vorster, 33, became sick with apparent food poisoning and died.

Later, four people died within two weeks - all while staying at the same hotel, the Downtown Inn.

On February 3, Thai national Waraporn Pungmahisiranon, 47, was found dead at the hotel.

The next day, three young female backpackers from New

Zealand came down with a mystery illness. The three victims started vomiting, suffering heart complications that forced their admission to intensive care. On February 6, Sarah Carter, 23, died.

A report in the *New Zealand Herald* said tests revealed Mrs Carter had the highly infectious echovirus that can cause myocarditis, the heart condition that killed her.

Days later, British couple George and Eileen Everitt, both in their 70s, checked into a room at the same hotel. Ten days after that, they were both found dead.

It has since emerged that two young French women fell ill, with one of them dying.

The United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States are all applying diplomatic pressure on Thailand to explain the deaths of their nationals, the TravelMole website reported.

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## Double the price, twice the shame

It was great to hear about the tin mining museum opening. But it was sad to see the same outdated double-tier pricing scheme rolled out.

When will we see change in this policy?

I would really like for Thais abroad to be charged the same way.

Oh, I forgot... that would be viewed as discriminatory.

Terrence Hinton  
Chalong

## One bored cop could save countless lives

I was lucky I was driving my motorbike slowly when turning right on a green light at an intersection in Kamala when a truck ran the red light from the cross-street at high speed and missed me by feet.

I still ended up on the ground with minor injuries as I had to brake to avoid being hit by the oncoming truck.

Many in Kamala have not been so lucky.

There continues to be accidents on an almost daily basis – including fatalities – at both sets of traffic lights on the main road.

This is mainly down to reckless driving, particularly in the early evenings as tourists return from various beaches to Patong.

The presence of cameras at the lights does nothing to prevent the carnage, loss of life and serious injuries.

One of the sets of traffic lights has not been working for at least five days.

There are police boxes at both

# Long, bumpy path toward road safety

LAST year in this space, the *Phuket Gazette* pointed out the irony of the central government's nine-million-baht investment in the Patong City welcome sign on Patong Hill road, while local authorities seem to find it impossible to come up with the meager budget needed to paint lines on the treacherous road that runs in front of it.

Now, five months later, the sign is a *fait accompli* but the road that runs past it remains without any of the road markings that would go a long way to help motorists avoid head-on collisions or running off the road because they can't clearly see where it leads.

The problem is hardly restricted to Patong Hill. As anyone familiar with roads across the island will attest, it is an island-wide problem that needs to be addressed immediately.

Some statistics hint at the extent of the problem. For two weeks every year, during the New Year and Songkran Festival holiday periods, police set up checkpoints around the island to try and limit the number of road accidents that take place.

Daily reports are issued on the total number of accidents that take place, along with grim tallies of the dead and injured. Along with these figures, officials are asked to mark down the cause of each accident from among a list of several options that include such expected causes as "drunk driving" and "speeding".

In Phuket the most common option is neither of these, however, but the final one that reads "other". The *Phuket Gazette* feels, and many offi-

sets of lights. I understand that being stationed at a police box would not be the most attractive assignment, but as a deterrent – particularly during peak traffic times – it seems the only way to prevent further loss of life.

Monitoring not only the lights but the standards of driving

along the newly-widened road is necessary.

One bored policeman would be but a small price to pay to prevent more accidents, injuries and loss of life.

Why is this not being done?

Tony Wilson  
Kamala

## Phuket Gazette

cialists agree, that this in large part reflects the deplorable state of the roads here. A culture of carelessness, potholes, poorly-designed speed bumps and numerous other factors all contribute to Phuket's road safety problems.

But of all the possible solutions, the easiest and cheapest way by far to keep tour buses from falling off cliffs or sedans from driving into roadside homes is simply to mark our roads to something that at least approaches international standards – including the use of long-lasting, reflective paint.

Keeping our roadways well-marked and well-lit should be among the most important duties of every local administration, as well as other government agencies with responsibility for road safety.

But, these same organizations tend to sit on their hands while our roadways become lined with hideous, Bangkok-style billboards that should have no place whatsoever on an island that is marketed as a "beach getaway" destination.

An even more disturbing development is the appearance of electrically lit "scroll signs" along the median strips in at least one municipality. Another dangerous visual distraction to motorists, especially at night, these further contribute to an urban blight and will almost surely fall into disrepair before long due to accidents, vandalism and just the wrath of the elements.

even know his surname? I guess they don't even know if he has a driver's licence. I wonder if they have a copy of it, or of his identity card. The bus owner should be charged as well.

Observer  
Gazette forum

## Helping Japan

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket moves for Japan disaster relief, March 15*

An excellent initiative. Japan needs all the help it can get right now. A terrible disaster.

Thank you Bangkok Hospital.  
Peter N  
Gazette forum

## Time is now to sort out lifeguards

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Beach Safety: Why the guards are not there, March 14*

This high season has seen some of the roughest and most dangerous sea conditions in recent memory.

The next monsoon season is just over four to six weeks away and, in line with world weather patterns this year, who is to say it won't arrive sooner?

The lifeguard problem needs to be sorted out now, as a matter of great urgency without any further finger pointing!

Logic  
Gazette forum

## Swimmers take note

I think it's high time swimmers and tourists take a little responsibility for themselves. Don't go into the waters if there are red flags and warnings everywhere. Simple.

Rationale  
Bang Tao

## Bus Tragedy: Hold the owner responsible

Re: *Gazette online, Warrant issued for driver of overturned Phuket tour bus, March 14*

Nice one. The bus operator employs a driver, but does not

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## Issues & Answers...

### Any way to giddyup on work permits?

I have repeatedly called the number recently given out for the work permit department: 076-219660-1.

The female officer answering the phone has been most unprofessional and can barely speak English.

The work permit department is for foreigners, correct?

She puts one on interminable hold by loudly placing the the phone where one can hear the giggling remarks about Caucasians.

A young man who called himself "Khun Boy", who I have been able to get through to, instructed me to send an email to his private Hotmail address, but for two weeks now it has yet to be answered.

I simply want to know if it is possible to be issued a work permit to teach riding with my personal horse on a freelance basis without having to start a company.

I already reside here on a non-

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.  
Submit your issue at  
[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

immigrant B Investor visa.

I cannot find a Thai I trust enough to have 51% control of my money as a *legal* company would entail. So, can I start a business as a sole proprietor?

Queries to "attorneys" have resulted in a completely different answer in each case.

May I also ask: Are expat actors in neighborhood playhouses required to start companies to get work permits? Belly dance teachers? Yoga instructors? Moderators on discussion forums? Bloggers? IT fixers?

What about growing fruit for personal consumption?

I'd say the *Gazette* classified

ads are full of foreigners advertising their services, but the ads do not specifically say they have a work permit.

Is this allowed?

Why not make a provision and adopt a freelance permit and a system for taxing legally residing foreigners who are not criminals so they can pass on their knowledge?

Christy Sweet  
Thalang

### Noppadol Ployudee, Phuket Provincial Employment Office Chief, replies:

In general, foreigners who want to work without forming their own company can apply for a freelance work permit, but I cannot say exactly which types of work will be approved and which will not.

However, just for example, artists, artisans, singers, musicians, technicians, reporters, among others, are some of the types of work who are usually allowed to work on a self-employed basis.

They need to file the applica-

# Medical staff woes a full-time problem

## FIRST PERSON



**Dr Jessada Chungpaibulpatana**, 56, has been director of Vachira Phuket Hospital for eight years. Here he talks about shortages of doctors and nurses and the hospital's plans to construct a new inpatient building.

It's not only our hospital and Thailand that are lacking doctors and nurses. Hospitals around the world have the same problem as the number of sick people increase along with demands for better treatment.

The problem is not that there is a lack of youth interested in studying medicine. This year more than 20,000 people applied to study medicine in universities, of whom over 1,000 were accepted. This is normal.

The government needs to open up more full-time positions for doctors, nurses and health officials – not just temporary positions. This would encourage people to work with us longer and continue projects. Now, it's easy to lose them and that affects the work we do.

For example, Vachira Hospital loses one or two temporary nurses every month.

I would like the government to take a look, see which ministries need more personnel and open up more positions.

Meanwhile, they can cut positions at overstuffed ministries. The government can issue such a directive, one that would affect every ministry.

With a limited number of staff, we are trying to improve our system by sharing knowledge with

nearby hospitals – both in Phuket and neighboring provinces – so they can treat patients without needing to send them to Vachira. This will reduce our patient load.

It's our duty to accept serious cases transferred to us, but with all the minor cases coming to us – about 50 per cent of which are common colds – it's hard work.

Some are spreading information that the increase in alien workers is overburdening the hospital. That is wrong. Only two to three per cent of our outpatients are foreign laborers. They make up only six to seven per cent of inpatients.

The misinformation may stem from the high numbers of workers who come in for annual physical examinations as part of their registration processes.

We don't give preferential treatment to anyone – Thai or foreign. They are all human. If they come, of course they will be treated.

Our personnel is our most prized asset, so we are always trying to keep enough people to do the work needed and to keep them happy in their work.

We help in any way we can, such as assistance with accommodation, payment and spiritual support.

Vachira Phuket Hospital turned 100 years old in 2006 and 2008 was the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the late Luang Por Chaem, the highly-revered patriarch of Wat Chalong. Those are the reasons we are building the new Luang Por Chaem Centennial Building at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Construction of the building will cost about 142 million baht. We have received more than Bt70mn in donations and the Ministry of Health is giving another Bt20mn.

The hospital has also allocated Bt10mn baht from its budget for the construction.

We will ask for more money from the government and would also like private donors to continue to make contributions toward the construction.

If everything goes as planned, the Luang Por Chaem Centennial Building will be in use in 2014.

Anyone interested in donating to the cause can call the hospital at 076-361234 ext 1101.



Overloaded and on his way, but at least he's got his helmet on.

## Dangerous sidecars

### Island View

By Damien Evans

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

THE crackdown on motorbike passengers having to wear helmets has been excellent, though it hasn't stopped parents from carrying babies on motorbikes.

I understand the trusty Honda Dream is the sole mode of transport for many families on Phuket, and if they could afford a Mercedes they would drive one.

But the problem with dangerous sidecars still plagues us. Years ago, a policeman with exceptional common sense came right out and said police tolerate sidecars, as poor people need to make a living. But he added that police would also pull over the ones they thought were unsafe. Good man.

The only problem is: Which ones are unsafe? This week I saw two beautiful examples. One man was driving along the incredibly dangerous Thepkrasattri Road while overloaded with recyclables.

Obviously a collector of such materials cannot afford a pickup, and the driver was wearing his helmet – but he was clearly taking his life into his own hands.

The other example was a mo-



Safety? It's a gas.

bile food vendor who had his sidecar fitted with steel cages for his gas bottle and ice bucket. The problem? The gas bottle was in the perfect place to be struck by a vehicle from behind and the ice bucket blocked the taillight.

Perhaps have the Transportation Office could have a range of designs deemed "reasonably safe" available free.

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

tion form and show us "relevant documents" and we will consider approval case by case.

If your request is approved, it would be only temporarily, until we can check your tax payment history when you renew your work permit.

For a work permit for horse riding lessons, prepare whatever relevant documents you have, such as any licenses or permits proving you own the horse, photos and details of where the horse is stabled, a plan of which customers you intend to serve, details of the location where you will conduct your lessons and so on and come to the office in person to talk with us.

And if you find any foreigners working without a permit, please let us know by letter or fax.

We will investigate and prosecute any person found breaking the law.

Please call our work permit division for more information at 076-219660-1 ext 13 and ask specifically for Khun Boy.

He is the officer who can offer

basic information in English and Chinese.

**Sanchai Rattanasangoun, chief of the Phuket Regional Revenue Office, replies:**

Any people, both Thai and foreign, who are self-employed and earn over 100,000 baht a year in income must file tax payments using the *Phor Ngor Dor* 90 form.

Anyone found not paying tax on their income will be ordered to pay outstanding tax as back taxes and they will be fined.

### Getting trashed by Chalong Bay

Is there any chance of getting a trash can on the corner of the The Lighthouse and the Fishing Lodge, where the ramp goes down to the water at Chalong Bay?

It is not a nice sight for visiting yachtsmen, especially when they come from Langkawi where everything is clean.

Putting a trash can there would

certainly make the area look much nicer – and it would not cost 11.6 million baht.

*Horst Chalong*

**Ekkarat Tapina, and officer at the Public Health and Environmental Division at Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:**

Actually, right now we do not have a single extra garbage can in stock at our office, but if you come to our office and fill out a request form we will then be able to take action on it.

Just fill out the form requesting that you would like to have a trash can placed, specifying exactly where you would like it to be.

You can specify that your reason for requesting the trash can is for keeping the area clean and ask for the trash can to be emptied daily.

If the exact location of where the trash can is to be is on private land, we must charge a monthly fee for trash collection, which will vary depending on the volume of trash collected.

Once we have your official request, we can get started on getting your trash can placed straight away.

Visit the Chalong *OrBorTor* office on Luang Por Chaem Road or call us at 076-282255.

You can come and fill out the request form during between 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

### Locked up for mowing grass

Can you clarify the law regarding gardening with a lawn mower and brush cutter? If I use these at my own residence, is it legal?

A friend was arrested by police and made to pay a fine for doing his own gardening at his own residence using a lawn mower in late 2010.

If it is legal and I am arrested, who can I call to rectify the matter and what is their number?

*Victa Ryobi Phuket*

**Mr Sukrit Sitthiboon of the Government Contact Center (GCC) replies:**

Please ask the police who arrested your friend what exactly it was that he or she had done that was against the law.

No lawn mower or brush cutter is illegal if a person is using it on their own land.

There is also no special law forbidding foreigners from undertaking such activity.

In the case that you contact the police and they cannot tell you which law was broken, you can call and make a complaint with the GCC at 1111 ext 2.

The line is open 24 hours a day and the service is free.

We will send the complaint to the Office of the Permanent Secretary to delegate responsibility to the proper department or division to work on it.

We cannot specify how long the process will take, as it depends on the case.

Another solution could be to take your complaint to the local police station.

# ITB still good value for Phuket



ROYAL ARRIVAL: HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya of Thailand attended the ITB 2011 event in Berlin last week. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET tourism operators have been praised for their collective effort in joining ITB 2011, Berlin's leading trade show for the international travel industry.

The event attracted about 170,000 visitors from March 9 to 13, producing a reported volume of orders in excess of six billion euros (more than Bt225bn).

"This is my first time to ITB. I am so glad to have this chance," Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"I am very impressed by Phuket hotel operators joining this show as a group, not as individual booths.

"I am also impressed with the Phuket booth itself and its design of two floors: Downstairs for hotel operators to discuss with prospective business partners and upstairs as a 'relax zone' to sit and talk while having drinks.

"I believe this year, and into next year, many more tourists will visit Phuket," he added.

Highlighting the importance of Thailand joining the event was

HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya attending on March 10 to see the Thailand exhibits in person.

Phuket Tourism Association President Somboon Jirayus, known for his recurring warnings about Phuket's reliance on the fickle tourism industry, also saw Phuket's presence at ITB this year as a positive move for the island.

"Although EU countries are experiencing financial problems, there are still charter flights from Europe to Phuket," he said.

"Phuket is still popular among European tourists. Compared with other booths, especially Phang Nga and Krabi, we can see buyers are visiting our booth all the time.

"We have talked to inbound tour agents who have come to discuss deals with our hotel operators, and everybody says that Phuket is still the top choice for European tourists."

However, he warned, "Money they spend during their stay might be less than ever."

Valentina Leggenda, a sales representative at Indochina Services

Travel Group in Italy, highlighted to the *Gazette* how exchange rates were still working in favor of European tourists coming to Phuket.

"Although we have beaches and good sea, beaches in Thailand – especially in Phuket – are more beautiful and the weather is better and food is delicious.

"Also, living costs there are less than in Italy, so Phuket is very attractive for Italian people," she added.

Included in the Phuket delegation attending ITB was Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising.

The *OrBorJor* provided four million baht for the Phuket Tourism Association to have 28 Phuket hotels represented at the show.

"Compared to last year, there were more tour agents visiting the Phuket booth and we have received very good feedback on trading," Mr Paiboon said.

"I am sure that tourism will improve a lot in the coming year," he added.

## Subway to take a big bite out of Asia with new outlets

AMERICAN sandwich restaurant chain Subway intends to double the number of franchise stores in Asia to 2,000 by 2015.

Fred DeLuca, Subway's president and co-founder, said that about 200 new outlets would be opened in Asia this year.

"We plan to open Subway franchise outlets in 10 more countries within the next five years," DeLuca said.

Michael Allan, Subway's local franchisee and development agent, said that in Thailand, Subway expected to increase its number of franchise restaurants from 36 at present to 120 by 2015.

He said the first Subway franchise sandwich restaurant was opened in Bangkok seven and a half years ago. At that time, the restaurant had no Thai customers at all.

"Today, about 40 per cent of Subway customers in Thailand are Thais, and 60 per cent foreigners," Mr Allan said.

The first new branches will be in Seacon Square in Bangkok and Karon Beach in Phuket, which would be opened in May, he said.

Another five to six Subway restaurants would be opened in Bangkok and two to three stores upcountry by the end of this year.

"We want to increase our sales



Subway is coming to Karon.

by 30 per cent this year. Our sales increased by 15 per cent, to 250 million baht last year," Mr Allan said.

– *The Nation*

## Double resort opening for Maikhao Dream Hotels

MAIKHAO Dream Hotels and Resorts is set to open two luxury beachfront resorts in the space of a week – one at Natai Beach on March 26 and the other at Mai Khao Beach on April 2.

A high level of demand from high-end consumers from the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, South Korea, the United States, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia prompted the move by Maikhao Dream Co Ltd to move ahead with its Phuket projects.

Regional offices have also been established in the UK, Hong Kong and Australia to manage international reservations for the new Phuket resorts.

Thailand-based Design Worldwide Partnership (DWP) is at the helm overseeing the interior design for both resorts.

With a pricing frame that includes a 56,800 baht (US\$1,900)

per-night two-bedroom oceanfront villa, it seems high-end clientele is the market the company is vying for.

"Our guests are looking for good value and are willing to pay a premium for better quality products and experiences," said Public Relations Manager, Sirimanas Maungrod.

Response to the resorts opening dates has been positive so far, according to Ms Sirimanas.

"Feedback from the public and business partners with regard to opening offers has been very good. Travel agents and companies have shown great interest and wish to promote and bring guests to both resorts."

Maikhao Dream Hotels and Resorts also aims to attract wedding parties and honeymoon vacationers.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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**In brief...**

**Govt to set a minimum price on cigarettes**

THE Finance Ministry will set a minimum retail price for cigarettes to prevent foreign producers dumping in the market and safeguard people's health, said Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij.

Mr Korn approved the Excise Department change in the tax calculation on cigarettes, from factory prices to retail prices. This would lead to more revenue for the government, he said.

"We will base the new tax calculation on retail prices and take into account health concerns. We will also require minimum prices for each cigarette to prevent dumping by manufacturers," said Mr Korn.

The law change is expected to be forwarded to the Cabinet soon.

**Centara projects B500mn profits**

CENTARA foresees net profit this year of 500 million baht, the same figure as last year, due mainly to recovery of the hotel business.

Ronnachit Mahattanapreut, senior vice president for finance and administration, said revenue this year was expected to jump to 11 billion baht, of which its food business would contribute about 5.8bn baht. The rest would come from its hotel business.

The company will realize full revenue from new hotels in Pattaya and Phuket, while its resort in the Maldives shows impressive revenue from an occupancy rate of 80 per cent.

Its five-year business plan calls for increasing the proportion of hotel management to 10 per cent of its hotel business.

**BAFS flies in with B1bn investment**

BANGKOK Aviation Fuel Services (BAFS) plans to spend at least one billion baht through 2013 as part of its business expansion plans.

The company also revised its growth forecast for aviation fuel sales volume this year to 4.2 per cent due to the bright outlook for the aviation business worldwide.

BAFS Managing Director Supadis Diskul said earlier this week the company had two investment projects in the pipeline worth a combined 1.05bn baht.

The first, is the installation of a hydrant system at Suvarnabhumi Airport, worth 750 million baht. The second, is to build an aviation fuel storage facility at the airport, worth around 350mn baht. Both projects are scheduled to be completed in 2013. The company is also constructing an aviation-fuel store at Phuket International Airport (PIA), to meet the Airports of Thailand expansion plans at PIA.

- The Nation

# MICE industry braces for impact from Japan fallout

THE earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan is expected to hit Thailand's meeting, incentive, convention and exhibition (MICE) business this year, and the convention bureau will turn its focus on to the domestic MICE market.

"The quake and tsunami in Japan will hit our tourism industries, including the MICE sector in the short term," said Akapol Sorasuchart, president of the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB).

However, as it is too early to know the extent of cancellations, the damage cannot be predicted yet.

Marketing representative officers in Japan cannot be reached. The TCEB has been trying to calculate the impact from the quake, both negative and positive.

Mr Akapol said Japan was one of biggest markets for MICE in Thailand, with 40,000 visitors per year.

Japanese business travellers spent as much as 70,000 baht per trip last year, much higher than the rate for some Western countries.

The TCEB earlier projected that the Japanese market would grow by 20 per cent this year after plunging for two years because of unrest in Thailand.

That projection now is in doubt

after the powerful quake in north-eastern Japan last Friday.

"We are considering waiving some expenses or offering more value for Japan to retain their events in Thailand," Mr Akapol said.

The TCEB has decided to postpone plans to visit the Japanese cities of Chiba and Nagoya this year to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost the MICE business.

Last year, the bureau signed MOUs with alliances in Fukuoka to encourage MICE in Thailand.

According to Mr Akapol, Thailand will remain a MICE hub for the region.

"The crisis in Japan may hit MICE markets in Thailand, but at the same time we should gain more business from other markets such as China and India," he said.

The TCEB on March 14 announced plans to boost the domestic MICE industry by encouraging more local public and private groups to organize events in the country. The TCEB this year will develop three provinces, Udon Thani, Khon Kaen and Phitsanuloke to become MICE hubs. It has already promoted Phuket, Haad Yai and Chiang Mai as MICE cities.



**FINANCIAL TURMOIL:** The Japanese economy is feeling the strain from last Friday's earthquake and tsunami. Photo: AFP

Charoen Wangananond, president of the Thai Travel Agents Association (TTAA), said 70 per cent of Japan's booked packages

had been canceled after the crisis in that country. Tour companies will provide refunds by the end of April.

- The Nation

## Thai billionaires make Forbes list of world's richest

THREE Thai businessmen managed to maintain their positions in this year's *Forbes* magazine "The World's Billionaires" list, despite many new entrants, particularly from Asia.

Ranked No 1 in Thailand for two years, with a net worth of US\$6.5 billion (197bn baht), Charoen Pokphand Group's Dhanin Chearavanont and his family are ranked 152<sup>nd</sup> in *Forbes*'s 25<sup>th</sup> annual rank-

ing of the richest people in the world.

Last year, net worth of US\$2.1bn put him at 463<sup>rd</sup>.

Chaleo Yoovidhya is ranked 208<sup>th</sup>, unchanged from last year. However, his net worth rose from US\$4.1bn to US\$5bn.

Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi takes 247<sup>th</sup>

place with net worth of US\$4.3bn. His net worth rose significantly from US\$2.9bn last year, when he was ranked 342<sup>nd</sup>.

According to the magazine, Dhanin and his family's assets in their three largest shareholdings more than doubled over the past year.

- The Nation

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# Mid-East unrest stirs oil prices, ripples through global economy

Graham Macdonald has lived in Thailand since 1994 and is co-founder and managing director of MBMG Group, which was formed in 1995. He is chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand, president of the Royal British Legion Thailand, director of the Board of Trade of Thailand and past president of Care for Kids. He was also nominated for the Lorenzo Natali prize for journalism a few years ago. Here, Graham takes on the mantle of Island Investor to pass his knowledge and experience to readers of the *Phuket Gazette*.

AS FORMER United Kingdom Prime Minister Harold MacMillan once famously remarked when asked about what is most likely to blow governments off course: "Events, dear boy, events."

Events over the past few weeks in the Middle East may blow the global recovery off course – or not – and everyone now has a view as to whether oil is going back to US\$90 or US\$150 per barrel.

The past five global recessions have all followed sharp jumps in oil prices. Is a sixth imminent?

What we do know is that over the past 40 years whenever the oil price has spiked above 150 per cent on a two-year per cent change perspective, the United States has had a recession.

With western economies improving but still fragile at best, and the debate still raging over deflation, stagflation and inflation, any oil price spikes are threats to global economic growth.

So far the jump in oil price is nowhere near as large as previous shocks. During the First Gulf War, oil prices jumped 150 per



**Island Investor**  
By Graham Macdonald

cent in three months. In the 1970s, when oil supply was struck by a series of events, such as the Arab-Israeli war and the Iranian revolution, prices rose more than 200 per cent in just months.

Brent Oil prices recently peaked about 25 per cent higher than prices in late January. So, even in the short term, we have a long way to go before the current political turmoil in the Middle East is likely to have anywhere near the same impact on oil prices as previous events.

The real political risk is contagion, particularly with Saudi Arabia. Libya produces only two per cent of global output, but if the people of Saudi Arabia decide that a few billion dollars of extra spending is not enough to stop them demonstrating for democracy, then concerns about supply will become a serious issue for all.

Clearly, the fundamental price of about US\$80 per barrel is where



**THE LIBYA EFFECT:** Continued tension in the Middle East, like in Libya (above), could threaten to blow the global financial recovery off course. Photo: AFP

the oil market believed demand pressures were mid-January before the human rights protesters "saw a gap".

One can't help but feel *deja vu* about 2008 at this juncture. In fact, there was new-found optimism about the real global economy in H1 2008 as the oil price went from US\$90 to US\$134 and then peaked at over US\$150.

Recent research from Morgan Stanley also shows that spare capacity in oil markets will disappear

by 2013, and that's a conservative estimate. Either way, oil price volatility as measured by CBOE has jumped 38 per cent over the past two weeks and the dollar has continued to weaken on thoughts that more petro-dollars in circulation will lead to more sellers than buyers.

Continued increases in the oil price above US\$130 will raise more serious growth scares, and due to earnings being downgraded equity markets could get weaker.

Meanwhile, the major central

banks look like raising interest rates, which will not be good news for investors.

Until oil prices level off, the traffic lights will be flashing amber – thankfully not red – and risk assets remain cheaper than a couple of weeks ago.

Graham Macdonald, MD of MBMG Group. E: [graham@mbmg-international.com](mailto:graham@mbmg-international.com). MBMG Group will not accept any liability for errors or omissions in above article.

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## Student loan scheme backs science and vocational disciplines

STUDENTS who choose vocational and science disciplines will be fully supported by the Student Loan Fund, Areepong Bhoochaom, permanent secretary for the Finance Ministry, said earlier this week.

The government has a policy to encourage students to continue their studies at vocational colleges because of the labour shortage, he said at a ceremony to celebrate the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the student-loan program.

Students who choose science disciplines at universities will also get support, said Mr Areepong, who is also the chairman of the fund.

The government allocates about 40 billion baht a year to support the scheme and about 260,000

students get loans each year. So far a total of three million students have received loans.

The fund will in the near future ask colleges and universities to provide information on how many of their graduates had found jobs, Mr Areepong said.

Performance of educational institutions will be taken into account for loan approval, he said.

Thada Martin, manager of the fund, said it aimed to increase the proportion of science students receiving loans to 50 per cent from the current 35 per cent.

He said loans allocated to students who enroll in vocational colleges currently accounted for 20 per cent.

– *The Nation*

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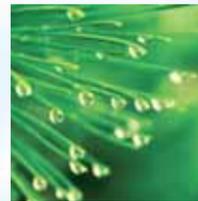
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# Japan tragedy touches Phuket

Far from home, local Japanese residents speak about the grim reality of post-disaster life



JAPAN CRISIS: A man stands amid debris in Minamisanriku, Miyagi prefecture on March 15. The town was nearly wiped off the map by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Photo: AFP

By Nicholas Altstadt

EARTHQUAKES are a part of daily life in Japan, so are the ensuing tsunami alerts.

This is a country that is a product of 15 million years of tectonic movement that ripped it away from mainland Asia.

But nothing – not even the Japanese people's millennia-long struggle with Mother Nature – could have softened the blow that was dealt to the island nation on March 11.

It was early afternoon here in Phuket when news of the earthquake surfaced.

Friends called friends, TVs were flicked on and as the afternoon lurched into evening, time stopped, in a way.

The images broadcast from Japan that day transfixed people around the globe.

Momoe Kato, owner of Phuket Happy Travel and Guesthouse in Patong, and her friend Miho felt hopeless as they watched Tokyo grind to a halt and entire cities flushed out to sea.

They know the feeling better than most.

Both were living in Patong when the Indian Ocean tsunami hit Phuket in 2004.

Miho, who fled the Boxing Day tsunami on her motorbike, said the first things that came to mind were family and friends.

Miho and Momoe's families live far from the areas worst affected, but both immediately called home to check.

The sudden surge in calls combined with power outages proved too much for Japan's mobile phone networks, touted to be among the most advanced in the world.

In a country where nearly 60 per cent of middle school students own cell phones, a sudden lack of service creates a major void in communication.

Japanese office workers who lost contact with their families were sending Facebook messages to friends overseas, hoping they could tell their husbands, wives and children they were safe and walking home.

Momoe and Miho were lucky, they were able to contact their families soon after news of the disaster reached Phuket.

For some of the guests at Phuket Happy Travel, it wasn't that easy as they tried in vain over an agonizing day to reach their loved ones in Japan.

One Japanese woman in Phuket, who is still in a state of shock, lost her home in the tsunami that struck the northeastern coast.

"We try to comfort her, but it's hard," Momoe said, thankful that the young woman's family survived unhurt.

It is the sense of helplessness that overwhelms, both Momoe and Miho said.

"I experienced the tsunami here in Phuket and I know how they feel in Japan," Miho said.

"People need basic things, like water and clothes – they don't even have electricity in a lot of places.

"Right now, people are scared and worried that another aftershock is going to come, another tsunami."

The concern is warranted as aftershocks continue to rock the country and explosions at a nuclear power plant are exposing people to harmful levels of radiation.

The near future looks grim.

Japan is not, however, a nation of pessimists.

In less than 25 years after being crushed in WWII, Japan climbed out of the rubble to become the world's second-largest economy.

Miho said that the country's infrastructure and planning were not to blame.

"There's just nothing you can do to prepare for something like this," she said.

"In Phuket, we knew about the tsunami after it happened, but in Japan, we have warnings on TV and alarm towers.

"There's just nothing more you can do," she added.

Many have said that Japan's preparedness has saved countless lives, even though the number of dead continues to rise.

"It's not easy – it's hard to find the words – to say what I feel," Momoe said.

"There's nothing I can do but wish everyone the strength to get through this, and give some money if that helps."

An international relief effort is well underway, with Thailand chipping in.

The Cabinet has approved 200 million baht in aid for Japan and sent a medical team to assist with the effort.

You can help too: See page one or PhuketGazette.net for local relief efforts. For monetary donations, please contact the International or Japanese Red Cross.

You can also go online and visit Tony Cruz's blog at asiancorrespondent.com for a comprehensive list of information websites and donation portals.

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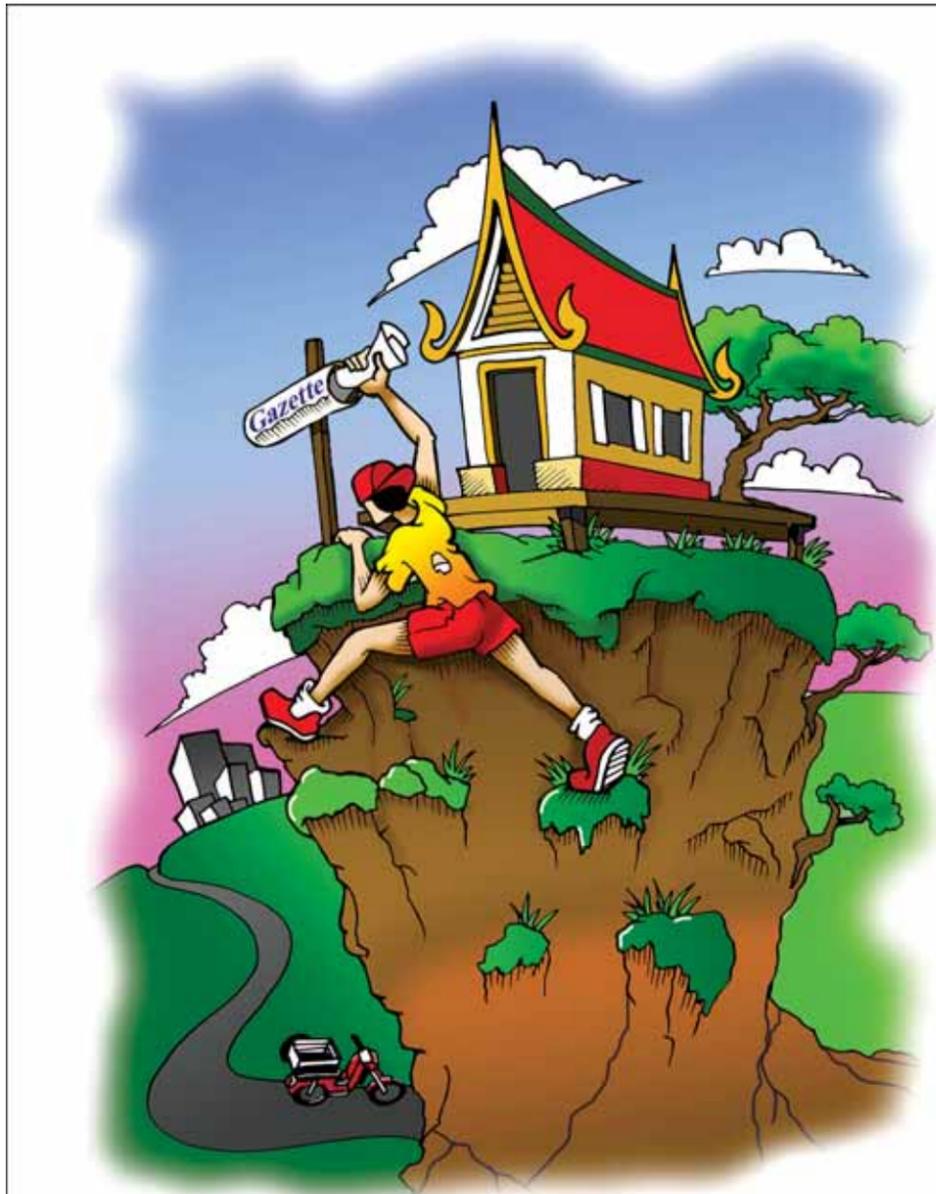
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**SPIRITUAL GETAWAY:** Concept images from three angles of a new international meditation center at Tah Chat Chai in the island's north.



# Meditation center to lift spirits

By Janpen Upatising

THE international World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) is concerned about the state of Phuket's serenity, so much so it's about to establish a fully-fledged international meditation center at Tah Chat Chai in the island's north.

"This is a good opportunity to set up an international meditation center in an international city such as Phuket, which is popular among tourists," said Dr Chakradharm Dharmasakti.

Until recently, Dr Chakradharm was Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Thai Ministry of Public Health, a position he gained after years serving as director general of the Department of Medical Sciences. He stepped away from his medical career to today serve as an adviser to the WFB's senior board.

"The WFB wants to use money donated for tsunami relief to help temples that were damaged by the 2004 tsunami – and Tah Chat Chai Temple was one of them," he said.

"Two years ago we wanted to set up the center at Kamala Samnaksong (chapel) because it was the most severely damaged by the tsunami. However, the chapel was fully restored by local residents through their help and donations.

"So, we selected the second temple on our list, Tah Chat Chai, to be the place for the Meditation Center," he explained.

Dr Chakradharm said the total budget for construction of the center is 24 million baht, fully paid for by money left over from donations made after the 2004 tsunami and other donations from Buddhists all over the world.

"We are now waiting to sign the construction contract with Italian-Thai Development PCL. Then we can begin construction right away," he said.

Having Italian-Thai Development PCL, Thailand's largest construction company, on board signifies the importance of the project.

At the moment, Italian-Thai is building the new bridge off Phuket, currently called Sarasin Bridge II, and has been signed up to develop the US\$8.6 billion mega-port project at Dawei in Burma.

Yet, here the construction giant is being taken on to build a three-story building with a small refectory

and a handful of smaller fixtures.

"We expect the center to be finished by December in order to honor and celebrate the 84<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej," Dr Chakradharm said.

"I believe Italian-Thai Development has reduced the cost of construction a lot. I actually think they are not making any profit from building this center," he added.

The center will feature a meditation hall, library, kitchen, dining room, 19 bathrooms, 18 toilets and 19 bedrooms. In all, the center will have sleeping quarters for about 50 people: about 30 men and 20 women in separate dormitories.

On March 2, a ceremony was held to lay the foundation stone at the site, with Somdej Phra Wannarat from Bowonniwet temple in Bangkok at the event to bless the stone.

Somdej Phra Wannarat has achieved the second-highest rank a Buddhist monk can in Thailand. He is one of only eight monks in the country to answer directly to the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, the "Sangharaja".

Also at the event were Governor Tri Augkaradacha and WFB President Phan Wannamethee.

Once the center has been completed, the monks in Bangkok will

be responsible for running it, Dr Chakradharm said.

"Monks from Rama 9 Temple and Wat Samphanthawong will take turns providing the meditation courses at the center all year long, though most will be conducted by monks from Rama 9 Temple," he said.

The monks chosen to conduct the courses in Phuket are specialized in teaching meditation courses in English, he added.

"The center will focus on foreigners since the meditation courses will be taught in English. Of course Thai people are also welcome to join," he added.

"There will be a variety of courses. Some will be short, while others will take longer to complete.

"Also, anyone just interested in Buddhism but who does not want to take a meditation course is welcome to visit the center. They can read books or watch videos about Buddhism in the library," Dr Chakradharm said.

Nominal fees will be charged for the courses, but have yet to be set.

"I think the fee of a five-day course including staying overnight at the center will not exceed 2,000 baht. We are not seeking any profit from providing the courses," Dr Chakradharm said.

Donations are welcome at Tah Chat Chai Temple (63 Phuket Road, Phuket Town) and Phuket Provincial Buddhism Office T:076-221943.

**'This is a good opportunity to set up an international meditation center in an international city such as Phuket.'**

**– Dr Chakradharm Dharmasakti**

## Meditation explained



MEDITATION is a technique of mind training which allows us to focus better.

Everybody is familiar with meditation, even if not by name, because it is something which we already do in everyday life. It allows us to focus on the task at hand.

However, the depth of such meditation is superficial – the events around us in the world soon rob us of our attention and concentration.

The mind that wanders outside our own body is the source of a lot of suffering.

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Source: World Fellowship of Buddhists

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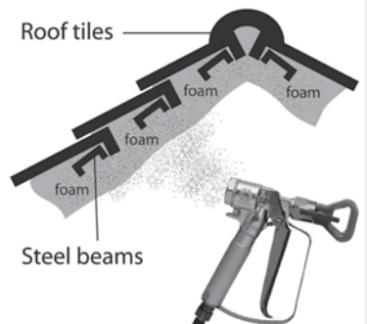
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# Fight or flight for Strategic Airlines

BRISBANE-based Strategic Airlines launched direct flights to Phuket on February 22, underscoring the importance – but also risk – for Australian airlines to service low-yield tourist destinations like Phuket and its nearest rival, Bali.

Three days after Strategic arrived from Brisbane, another Australian based airline, V Australia from Richard Branson's Virgin Blue Group, took off for the last time from Phuket International Airport.

V Australia started twice-weekly Brisbane-Phuket, and weekly flights from Melbourne, at the end of 2009.

Now, after only 14 months, it is gone. This is because its ex-Qantas Airlines, newly-installed CEO John Borghetti, decided that V Australia could not make a profit flying a 300-seat, Boeing B777 twin-engine aircraft to Phuket due to the low-yield economy class fares that are standard for airlines servicing Phuket.

At the time, flying a full-service B777 on a nine-hour flight from Australia with mainly economy-class passengers looked risky – and so it proved.

On January 21, Strategic Airlines itself underlined the difficulty of Australian airlines servicing Phuket and Bali when it

“reluctantly” announced it would withdraw its Port Hedland to Bali direct flights from March, due to “constraints preventing the commercial viability of the services”.

The airline had only been operating their small 166-seat Airbus A320 on the relatively short route for six months.

Furthermore, this was to a far more popular Aussie destination than Phuket. The latest figures available show Bali had almost 400,000 Australian visitors in the year lead-

ing up to August, 2010 – a 47.45 per cent increase on the year before. Australians made up 23.83 per cent of the overall

tourist arrivals in Bali, reaching 1.67 million from January to August last year.

By comparison, Australian arrivals in Phuket between January and June last year, were up 13 per cent to 326,084 – still a healthy increase, but way behind Bali. Most Australian visitors come in the low season to escape Australia's winter.

It will be interesting to see if the number increases in this year's low season with the Strategic flights, and the strength of the Australian dollar, which is almost at a level equivalent to the United States dollar.

Still, there is reason to be optimistic about Strategic's entry into Phuket as it is filling a



NEW ARRIVAL: Strategic Airlines launched direct Phuket flights last month. Photo: David MacKelvey

direct, full-service airline gap left by V Australia. The only other direct flights from Australia are with Jetstar, a subsidiary of national carrier Qantas; and Pacific Blue Airlines, from Virgin Group, which began flights in November 2009, flying in from Australia's east coast via Perth.

In addition, while Bali may be closer for Australians, it has one or two drawbacks. The main one is a continued threat of terrorist attacks like the 2002 bombing that killed 88 Australians and wounded many more. Also,

Bali does not have the same number of beautiful, sandy beaches Phuket does, although it is a Mecca for bronzed, outdoor-type young Aussie surfers.

Strategic started life as a cargo airline in 1991, morphing into Strategic Aviation Group, including Strategic Airlines. It operates one A330-200 and three A320-200 leased aircraft and has established bases in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin, Paris and London to support an ambitious future development program.



Aviation  
By Alastair Carthew

## In brief...

### Fuel surcharges going up on Aussie airlines

VIRGIN Blue has increased fuel surcharges by US\$100 for round-trip international flights and US\$10 for one-way domestic flights, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) reports.

The rise is caused by higher jet fuel prices, which have caused two surcharge increases in less than a month.

According to a report on *eTurbo News*, international short-haul fares for flights on Virgin Blue subsidiaries Pacific Blue and Polynesian Blue will increase up to US\$20 for a one way ticket and domestic fares will rise by between US\$6 and US\$10 each way.

Qantas and Air New Zealand also raised their fuel surcharges last week due to the increase in jet fuel prices.

### Japan's troubles take to the skies

ON March 11, the day of the earthquake and tsunami, Japan Airlines (JAL) was forced to cancel 143 domestic flights, leaving 25,530 passengers stranded.

The same day, 15 international flights were grounded with 2,660 passengers left in airports around the country.

A similar pattern followed in the days after, with 130 domestic flights canceled on March 12, leaving 21,000 passengers stranded and 17 international flights grounded with 2,440 passengers affected.

Two days after the earthquake, a further 24 domestic flights were canceled with 1,560 passengers affected. Two international flights were also cancelled with 230 passengers left stranded.

However, the day after the earthquake, JAL did service eight extra flights between Osaka (Itami) and Yamagata, Itami and Aomori, Sapporo and Aomori, as well as Tokyo (Haneda) and Aomori.

While more flights are being cancelled on a daily basis, JAL and other airlines are putting on additional routes to help stranded passengers reach family members both in Japan and abroad.

### In with the new, out with the old for THAI

AT THE ITB trade event in Berlin last week (see Business, page 10), THAI Airways revealed its latest expansion plans.

Over the next six years, 63 new jetliners of the latest and most fuel-efficient models will be delivered – Boeing 777-300ER, Airbus A330-300 and six super-jumbos A380-800 among them.

The first A380 is scheduled to enter service on THAI's major intercontinental routes in August next year.

THAI's acquisitions will enable the carrier to replace older aircraft and operate greater frequencies across the network to cater for projected increased passenger and cargo demand. Frankfurt counts among the destinations that will be connected to Bangkok by an A380 service in foreseeable future, and popular destinations such as Brisbane and Auckland.

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# Sitting pretty at Nai Harn Beach

There's an Italian restaurant on the water – that if you can find – serves food you won't forget in a hurry...

TUCKED away in the northern corner of Nai Harn Beach, Trattoria Del Buongustaio is a hidden gem among Phuket's Italian eateries.

While tourists may be a little confused about how to find the restaurant, most locals will know the road that leads through the Royal Phuket Yacht Club and on to Ao Sane Beach. If you can find the road, you can find Trattoria Del Buongustaio – and the great-tasting food served there.

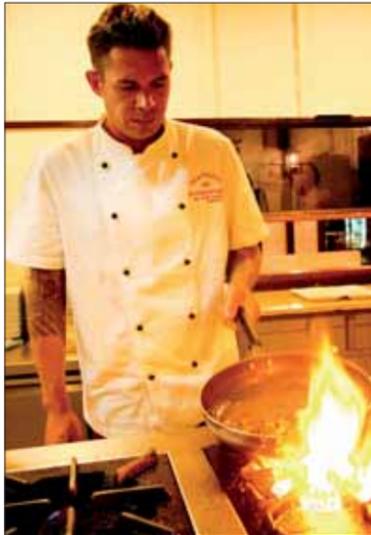
"Many people are confused when they reach the yacht club and don't realize that the entrance is actually a through road that leads to more locations beyond," the restaurant's chef and owner, Fabrizio Demichelis explains.

Since opening in August last year, Fabrizio has been busy working hard to ensure his waterside trattoria meets his high standards.

As a former resident of Piedmont, northern Italy, a region famed for its white truffle funghi, Fabrizio is a man who knows and loves food. He also looks just like the actor Benicio del Toro, which may get nods of approval from some customers.

The two-tier restaurant boasts magnificent views over Nai Harn bay – idling beachgoers, sunset swimmers and yachts crisscrossing the bay a stone's throw from where you sit.

Lovers of pasta and seafood will be in for a treat here, with pasta made in-house and fish



Fabrizio Demichelis



Fabrizio's wife Valentina

snapped up by Fabrizio from local fish markets on a daily basis.

"There are many misconceptions about Italian food and especially pasta dishes...Simple ingredients, and not too many, make for successful cooking."

Fabrizio talks about his craft with passion, he seems enthralled by talk of food, and maybe this is why his kitchen staff have stayed by his side for the past three years – with some working for him at his previous Kuala Lumpur venture.

"I enjoyed Malaysia, but city-living is not for me. The sea allows me to breathe and this location on the coast must be one of the islands finest," he says proudly.

Fabrizio scuttles off to the kitchen to prepare two of his

"most popular" dinner dishes and the sun sinks lower in the late-afternoon sky.

A moment later, Fabrizio is back ferrying a hearty portion of homemade Ravioli Stuffed with Crab (400 baht), partnered with a glass of Grillo (200 baht per glass), a Sicilian white.

Another worthy menu item is the Padellata dello Chef (900 baht), a mouthwatering tomato-based seafood soup for two people, with langoustine, squid, cockles and mussels. From the very first taste, it is clear why this is regarded as one of Fabrizio's signature dishes. The Nero d'Avola (220 baht per glass), a Sicilian red, is the perfect partner to the soup.

Desserts at Trattoria Del Buongustaio are beautifully presented by Fabrizio's wife, Valentina, and are exquisite.

Try the Fresh Cream Profiteroles or the Tiramisu and you won't be disappointed.



DOWN BY THE SEA: A customer enjoys her meal at Trattoria Del Buongustaio. Photos: Dean Noble

Over espresso and a Grappa or two, Fabrizio talks about future plans in his newly renovated Sunset Bar on site on the ground floor.

"We've spent over five million baht on the restaurant and have turned the ground level balcony into an aperitif bar," he says.

"The location and setting are perfect for romance and I'd love to cater for more wedding

dinners and celebrations."

On March 25, Trattoria Del Buongustaio will host a wine tasting with a seven-course meal. The restaurant is open from 1pm every day, but to enjoy at its best, make a reservation and experience Nai Harn's gem at sundown.

– *Phuket Gazette*  
For more information, contact Fabrizio at T:081-1885576

## Who ate all the pies?

THE story "Lady Pie in Sevens heaven" in the March 5 issue of the *Phuket Gazette* mistakenly reported that Phuket-based Lady Pie will be exporting 100,000 pies to the 2011 Cathy Pacific/ Credit Suisse Hong Kong Sevens international rugby tournament, to be held March 25-27.

Instead, Lady Pie will be exporting 8,500 pies to the event. The pies will be packaged and sold under the name "Sevens Pies".

The *Gazette* offers its sincerest apologies for scaring the day-lights out of Harry and Susan Usher of Lady Pie for thinking they had more than 90,000 more pies to make.

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# Jean Pierre Cheimol

JEAN Pierre Cheimol's first restaurant on Phuket, Le Jardin, opened on Soi Bangla at Patong Beach in 1985. It was the first French restaurant on the island.

"I came to Phuket in 1978 on my honeymoon. A friend had given me two tickets to Thailand and I knew then that I would return and live here. At that time there were still rice fields and water buffalo in Patong, and the beach was beautiful with not many visitors."

Jean Pierre was born in France and started cooking at 13 years of age, as an apprentice making pate and bakery in a delicatessen. He spent his military years working with the security forces in Algeria, where he was posted in the Sahara.

When he returned to civilian life, he decided to live in the Caribbean and sell French wine. He was based first on Guadeloupe and then Martinique where he opened his own bistro and 22-room hotel, Le Charbonniere, which featured fresh-grilled seafood.

"I worked around the Caribbean for 14 years selling wine. It was a wonderful life. I spent a lot of my free time sailing on my boat around the islands. That was also when I met Tom McNamara, who had restaurants in St Martin. He later came to Phuket and opened Baan Rim Pa."

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

During these years, the enterprising young Frenchmen traveled to West Africa and South America looking for new markets for his wines.

By 1982, business became less profitable when the taxes on imports made his operation in Martinique difficult. He decided to return to Europe and spent three years selling wine in Berne, Switzerland, before deciding to return to the tropics with Phuket in mind.

"In 1985, Soi Bangla was a sand road. There were maybe 20 bars and very little construction. We could go three or four days without any electricity. When I opened Le Jardin, we were the first restaurant with napkins and any kind of European-standard service."

Jean Pierre is a hard worker. Not content with his Soi Bangla restaurant alone, he acquired three rai of land on Patong's Nanai Road and began building houses to create a French enclave at the back of the valley. Gradually, 24 houses were built on the land. He also named this village 'Le Jardin'. He

eventually moved his original restaurant to the new village.

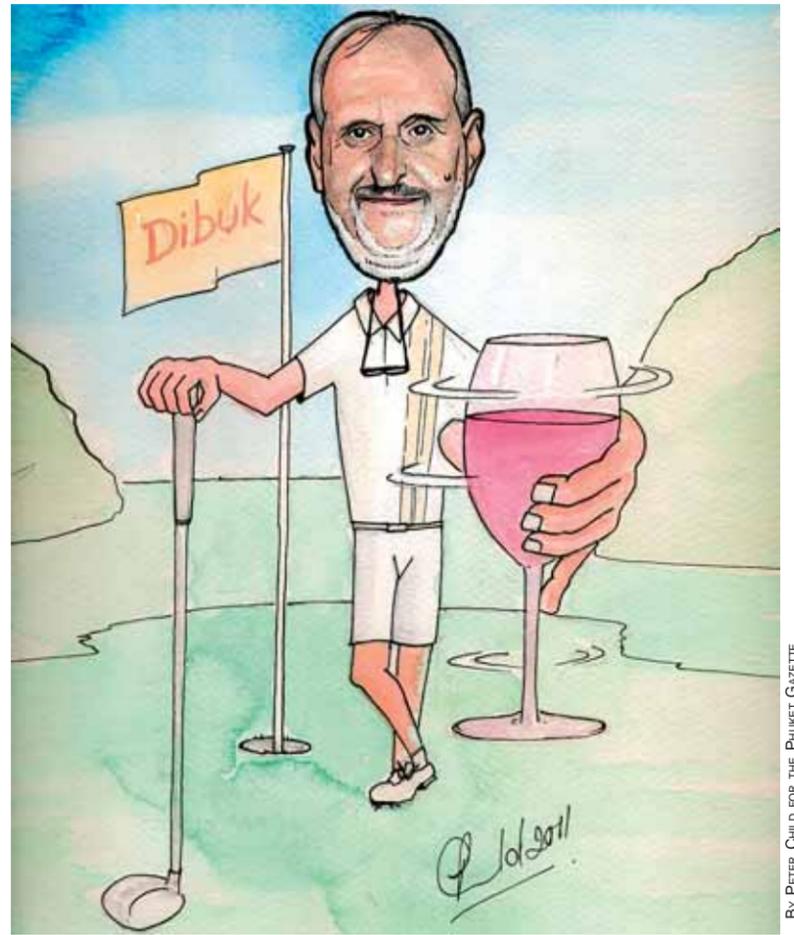
"We were having good business on Soi Bangla. The restaurant had a lot of outdoor seating. But when they decided to widen and pave the road, we all lost our storefronts and there were not enough seats indoors to make a viable business, so I relocated to Le Jardin the village."

Jean Pierre continued building houses and opened Patong Beach's most upscale dining venue, Le Chateau Wine Cigar Jazz Pub. He invited international singers and musicians to play for his loyal customers who came to the private club for French cuisine, fine cigars, and his upscale collection of French wines.

Not content to relax and enjoy his many projects, he then opened a couple of restaurants on historic Dibuk Road in Phuket City. He keeps a gallery of furniture nearby.

He now spends much of his time playing golf – and at his Dibuk Grill and Bar. He has kept his classic French menu, offering such delights as lamb shank and escargot Bourgoigne.

On the walls at Dibuk are large framed photos of Jean Pierre as a young man exploring African villages and remote places in Equatorial Guinea. These are mixed with his private art collection and mementos of his life as a restaurateur.



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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# The low-down on Trisara high life

The acquisition of Mom Tri's Boathouse, the people who made it all possible and what else is in store at Trisara

By Bruce Stanley

THERE are three people of interest connected to the news that luxury resort Trisara has bought boutique property Mom Luang (ML) Tri's Boathouse and adjacent Oasis restaurant complex.

ML Tri Devakul's decision to sell his interest in the classic Boathouse in Kata – or “restaurant with a few rooms”, as he says – is simple.

“The Boathouse represents only a portion of my investments on Phuket... I want to focus more on my Three Generations Community project in Chiang Mai.”

ML Tri opened The Boathouse in 1987 primarily as a place for his many family and friends to stay when they came from Bangkok to visit Phuket. The resort developed naturally as a personal project into the center for wine and literary culture on the island. It is the only restaurant on Phuket awarded the Best of the Best by *Wine Spectator* magazine for its wine cellar.

The Boathouse was only one of ML Tri's projects back in the 1980s. He designed and developed Club Med, Le Meridien Phuket and the Phuket Yacht Club. He also acquired the 150 rai of coastal land near Sirinart National Park where

Trisara now sits.

The second aspect of this transaction involves Narong Pattamasaevi, the executive chairman of Three Dolphins – the holding company for Trisara and The Boathouse.

Narong sits on the Board of ML Tri's Three Generation Community in Chiang Mai. The two have had a long business relationship that includes charity.

The recently opened Lampang Art Centre is a project made possible by Narong, who values his work as a philanthropist. Through a foundation named after his father, Niyom Pattamasaevi, he helps young students receive scholarships in Lampang, the family's native province.

Narong was himself the beneficiary of financial aid, which allowed him to study in the United States. He became a successful financier in Chicago and then Bangkok. Currently, he is President of Kim Eng Securities (Thailand) PCL.

The third personality is well-

known hotelier Anthony Lark, who has been General Manager of two of Phuket's most glamorous properties, Amanpuri and then Trisara, and who now has a major influence in the new Boathouse.

Anthony has been an essential part of the success of world-class hospitality on Phuket since he arrived in 1988. The talented Australian started in the hotel business at the Wentworth Hotel Sydney in 1979 and then joined the Regent Sydney, where he met Adrian Zecha – the founder of Amanpuri.

He then got the call to come to Phuket and look at a new concept in international resorts.

“I had no idea where Phuket was, and in 1988, there wasn't much at Surin Beach. But I was up for the adventure and I enjoyed 12 very remarkable years where we hosted leaders of the business and political world, Hollywood stars and international musicians.”

During Anthony's tenure as General Manager, the Amanpuri was named the World's Best Resort by leading global magazines and institutions. He was also given regional responsibility for opening four Amanresort properties in Indonesia and The Strand Hotel in Myanmar.

**ML Tri Devakul's decision to sell his interest in his classic Boathouse in Kata – or ‘restaurant with a few rooms’, as he says – is simple...**



INSIDER: Trisara Group Director General Manager Anthony Lark.

By 2000, Anthony was invited by Narong to join as a development partner in ML Tri's 150 rai just south of Nai Thon Beach. Narong set up Montara Hospitality to manage the property and Anthony became a shareholder, Director of the Board and General Manager.

ML Tri drew the designs for the development, while Anthony designed the rooms and interiors.

“Narong also holds 600 rai of land in Thalung district just behind

the town. He currently is considering a variety of development plans.

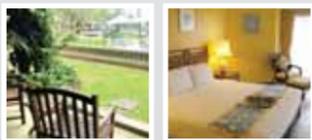
“I was asked for my input on the redevelopment of the Boathouse, but I can't face the traffic between here and there so I've declined involvement,” Anthony explains.

Meanwhile, Anthony works tirelessly to ensure his guests at Trisara receive a high standard of service, and he is also a major driving force behind their expansion.

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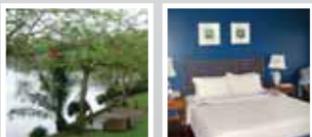
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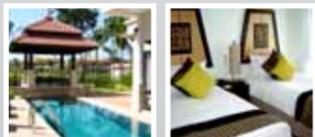
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# Damon's latest dose of sci-fi



**DAMON DASH:** Matt Damon and Emily Blunt in action on set of their latest movie 'The Adjustment Bureau'.

THINK of the last time you spilled a coffee. For most of us, the reaction is simple: we blurt out a quick expletive, clean up the mess and get on with our day.

In *The Adjustment Bureau*, however, coffee spills because it's supposed to. Hands become unsteady because fate is controlled by something – or someone.

Hollywood loves to tinker with free will, especially when it provides the basis for a hearty dose of science fiction, thriller, and romance.

That's exactly what *The Adjustment Bureau* delivers. Despite the danger of becoming yet another film to use a sci-fi premise as an excuse for cheap thrills, the film avoids the pit of Hollywood excess with expert acting and a director that clearly respects the source material.

The film is based on a short story by legendary sci-fi author Philip K Dick, and is one of the more romantic stories he penned.

Director George Nolfi understands this, and he makes sure that he gives the two lead characters the time and space they need to make their emotions the heart of the film. It makes for visceral sci-fi (there's no *Inception*-like level of higher thinking required).

It is set in a world where free will and fate are "kinda-sorta" an illusion. We know from the trailer that mysterious-looking men in

## Film

By Scott Phillips

### The Adjustment Bureau

**Director:** George Nolfi

**Starring:** Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Anthony Mackie

**Genre:** Sci-Fi/ Action/ Thriller

**Gazette Rating:** 4/ 5

boiler hats are responsible for maintaining the order of things, but that sometimes things can go wrong.

That elusive coffee, for instance, can spill because things occasionally still happen by chance. To this end, the job of the men in hats is an uncertain one, leaving them to keep a close eye on influential people – like David Norris (Damon), a New York politician with a reputation for being a hard-edged, bar-brawling playboy.

With this setup, *The Adjustment Bureau* could have easily become a sci-fi political thriller – a la *The Manchurian Candidate* – but it takes the romantic route.

David is swept off his feet by a flirtatious, charismatic girl named Elise (Blunt) on a chance encounter. The scene where they first meet sets up the plot and establishes the chemistry that makes the rest of the

movie work. David is infatuated with Elise from the start, and thanks to some sharp acting and good writing, it's easy to understand why.

When fate and the desires of Elise and David don't align, the movie takes off on a more formulaic approach. But it hardly feels contrived.

David and Elise will be on the run as they learn the new "real world" rules of free will, but there are still frequent breaks in which they reveal why they are running in the first place. Nolfi isn't afraid to let Damon and Blunt have fun with their characters, adding down-to-earth humor that makes them feel that much more genuine.

Philip K Dick would have appreciated the thoughtful adaptation of his story. Though his name might sound foreign to many, Dick is a legend among inner circles of sci-fi nerds.

His stories have provided the movie industry with steady supply of sci-fi fodder for decades, with movies like *Blade Runner*, *Total Recall*, *Minority Report*, *A Scanner Darkly*, *Paycheck*, and *Next*.

Those familiar these films will recognize that they vary in quality. Where does *The Adjustment Bureau* land? It may not stand among the classics, but it's certainly on the higher end. Both sci-fi fanatics and those looking for an entertaining movie won't be disappointed.

## Bangkok is the new Vegas for the Hangover boys

WITH a large part of the movie shot in Phuket's neighboring Krabi, local cinemagoers will no doubt be interested to hear that *The Hangover 2* will be released in May.

The sequel to the 2009 blockbuster-comedy *The Hangover*, sees the wolf pack – Phil (Bradley Cooper), Alan (Zach Galifianakis), Stu (Ed Helms) and Doug (Justin Bartha) – reunite for Stu's stag party in Thailand.

Las Vegas provided a fitting setting for the boys' debauchery in the first movie, and their Bangkok bash this time round is

rumored to be even more outlandish.

For a sneak peak, check out the trailers that have already been posted online. Although the official trailer doesn't give much away, one thing's certain to feature – the wolf pack's little monkey companion.

Earlier this year, fans of the franchise were duped into thinking that Bill Clinton and Charlie Sheen would be joining the wolf pack in the sequel, but director Todd Phillips quelled these rumors in a recent interview with *Entertainment Weekly*.

However, Liam Neeson, Juliette Lewis

and Mike Tyson are included in the cast list in the new movie.

Some scenes were shot in two upscale Krabi hotels, with many Phuket expats rumored to have served as extras on set.

Insiders told the *Phuket Gazette* that Renee Zelwegger and the Olsen twins visited the Krabi set. Zelwegger is the long-term girlfriend of Cooper and Ashley Olsen was seeing Bartha (at the time).

Word has it the sequel is shaping up to be as outrageous as the first – and equally as funny.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Drunker than ever - 'The Hangover' boys



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# Rock fest to help Japan

The devastation in Japan struck a chord with many in Phuket; now's your chance to help...

By Marc Mulloy

FOR many watching the terrible images on television of the triple tragedy that has hit Japan, there is a feeling of helplessness. For those in Phuket who were affected by the 2004 tsunami, there is a sense of re-awakening to the nightmarish visions of destruction and desolation.

For one Phuket resident, Kata Beach Resort Speciality Restaurant F&B Manager Edgardo Tanael, these images spurred him into action.

He realized that something needed to be done locally to help the victims – something big.

Mr Tanael spoke to his employers, who were quick to say they would back him 100 per cent. After a flurry of phone-calls to other hotels and the local municipality he knew that there were others willing to give their support as well.

A relatively recent arrival to Phuket, he called on local media and friends to attend a meeting on March 16, where it was de-

ecided to hold a huge benefit concert on Karon Beach on March 31 entitled "LOVE AID – To Japan from Phuket with Love".

"The idea is to have our very own 'Live Aid' style concert where people can enjoy the music, food and drink knowing that every baht will go toward helping Japan.

"I have worked in Japan and know the people are very kind. They were among the first to help Phuket when the tsunami struck here and now it is our turn to help," Mr Tanael said.

To keep the event accessible to everyone, the entrance fee will be only 100 baht. Food and drink coupons will be sold for 100 baht each.

"100 baht = 100 per cent donation. We are doing this to make as much money as we can for these people, so we keep it simple this way. They need this money now, so we must move quickly," he added.

Co-ordinating the financial side of the event will be the Rotary Club of Patong Beach which will work closely with



SENDING LOVE: Some of Phuket's well-known musicians are expected to take part.

the Rotary Club of Tokyo to ensure that the donations go straight to where they are most needed.

It was less than a month ago that the Japanese Rotarians donated 400 bicycles to students in Phuket.

Many hotels and restaurants will donate food and drink and sponsor booths. Other businesses are expected to donate auction items.

Entertainment director of the event, Ricky Zen, has helped organize similar events in the past. He is confident that some of the island's top musicians will be playing on the day.

"So far the response has been over-

whelming, and although it is too early to confirm all the acts as yet, I can say that it will be a quality event. Everyone wants to help," Mr Zen said.

As this newspaper went to print, an event website was under construction.

Anyone wishing to donate or help can contact Edgardo at T:080-9515056 or E:ktbfms@katagroup.com.

Auditions and rehearsals for artists will be held at Rick 'n' Roll Music Cafe in Kata.

More information can be found at the W:rickenrollmusiccafe.com or E:Rickyonrick@rickenrollmusiccafe.com

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# Getting to the foot of a fishy issue

By Alexandra Andersson

FISH spas have been springing up all over Phuket lately – but you may want to think twice before dipping your feet in for a fishy nibble.

Thai health officials are raising the alert after 14 states in America outlawed the practice due to concerns over health risks.

The concern lies in the water – and the likelihood of communicable diseases spreading if the feet and water are not hygienic enough to stave off infection.

As a solution, the Thai Public Health Ministry will issue new regulations on March 23 to control the country's 1,341 registered fish spas.

"The fish spas must have good quality control and protect the customer," Phuket Public Health Office Deputy Director Dr Wiwat Seetamanotch explained.

That includes cleaning the tools using ultraviolet rays, having an efficient water-filtration system, clean towels and changing half the water in the tank each day, among other things, said Health Service Support Department director general



ODOR EATERS: Fish for feet

Somchai Pinyopornpanich.

If the spas adhere to these regulations, the treatment should be disease risk-free, says the ministry.

A staff member at one popular fish spa in Phuket said she was aware of the issue.

"I have heard that in America they have said that fish spas are unhygienic," she said.

"But when we do the fish spa treatment here, we clean the foot before it goes in the water and we clean the tank, changing the water once every two weeks.

"Cleaning the foot is the most important thing. We clean it with a wet towel, just with water. We cannot use any soap, oil or cream because it is not good for the fish.

"If they have a problem with their feet, we do not let them use

the fish spa. We do not only think about business, we also care about health," she continued.

"I have never seen any problems with fish spas and nobody has ever complained. They just enjoy it and they are happy," she added.

One fish spa customer, Phuket expat Jules De Vitto, has used the treatment three times. "I like it, my feet feel very soft afterwards."

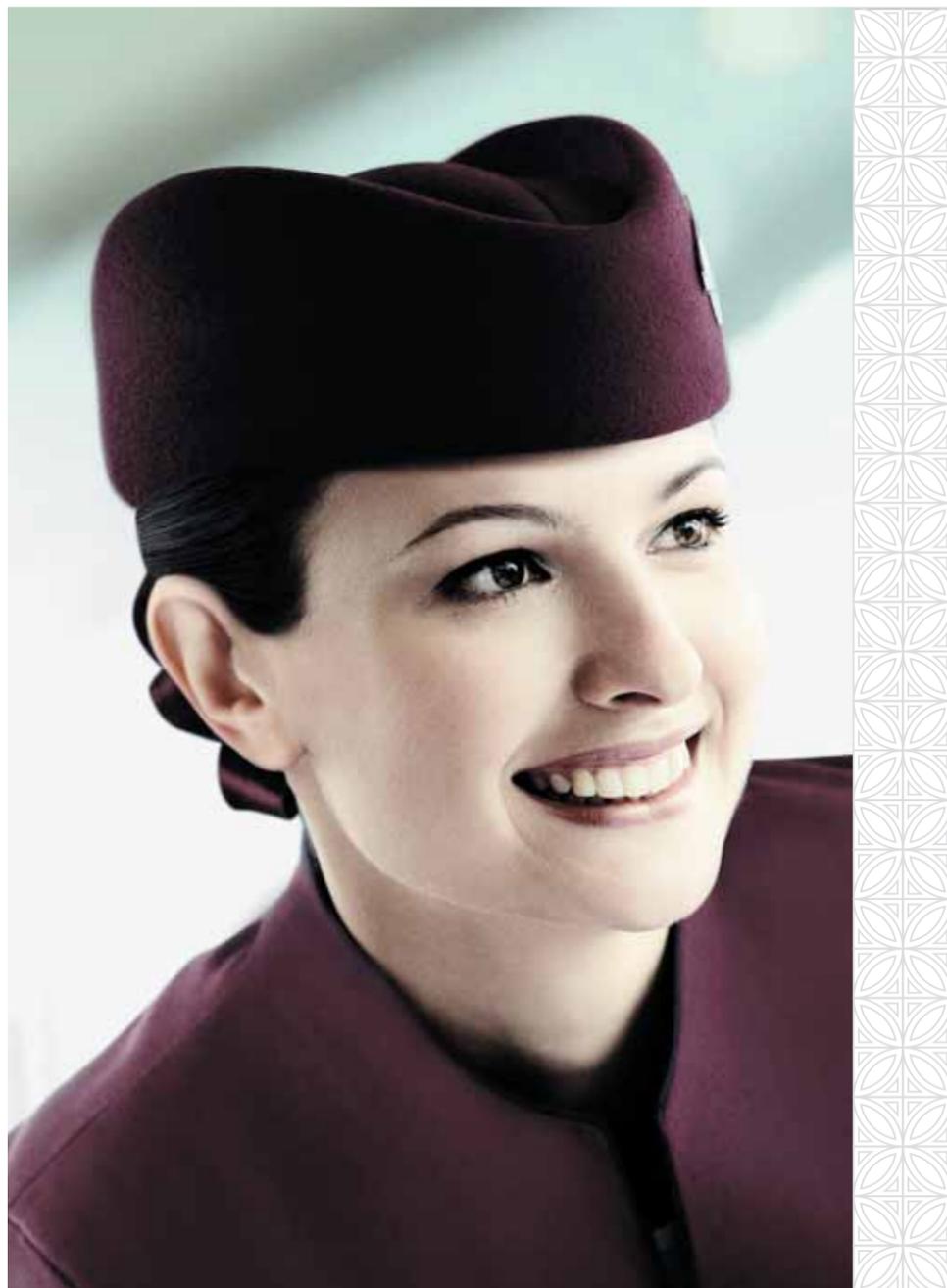
When told of the health concerns involved, she responded: "I have never really thought about that. Eugh! What if people have verrucas? I don't think I would want to do it again now."

Dr Wiwat has never used a fish spa, and says that "usually, you need soap to make the foot properly clean. There may still be bacteria present otherwise."

Talking about whether health standards will improve after the new regulations are issued, Dr Wiwat said, "It will be difficult to check every small business. We must educate the public about contamination and hygiene issues so they can make an informed decision."



NIGGLING: The Health Ministry is setting new regulations on fish spas.



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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### March 19-20. Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Navigation Theory Course

This is a basic navigation and safety theory course for people who want to get into boating or have just begun. Contact staff at Ao Chalong Yacht Club from 9:30am to 5pm at T:081-3960785 E:courses@acyc-phuket.com or visit W:acyc-phuket.com.

### March 19. FREE Facebook 101 seminar

Facebook 101 shows you how to build a Facebook page for your business, charity, organization or club. Starting at the beginning, Able Wanamakok will take you step-by-step through setting up a Facebook presence, building a solid page, bringing people to the page and enticing them to return. Three consecutive Saturday mornings. Class is limited to 20 participants. Visit W:Facebook.com/ Sandwich Shoppe. On the left side of the page, click the Facebook Seminar link. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe, the *Phuket Gazette*, AW PR & Marketing, and onsite.in.th. The seminars will run from 10am to 11am at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Contact Woody Leonhard at T:076-290468. E:Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit W:KhunWoody.com

### March 19. Belly Dance Party

Join us for a magical evening of live belly dance performances. Bring your dancing shoes and prepare to have a fabulous time at our Arabian dance party. The audience can participate in the interactive portion of this show. Local belly dancer Natalia will teach you the

## March 25. Six of The Best



**SIX** of the top chefs from Phuket's premier resorts will create a spectacular six-course "Modern Flavours" dining experience matched with fine wine. Executive chefs from The Paresa Resort, Amanpuri, Anantara, Banyan Tree, Dusit Laguna and Sheraton will join forces for this exclusive event.

This intimate dinner is priced at 4,000 baht nett, including dinner, cocktails and fine wine and will be hosted from 6:30pm to 11:30pm. Only 9 seats left! All proceeds will go to the Good Shepherd Sisters charity. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Chantal Fernandes at T:089-8742942 E:chantal.fernandes@gmail.com or visit W:paresaresorts.com

hottest moves. Come early for dinner and drinks, then shake and shimmy to mesmerizing Middle Eastern beats. March 19, show begins at 8:30pm, finishes at 10:30pm at Les Anges on the Marina Boardwalk at Royal Phuket Marina. For reservations please contact Natalia at T:085-4817023 or Murat at T:081-7973364 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com

**March 22. San Patrignano dinner at Mare Italian Restaurant** Fabrizio Crocetta, our Italian chef at the Centara Grand Beach Resort, will bring you to visit the vineyards of his hometown in San Patrignano on March 22, from 7pm to 10:30pm, at Mare Italian restaurant. You are cordially invited for an exclusive dinner in

a relaxing atmosphere, headlined by the amazing wines of San Patrignano's winery, presented by Frederico Rainero. Seats are limited, so be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible. Price: 1,900++ baht per person, including a half-bottle of wine. Contact Suchitra Sirirak at T: 076-201234 ext 7. E:asstprcpr@chr.co.th or visit W:centera hotelsresorts.com/ cpbr

### March 26-27. Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron Island Regatta

The Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron will be hosting the Interclub Island Trophy Regatta. 30 Optimist sailors from Phuket and Koh Samui have already entered. Sailors from Pattaya, Songkhla, and Sattahip are also welcome. We are also open to other classes: Laser, Topper and Byte. Racing will be held over two days and boats are available for charter. From 8am to 5pm at Ao Yon, Cape Panwa. For further information of race, please contact Katy Gooch at T:085-2159185. E:phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or visit W: phuketyouthsailing.org.

### March 26. Wine tasting @ Wine Lovers Phuket

Six different wines and a tapas buffet @ 499 baht per person. Please call 086-691 9121 to make your reservation. Special dis-

counts on selected wines during the wine tasting. From 6:30pm to 9:30pm in Rawai, 200 meters after the small Tesco Lotus outlet. Contact: Gumrai at T:076-384663 E:info@wineloversphuket.com or visit W:wineloversphuket.com

### March 26. St Patrick's Ball 2011

The Life Home Project will host Phuket's second St Patrick's Ball at M evenpick Resort and Spa Karon Beach on Saturday, March 26. Welcome cocktails will be at 6.30pm, dinner at 8pm, and the ball will continue until midnight. Tickets are 4,000 baht each and include a scrumptious international buffet dinner, wine and quality champagne. Wear a national costume or black tie. Tickets are available at all three Bake outlets in Chalong, Cherng Talay and BIS. Contact: Joojee at T:081-3979809 E:joojee88@yahoo.com or visit W:lifehomeproject.org

### March 26-31. Bacon and Stone Visual Arts Exhibition

You are invited to attend the public viewing of Bacon and Stone, the Year 13 IB Visual Arts Exhibition at Brush, Kalim Beach, from 11:30am to 11:30pm daily from March 26 to April 25. The BIS Phuket senior art students' exhibitions draw a lot of attention every year. This year is no different. Enjoy with the great atmosphere at Brush restaurant & lounge and see this unique exhibition. Contact Claire Lester. T:076-238711. E:clester@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W:bisphuket.ac.th

### April 1. Curry Friday

We present Curry Fridays on alternate Fridays, 7pm to 11:30pm, at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and more served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass: 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Contact Seemant Raju. T:076-286464 ext 4 or 081-6295063 E: sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com

### April 2. Mariner Madness w/Live Music at Royal Phuket Marina

Crazy Fool's Kitchen presents yet another night of live music. Let your hair down whilst listening to some legendary tunes from Glenn and Max Wailin Band, live at Marina Boardwalk from 6:30pm onwards. Free entry. Crazy Fool's Kitchen is the home of cold beer, cracking banter and "Great" live music and raffle prizes - all proceeds to go to the charity 100friends.org. Call Mr Prim at T:085-691 7250 or Murat Can at T:081-797 3364. E:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com. W:royalphuketmarina.com

## Free Computer Clinics

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

March 20 and 27 - Chalong  
April 3 - Patong.  
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For more info contact Woody at T:076-290468

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# Mojo in motion



AMERICAN Blues recording artist Mojo Perry stopped in at 'A Spoonful of Sugar' cafe in Nai Harn last weekend for an impromptu performance. Currently, Mojo is touring throughout Thailand, having awed music fans at The Saxophone Club, Ad Here Blues and Winks in Bangkok over the past few weeks. As this newspaper went to print, Mojo was scheduled to perform at Rockin' Angels in Phuket Town on March 18.

The well-known performer is enjoying some down time between his usual touring seasons, which will see him embark on a heavy summer tour in North America in April. Look out for Mojo Perry next year at the Phuket International Blues Festival 2012.

Photos: Dale J Springhetti

# Heroines' Festival a hit with locals

PHUKET's annual Heroines' Festival drew to a close earlier this week in befittingly dramatic fashion. Hundreds of people joined the event at Thalang Victory Memorial Field in Thepkrasattri subdistrict.

Intended to increase awareness of local history and culture among Thai citizens, the event was organized jointly by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) and Phuket Cultural Office.

Thai boxing shows and feature theater production of the Two Heroines' story was just some of what went on.



# And I guess that's why they call it the Blues

INDIGO BLUES: A very content Blues Festival organizer Andy Andersen (center) flanked by the core Executive Committee – his 'left-hand-man' Vic Curran, his 'right-hand-women' Kat Marchbanks and Bootin celebrated the success of the sixth annual Phuket International Blues Rock Festival last weekend. Photo: Marc Mulloy



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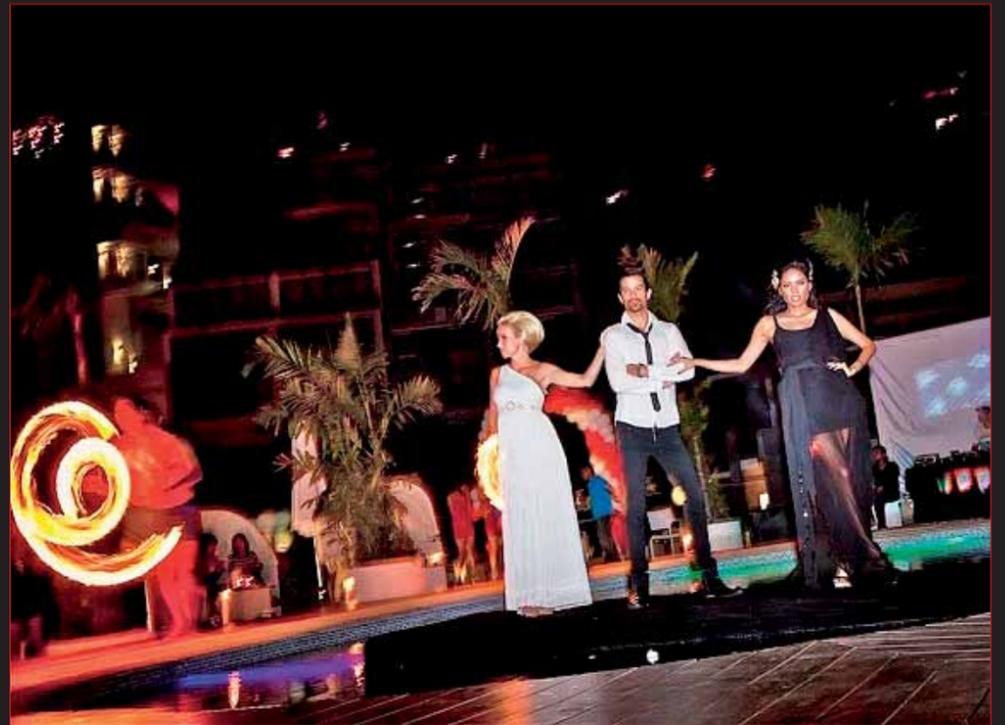
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# Saint Tropez turns up the heat in Kalim

INDOCHINE Phuket celebrated the opening of its newest entertainment attraction, Saint Tropez Beach Club set atop its iconic four-storey, round, glass-walled building at the north end of Kalim Beach with a glittering party that attracted a crowd of partygoers from around Phuket. Saint Tropez Beach Club is set around a small pool with numerous palm trees dotting the perimeter and a spectacular view across Patong Bay. IndoChine has also opened IndoChine Surin Beach Club:Stereolab at Surin Beach for the late-night party set.

Here's a glimpse of who turned up on the night...



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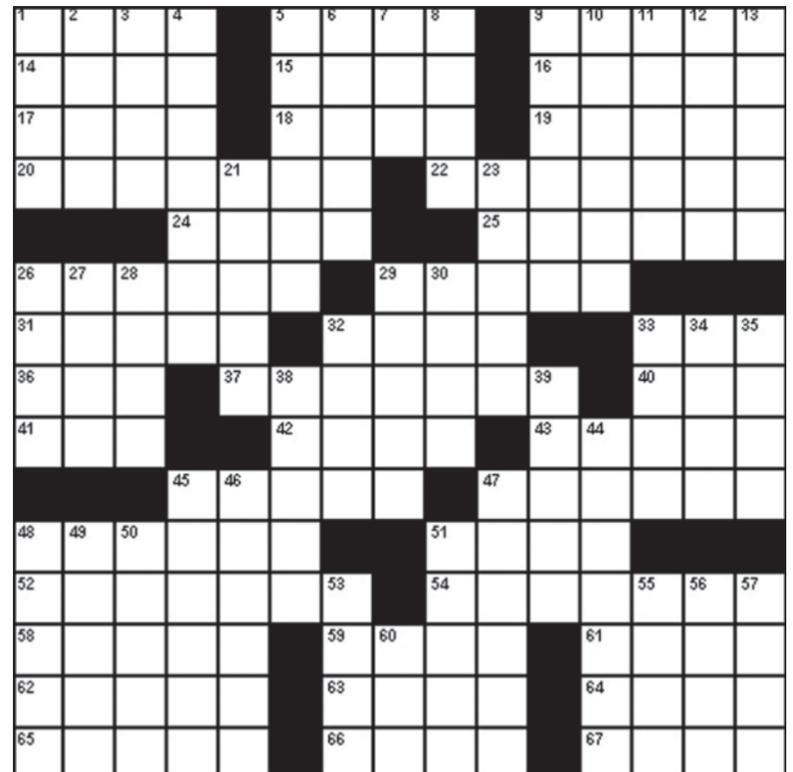
## General Knowledge

1. Which famous horse race takes place in the US city Louisville?
2. Who won the Best Actress Oscar for the 1988 film, *The Accused*?
3. What is the capital of Nova Scotia?
4. In which village do Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn live?
5. On the Chinese calendar, which animal follows the Monkey?
6. What is a Kakapo?
7. Which dinosaur's name translates as "speedy predator"?
8. Ben Franklin invented it, but Britain was first to use it in 1916. What is it?
9. "Yoga" is a Sanskrit word meaning what?
10. What does an anemometer measure?
11. The Bermuda Bowl is the World Championship in which game?
12. All Sikhs must possess five things, one is a *Kangha* – what is it?
13. Randy Newman said short people don't have what?
14. What dog in ancient China was restricted to the aristocracy?

*Quiz solutions on page 39*

- Across**
1. A party to
  5. Simpleton
  9. Halts
  14. Indonesian holiday island
  15. Nothing, in Nantes
  16. Goddesses of the seasons
  17. Apple product
  18. Dresden' s river
  19. Fanatical
  20. Follower
  22. Going out
  24. Floating vegetable matter
  25. Actress Mimieux
  26. Convert into a gas
  29. A battle
  31. \_\_\_ a time
  32. Aboriginal rite site
  33. Nine-digit ID
  36. Narrow inlet
  37. Leaping
  40. Call \_\_\_ day
  41. " Slippery" tree
  42. Monetary unit of Thailand
  43. Seeped
  45. Domestic cat
  47. Matador' s red cloth
  48. Black gum
  51. American car
  52. Silliness
  54. Used in a rite of purification
  58. Chopin composition
  59. Epic narrative poem
  61. Actress Skye
  62. Ascended
  63. Yorkshire river
  64. \_\_\_ Blanc
  65. Sows
  66. Approach
  67. Coup d' \_\_\_

- Down**
1. Footnote abbr.
  2. Appoint
  3. Norwegian king
  4. Capital of Cyprus
  5. Avaricious
  6. Greased
  7. Spider' s creation
  8. Leg joint



9. Confess one' s sins
10. Perfectly
11. Regular course
12. Enamel
13. Grass-like plant
21. Bunches
23. Treegum
26. Clotted blood
27. Indigo
28. Thin stratum
29. Unprotected material will become \_\_\_
30. Part of Q.E.D.
32. Reveal indiscreetly

33. Dimensions
34. Editor' s mark
35. Zilch
38. Superior of a monastery
39. Excursions
44. Long established
45. Cared for
46. Foreigners
47. Animal that catches mice
48. Layers
49. Free laces
50. Temporary stop
51. Plants
53. Bring forth young
55. Dig like a pig
56. Editor Wintour
57. Riga resident
60. Filled pastry crust

*Provided by BestCrosswords.com  
Used with permission  
Puzzle solutions on page 39*

**ARIES** (March 21–April 20):  This is not an auspicious time to take chances with the unknown and Arians are advised to stay on familiar ground this week. A reliable earth sign has words of wisdom for those who are seeking different employment. Your love life is well-starred until the end of the month, with focus on calmer times. Those with a birthday in the week ahead are able to relate to family members better in the coming year.

**TAURUS** (April 21–May 21):  Your practical attitude and solutions to problems are appreciated by people at work and in your social sphere this week. Taureans who have been concerned about a personal issue are forecast to have their worries laid to rest after a talk on Monday or Tuesday. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday – an unexpected bonus should mean that you can afford to splash out.

**GEMINI** (May 22–June 21):  Uncertainty could hold you back this week, but the stars suggest that this is happening for a valid reason. Impatient Geminis are advised to sit back and observe

events until the end of this month. Romance becomes more interesting when you start to see another air sign in a new light. In the world of work, competition from others is a positive development as it encourages you to try harder.

**CANCER** (June 22–July 23):  Cancerians are forecast to take more interest in spiritual matters. An introduction to another water sign encourages you to examine your lifestyle more closely this week. The stars are ready to support your efforts to be less focused on material matters. Those who have been unsettled in a romantic relationship could make a radical decision this weekend. If you are single and seeking, a fire sign sends sparks in your direction.

**LEO** (July 24–August 22):  Leos should double check personal administration midweek to avoid mistakes that could be costly. Easy answers are not on offer during the second half of March, but the stars forecast a smoother time in April. In the meantime, tread water and avoid becoming involved in complicated issues. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to approach a water sign you had communication problems with.

**YOUR**  
**horoscope**  
By Isla Star

**VIRGO** (August 23–September 23):  Your earning power is strong during the last two weeks of March. Virgoans should take advantage of these benevolent astral conditions by following up on plans that didn't get off the ground at the start of the year. Air and water signs are helpful to work with, even if your first impressions are not so favorable. Romance is well-starred this weekend, with emphasis on reconciliations.

**LIBRA** (September 24–October 23):  Librans could be prone to overreact this week and this could lead to disagreements with those close to you. The stars prescribe taking everything with a pinch of salt and focusing on time alone to relax. The forces of romance are moving in mysterious ways someone who you thought you understood well could turn out to be a more complicated character.

**SCORPIO** (October 24–November 22):  Those born under the sign of Scorpio should concentrate on shedding emotional baggage this week. The stars suggest that too much thinking about the past is holding you back from moving forward. Where work is concerned, the abandonment of a project could mean a return to the drawing board. Your creativity is forecast to be sharper during the second half of March, so put this to productive use.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23–December 21):  Time is ticking away too quickly for most Sagittarians. The stars suggest that your reluctance to make a decision needs to be addressed this week. Those who would like to turn a platonic relationship with an earth sign into a romantic one have the stars' support this weekend. Lucky days for finances are Sunday and Monday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22–January 20):  The second half of March is an auspicious time to finalize business agreements. The stars are ready to support your efforts to work out the best deal and Capricorns are advised to set their

sights higher than usual. A dream you have early next week provides fresh perspective on an ongoing personal dilemma. Money matters are well-starred until the end of March and you may consider an innovative investment scheme.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21–February 19):  Those born under the sign of Aquarius who have been playing the role of underdog at work can finally move forward. A fire sign is forecast to see your potential and put progress onto the fast track. In the realm of romance, someone you were disappointed by in the past could make another appearance in your life. The stars advise you to make judgments by using your head and not your heart.

**PISCES** (February 20–March 20):  Pisceans who have been feeling the pressure of people depending on them too much should find a way to ease this situation this week. Your diplomatic skills are highlighted to be strongest on Monday and Tuesday. The stars are smiling on a romance with an earth sign, but hooking up with a fire sign could put you on a rocky road.

# PROPERTY Gazette

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## Land & Houses to meet demand

### New '88' project in Chalong is on the up

LH MUANG Mai Company Limited announced details of its new 420-billion-baht 88 Land & Houses Phuket project in Chalong earlier this month – and since then construction work at the site has been ongoing.

The development is set on 14.4 rai of land just off Chao Fa West Road, opposite the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority's transformer station, where before a large rubber tree plantation covered the area.

"Expectations from our Thai and foreign investors have increased over the years and this development will reflect the demands," Pittaya Tantpiriyaki, Managing Director of LH Muang Mai said.

"Feedback from residents indicates that good after-sales service

is vital when making a decision to purchase," said Mr Pittaya.

"Phuket's real estate market continues to expand. Combined with other indicators and this vital feedback, it shows that our customers rely on us for quality developments in the future," he added.

General Manager of 88 Land & Houses Phuket, Raksapong Khumhuanjum, said: "The location of this project makes it convenient for business commuters in the south of the island."

"A 20-minute drive will get residents to destinations such as Kata, Karon or Central Festival."

Designed with "tropical serenity" in mind, there are two different styles of residence.

There are 48 detached two-storey units, which have living areas



HOME FRONT: A concept image of one of the 48 detached homes.

ranging from 144 square meters to 200sqm, with both having a "modern tropical" design.

At the front of the project will be 15 three-storey commercial units.

The larger units range in plot size from 60 to 100sq wah, while the smaller plot sizes range from 22 to 41sq wah.

Each unit will have three bedrooms and three bathrooms. The larger of these units will also have an office at ground level. Project facilities will include CCTV, 24-hour security and a large park with children's playground.

Mr Raksapong said the significance of the number "88" in the projects title "is important in Chinese Feng Shui as it activates prosperity".

"We wish this upon all our

residents and we will also use this number as the beginning of each house address."

House prices start at 5.7 million baht and go up to 7.35 million baht.

A premium gift voucher of 200,000 baht will be offered for early registration. All the proposed residences will be completed before going on the market.

"Two further developments are also planned by Land and Houses Phuket. One in Mai Khao of 1,066 rai and another in Chalong of 55 rai," said Mr Pittaya.

"With a lake as a central feature and private piers, the proposed development at Mai Khao Beach could be one of the most attractive in Asia," he added.

- Phuket Gazette

## Patong projects piling up

PATONG continues to emerge as the epicenter of development in Phuket, with progress on wide-spread hotel, commercial and residential projects taking place.

This week saw the groundbreaking for the 20-unit upscale boutique Bluepoint condominium, which was designed by Paul Raff.

South Patong in particular is experiencing a surge in launches of new projects.

The 350-unit Centara Grand Moringa Resort is poised to go up close to the Amari Estates residential project.

Then there's the ambitious 78-rai Fisherman's Harbour integrated development, which includes six international hotels, condominiums and a large convention/ exhibition center, also planned for Patong.

Further down the road, Hong Kong owner of Emerald Bay is expected to go public with plans for a new international luxury hotel later this year.

Additionally, a new 700-seat Las Vegas-styled dinner theater is set to open at Jungceyon shopping complex.

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Laguna Village. Phuket.

# Life is 'brand' in the village

FOR the all-knowing barfly, the "local" is where it's at. Of course American television jumped late into the act with well-known "Cheers", but who can argue about a place where everyone knows your name.

Being known is not always the best thing for an ignominious few, say the likes of those in the witness protection program or taking a deserved break from a stalker or temporary restraining order, but in business it is the be all or end all of survival.

As with many concepts imported to Phuket, much of "being local" falls between the cracks on the island. Globally, trace back to *The Stepford Wives*, McDonald's or more the recent Starbucks craze and it's increasingly hard to capture or experience life in the hood. International brands have taken on a more friendly face to woo an androgynous client base that transcends international borders, sex, nationality or economic standing.

Politics caught on back in the '90s, when Wild Bill Clinton's long-suffering wife Hillary became the poster child for going low in the food chain with the *New York Times* bestseller *It Takes A Village*.

Over the past decade, a growing number of businesses and wily entrepreneurs in the west have developed just about everything



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

from hotels to restaurants to any other consumer brand – all playing on individualized localism.

Small businesses commanded premium prices against the corporate giants by pushing "smaller is better" and using words like "niche", "lifestyle" or "boutique".

I can't quite put my finger on all the reasons why, but consumer behavior in Asia remains locked back in time. Perhaps it's the jet stream over the dateline, but the region remains brand-centric. Truth be known, in this respect the gap between east and west is getting more profound.

A sterling example was the Crispy Kreme donut chain opening at Bangkok's ultra-swank Siam Paragon mall last year. For months, queues of people lined the sidewalks each day, all waiting anxiously for those wan ton sugar-coated objects of desire.

On Phuket we have a large selection of local, regional and globally branded hotels. The same goes for real estate agents, retail shops and of course that beacon of ingenuity: 7-Eleven. Freedom of choice is everywhere.

The big question in "going

local" is whether to go with the tried and tested formula or to walk on the wild side. For both expatriate residents and tourists it is often difficult to punt for one or the other, as either the business owner or the customer, as it always took a leap of faith to go to another country much yet a small island in the Andaman Sea.

Comfort food, nostalgia or perhaps a hint of homesickness could play minor roles in making the decision, but brandologists would have us believe that bigger is better. As most of us know, that's not always the case.

Taking a glance in the mirror is always good. Reflecting on our values and what inner force drove us to live in a foreign land in the first place took a good amount of independent thinking.

But more to the point is that choice is good, and to celebrate the full palette of Brand Thailand and the island can always lead to surprising results.

I have my own feet firmly planted in both camps. There is an amazing selection of good local services, shops and businesses that deserve our attention. After all, life in the village is pretty good.

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



**SLEVEN HEAVEN:** Love them or hate them, 7-Eleven is a local success story. Photo: Alexandra Andersson

## In brief...

### Inland residential projects gain traction

A GROWING number of inland residential projects which cater to Thai buyers and foreigners are making inroads in the broad Phuket real-estate market.

Domestic-leveraged projects are seeing reasonable transaction activity from domestic buyers.

Case in point is the Chalong Miracle Lakeview, which has condominiums, pool villas and larger lakeside residences which range in price from 5.9 million baht for condos up to residences at 26.5 million baht. Coming soon will be Land & Houses with their

project "88" nearby. Again pricing points are well below the coastal areas and aimed at the growing base of Thai buyers.

Expect foreign buyers to show strong interest in both due to pricing points and scalable development.

### CBRE to manage Infinity, Samui

REAL-estate firm CBRE Thailand will take over as property manager for the Infinity Residences in Koh Samui on April 1. Located on a 10-rai site with 67 upscale apartments, the project sits above Mae Nam. CBRE's Phuket office will oversee operations of Infinity.

### Bangkok Marriott rebranded Anantara

THAILAND'S Minor Hotel Group has announced plans to re-flag the 413-room Bangkok Marriott Resort and Spa to its own Anantara brand. The changeover will take place in November.

Located on the Chao Phraya River, the property helped the United States-based Marriott Ho-

tel and Resorts gain a foothold in the Thai market a number of years ago. For Minor, Anantara remains a key focus for its hospitality brand and expansion ambitions.

### Indigo Pearl dropping rooms and targeting luxury

THE Bill Bensley designed Indigo Pearl Resort in Nai Yang is making a brash repositioning move as it will decrease its number of rooms from 260 to 177 (subject to final plans).

A number of existing deluxe rooms will be renovated into larger suites, and two-bedroom pool villas will be added.

Renovation work is scheduled to start in mid-May and is expected to be complete by the end of August.

It will be interesting to see the hotel now push higher into the marketplace with more premium products which are working at targeting yield versus volume.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email [property@phuketgazette.net](mailto:property@phuketgazette.net)



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# Nesting in a suspended sanctuary

Inside Indigo Pearl's latest innovative design feature – 'The Nest'



SNEAK PEAK: Inside 'The Nest' (Coqoon Spa) at Indigo Pearl, Nai Yang.

By Alexandra Andersson

IT'S like something out of *Avatar*. Suspended in mid-air, among the branches of a banyan tree in the middle of luxury resort Indigo Pearl in Nai Yang is a pair of seven-square-meter "cocoon" together called "The Nest".

On closer inspection the scent of massage oils gives the game away. The nest does not contain

some sort of massive prehistoric larvae: it is part of Indigo Pearl's cutting-edge "Coqoon Spa", which opened in January.

"A long time ago, as a young Californian boy, I had a dream... suspended mid-air, high in one of Phuket's largest and most inspiring banyan trees, my vision is now a reality: Coqoon Spa at Indigo Pearl," designer Bill Bensley says.

"This is simply as close to



NATURAL DESIGN: The Nest is made from recycled materials and synthetic rattan. Photos courtesy of Indigo Pearl

nature as one gets, and I am very proud."

The 20-million-baht project's design is in keeping with Indigo Pearl's cutting-edge yet eco-friendly ethos, which the founder of Bensley Design Studio has directed.

Mr Bensley's holistic approach of integrating structures with nature while embracing local art forms has made him a

renowned architect and interior designer. This is something that shines through in this particular development.

The supporting beams are made from recycled railway sleepers and the privacy screens are made from recycled corrugated zinc sheets.

The outer layer of synthetic rattan is what gives the nest its authentic look, blending it

with its surroundings.

"The hanging tree house with its synthetic rattan creates natural atmosphere, in addition to the green freshness of the banyan tree itself," says Panchan Noimecharoen, the resort's public relations manager.

"The Coqoon Spa is surrounded by a Garden of Eden. The old teak wood and recycled materials help to nourish and calm the mind," she adds.

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# Short or tall, the palm's got it all

GARDENING jargon is full of anomalies. Take today's first recommendation: It is not strictly speaking a palm tree at all, but a banana. Nonetheless, it goes by the name of the traveler's palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), and most of us are happy to think of it as a member of the palm family.

What is more important is its value to the tropical gardener, especially when planted close to a wall, where it can show off its good looks.

But remember that the traveler's palm is huge, grows rapidly, and will in time develop a squat, thick trunk from which radiate as many as 24 banana-like leaves.

The majestic beauty of it lies in this wonderfully symmetrical fan-



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

like shape, which allows it to dominate borders without crowding out smaller plants in front or behind its giant fronds. The reason for this is because the enormous, paddle-shaped leaves grow in a single plane.

A firm favorite with Phuket gardeners, the traveler's palm is an excellent choice for any new garden that has sufficient space to accommodate it. It needs little maintenance, thriving on a high nitrogen diet and growing in full sun or partial shade.

To keep its characteristic form,

cut away the many offshoots that will appear around its base. These same offshoots can be re-potted to produce new plants.

The royal palm (*Roystonea*) is just as imposing in its own distinctive way. It is more recognizably a palm, with a straight, smooth, ringed trunk surmounted by a crown of dark green, pinnate leaves.

The blades of these leaves may be 20 to 30 inches long. It produces fragrant yellow flowers, and purplish-black inedible fruits. The trunk is an attractive shade of grey, sometimes swollen near the base.

When mature, the royal palm can reach 30 meters, so it is not a candidate for the intimate garden. It is seen to best effect when grown along tree-lined avenues, or in tropical gardens as an ornamental specimen.

One garden in the hills of Chalong has a number of mature royal palms set in expansive lawns, where they really look the part. The cut-through road to the Immigration Office in Phuket Town has a long and imposing array of royal palms.

Like most palms it will take full sun and high humidity – and it will tolerate poor soil. But it can be susceptible to a virulent fungus called *ganoderma* that burrows, usually unseen, into the trunk.

This fungus, already on the march in Phuket, will eventually kill the tree. Paint the affected area immediately with an anti-fungicide if you do spot any tell-tail signs. Sadly it may already be too late.

Date palms are more associated with the Middle East than southern Asia, but they are grown in the tropics.

Evolved to withstand very arid conditions, they are probably the hardiest of all palm trees. Often single stemmed, they sometimes sprout as a clump from a single-root system, much like the yellow cane palm.

They will take at least four years to produce the characteristic orange fruit.



REACH FOR THE SKY: The royal palm can reach 30 meters. Photo: Ruetz



STUMPY: The traveller's palm has almost no trunk. Photo: Captain Tucker



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The common date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) and the Canary Island species (*Canariensis*) are both found sparingly here, they are large (the crown of a mature tree may span 10 meters) so a better choice for the garden is probably the pygmy date palm (*P. roubelenii*) which comes, surprisingly, from Laos.

Pygmy date palms have thick trunks topped by delicate, fern-like fronds, and rarely grow to more

than a couple of meters in height. And of course, they still produce delicious fruit. An excellent choice as a specimen tree.

Unlike the coconut palm, which is such a feature of the island's landscape, the pygmy date palm should be cultivated here more often. So go for it.

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

## Tip of the week

### Watch out for pesky pests

PLANTS can come under attack from animals, insects, viruses and fungi.

There are many instances of organisms brought into a country from elsewhere having wrought havoc to native species. Often two agents work together.

The most notorious recent example is Dutch Elm Disease, caused by a fungus carried by a bark beetle from Asia.

It has devastated the population of elm trees in Europe and North America.

In general, insects attack by chewing, sucking or mining.

The best known chewing pests are caterpillars, slugs and snails.

In Phuket, tender shoots, especially near ground level, are targeted by slugs and snails.

If you have a problem, use a beer trap, a gritty mulch or, more drastically, insecticide pellets.

Caterpillars, the larvae of moths and butterflies, are normally more visible, though they tend to hide on the underside of leaves.

With voracious appetites, they can quickly strip a plant of its foliage. But their attacks are rarely terminal.

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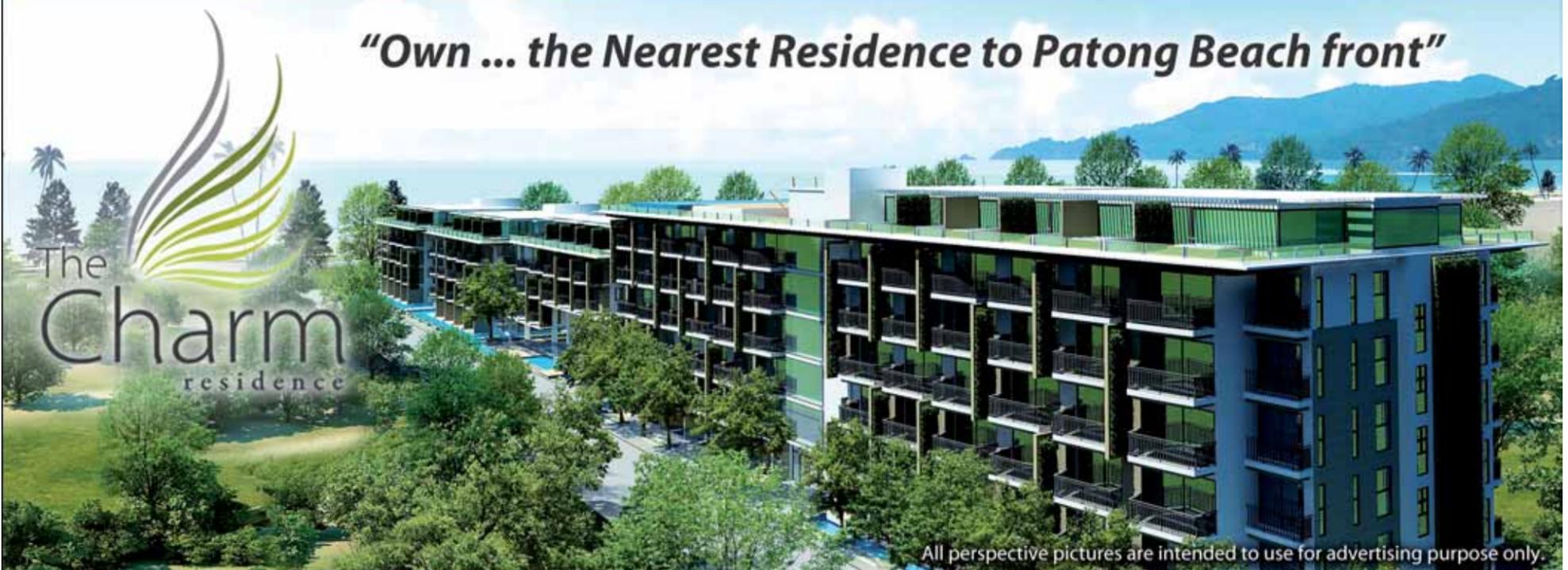


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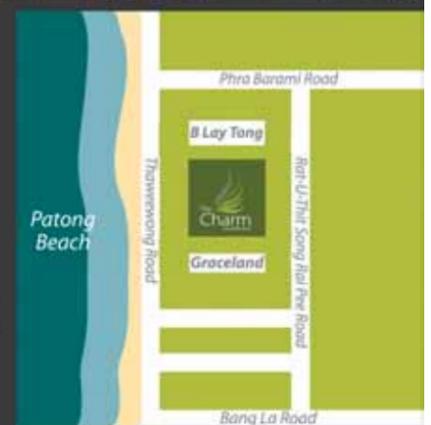
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In a nice and quiet area, with Chanote title. Price: 4.8 million baht. Email: sn@swedpro.se

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Overlooking the ocean in the exclusive Ao Por area on the East Coast of Phuket, the luxurious Sunrise Ocean Villas, located only 60m from the beach, offer breathtaking panoramic views of Phang Nga Bay. You will find the most beautiful untouched island, with white sand beaches only a few minutes away.



Just 15 minutes from Phuket International Airport, 25 minutes from the major shopping centers and 3 minutes from the Grand Marina, Ao Por attracts a growing number of investors seeking an exclusive and affordable alternative to the West Coast with a more authentic environment.



Built to the highest western standards, Sunrise Ocean Villas offers a stylish and contemporary design to suit our clientele. Large window panels and an infinity swimming pool are built to offer the enjoyment of a great open space with a truly amazing view. Buy your dream villa now with a 25% discount for **only 14.9 million baht!** Tel: 081-343 0777 (Eng) 086-274 6062 (French) Email: montha\_phuket@yahoo.com or thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com

**OCEANFRONT PLOTS FOR SALE**

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

**IDYLIC LIVING NEAR CHIANG MAI**

Situated on 7 rai near Chiang Mai, high-end estate with 3 houses, lovely landscaped grounds, free-range fowl and much more. Selling at well below market price at 9.5 million baht. Further details and pictures on request. Tel: 053-448181, 081-724 9155 (English & Thai), 080-790 5506 (English). Fax: 053-448181. Email: chaibob@gmail.com

**REAL ESTATE INVESTORS**

Wholesaler has deals under contract. Villas and land. All budgets. Tel: 082-812 2018 (English), 081-622 3207 (Thai). Email: deede777@live.com

**NICE HOUSE IN BOAT LAGOON**

Semi-detached situated in Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-238948, 081-968 9046 (English & Thai), 081-978 2787 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-273466. Email: pen@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertytrip.com/property-detail.php?id=131

**CONDOS FOR SALE**

Nestled near the mountains, two new executive high-end condos for sale/rent. All furnishings/fittings to the highest standards included. Further details and pictures on request. Tel: 053-448181, 081-724 9155 (English & Thai), 080-790 5506 (English). Fax: 053-448181. Email: chaibob@gmail.com

**LAND AND HYDRO FARM**

For sale. 17 rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Price: 6.8 million baht. 30 minutes from airport. Tel: 087-020 0191.

**SALE LAND 3,500SQM**

At Rawai. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 087-269 2133. Email: giga finances@free.fr

**FORCED TO SELL**

Special for bargain hunter.

**KATA/PHUKET**

3-bedrooms, stunning villa with big kitchen, living room, office room, large pool, jacuzzi, garden and parking.

Freehold and free transfer.

Was 19 million baht.

**Now 14.5 million baht.**

Come to see quickly because a bargain like this you never find again

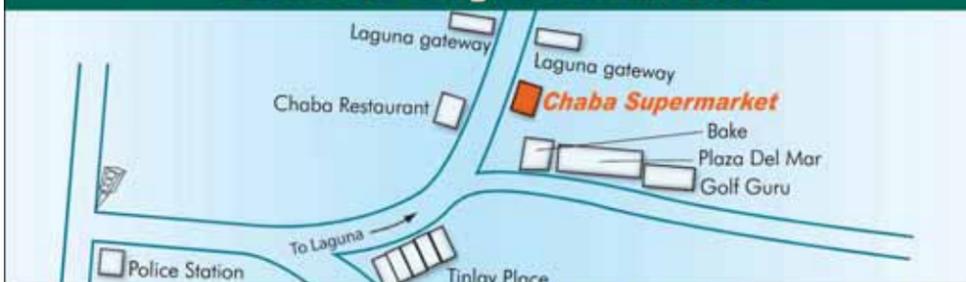
No pictures. Only visit. Tel: 081-788 8280

Email: matida133@yahoo.com

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## Property Wanted

### POOL VILLA WANTED

We are looking for investors from Sweden for pool villas with 2-3 bedrooms in Rawai. Price: from 5 to 10 million baht. Please send email to offers. Email: sales@chokechaiproperly.com

### GENUINE CASH BUYER

Wanted: house modern open plan with enough land for pool and garden on made road with all services, genuine sellers only. Tel: 087-278 5037. Email: petercallen@live.com

### 50-100 RAI, 50 YEAR LEASE

For horse business, Phuket, Krabi Phang Nga. Qualifies under the new zoning restrictions as recreation and/or agriculture. Bi-annual payment ONLY. Commercial 50 year lease. Developers: Add Incentive with first class horse riding facility. Tel: 084-842 4581. Email: christyKSweet@gmail.com

### WANT TO BUY LAND

0.5-1.5 rai plot on waterfront. With Chanote only. Fast payment. No agents please. Email: mihails@hotmail.com

### HOUSE / APARTMENT WANTED

I am looking to buy a house or apartment. I would consider a new or pre-owned property. Must be near the beach with amenities, etc. I would like to spend around 10-15 million baht in total. I would like to pay cash plus my house, valued at 6 million baht, in Koh Samui, Hua Thanon area, 200 meters from the beach. This is a 2-bedroom villa with shared pool. Email: jezkasler@hotmail.com

## Accommodation Available

### KATA LUXURY VILLA RENTAL

3-bedroom villa located on the southern headland of Kata Beach. Built up area, 3400sqft, with spectacular Andaman sea views. 6x15 meter infinity pool situated on the edge of rocks overlooking sea. The villa is surrounded by dense foliage, has spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings and is very private. Thai, Japanese, & Balinese design influences. Excellent Thai cook provided. Tel: +65-09 621 0254. (English). Email: seavest@signet.com.sg

### UNIQUE SEAVIEW HOUSE

140sqm, 3 rooms, 2 bathrooms. 50m from the sea. 18,000 baht/month. Long-term rent only. Tel: 089-729 3466 (English), 081-273 8679 (Thai). Email: brunyth@yahoo.fr

### CONDO FOR SALE/ RENT RAWAI

Best price on the island, both for sale and long term rent. Tel: 080-078 0931 (English), 086-112 1477 (Thai). Email: rawaireservation@yahoo.com

### PATONG LUXURY

At a very quiet place. 60sqm apartment with jacuzzi. Daily rent from 2,500 baht. Monthly rent: 35,000 baht. 4 minutes' walk to beach, 2 minutes to entertainment venues. Tel: 081-894 8446. See: www.banglasuites.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT 8,500 BAHT

Furnished 2 bedroom house with living room, kitchen, garden, car park, internet. Price for rent: 8,500 baht/month, and 3 bedroom at 12,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-476 9598, 084-051 1955, 080-521 9888 (English & Thai). Email: somin\_s@yahoo.com

### APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 800-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com For further details, please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

### APPARTMENT LONG TERM

apartment for French speaking people. 60 square meters, big garden, swimming pool, very quiet, near Jungceylon. 16,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 076-296312, 080-880 5086 (English). Email: bialaspatrik@yahoo.com

### LOFT STYLE - KATHU

Suitable for a home or office, secure, 11,500 baht/month. Tel: 086-664 5575. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

### PATONG TOWNHOUSE

Nanai Road 9 hillside. 2 bedrooms fully furnished with WiFi and cable TV. Price: 20,000 baht/month long term. Tel: 081-270 5374 (English & Thai). Email: alex@alexmalcolm.com

### HOUSE NEAR CHALONG

Fully furnished house with 2-bed, 2 bath. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: cjtisomboon@hotmail.com

### PATONG SEAVIEW

With kitchen and DVD/cable. Rent: 800 baht per day, or 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-532 7708.

### LUXURY KATA APARTMENT

Central location, pool, Internet, etc. One bedroom. For rent weekly or monthly. Tel: 084-063 9223, 086-941 7733 (English). Email: eburneday@gmail.com

### KARON CONDO FOR SALE OR RENT

2 bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking Karon Beach. Available Feb 21. Short or long term. Condo also for sale. Reasonable rent to mature persons. Email: rj1111@yahoo.com

### 4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARG POOL

in Land & Houses Park available for long or short-term resident, or for daily holiday rental. Email: william.amonoo@gmail.com

### ROOMS IN KATHU: 6,000 BAHT

Large modern rooms with their own bathroom, satellite TV and Internet connection. At a great location with mountain views, near Loch Palm Golf Club. Email: cssmyth@hotmail.com

### APARTMENT PATONG

140sqm, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus storage room. Spacious living/dining area with full western kitchen and large balcony. Full aircon. Includes free WiFi. UBC ready. Tel: 084-185 8536.

### FREEDOM APARTMENT

Small kitchen, fridge, cooker, fully furnished, aircon, high-speed internet, cable TV, bathroom with hot and cold water. 400 baht per day. Tel: 084-845 0541.

### LOVELY PATONG GUESTHOUSE

Near Carrefour. Rooms for rent. Has pool, fitness, sauna, garden etc. Tel: 081-084 3415. Website: unter-palmen.ch

### PATONG CONDO

Fully furnished - 700 meters from Patong Beach. Email: wintin2007@yahoo.com

### LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

Room for rent with swimming pool. Daily and monthly. Email: mori@phuket.ksc.co.th Website: www.nanaivilla.com

### 2 HUGE SEAVIEW CONDOS

35/210sqm. In Rawai with a pool and 24-hour security. Short- or long-term rent from 500 baht a day. Email: morletian@hotmail.com

### BEDROOM IN LARGE HOUSE

Kitchen, laundry, WiFi, TV. Expat male or female, long term. Secure and safe. Chalong. Email: williet98248@hotmail.com

### HOUSE NEAR CHALONG

Fully furnished house with 2-bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Email: cjtisomboon@hotmail.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### AO YON OR NEARBY

Looking for long term rent of a modern, furnished 2 BR house with western kitchen and AC, ADSL and UBC. Minimum of 12 months, starting end of April or later as per agreement. Please email photo/info. Tel: 081-078 0014. Email: homeinphuket@live.com

### ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Wanted: 2 bed apartment/villa within 200 meters of a beach on Phuket. Any beach except Patong. Must have usual kitchen facilities + fridge. Also require aircon and showers. For period Dec 9, 2011 to Jan 2, 2012. Email: coakleyger@gmail.com

### 1/2 BEDROOM HOUSE / APARTMENT

Looking for a 1 or 2 bedroom house or apartment. Need the following: Internet, aircon, kitchen. Long-term rental. Price about 15,000 baht a month. Email: khun.ab@hotmail.com

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

1-bedroom apartment with kitchen and some flair. Should be close to the beach but NOT in a tourist area. I like some lifestyle with good shopping opportunities. 1-3 month rental. Max budget: 10,000 baht a month. I'm a retired Italian guy. Email: dianarosmarino@gmx.net

### PHUKET CITY OR NEARBY

I will be studying with my partner at ECC in Muang, Phuket City, and I am looking for a comfortable apartment/house that is close by or commutable. Dates: May 7- June 7 2011. For more details, please send email: patrickoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

## Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

### KATA LUXURY VILLA RENTAL

3-bedroom villa located on the southern headland of Kata Beach. Built up area, 3400 sqft, with spectacular Andaman sea views. 6x15 meter infinity pool situated on the edge of rocks overlooking sea. The villa is surrounded by dense foliage, has spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings and is very private. Thai, Japanese, & Balinese design influences. Excellent Thai cook provided. Tel: +65-09 621 0254. (English). Email: seavest@signet.com.sg www.housephuket.com

## Household Items

### OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Modern dining table set with high quality materials. Set of 1 table, 4 chairs and 1 umbrella. Stylish and weather resistant! Only 12,000 baht. All still in good condition. Email: michikodeguchi@hotmail.com

### MOVING SALE

I am moving and everything must go. Lots of items: Bedroom suite (6 piece), teak colour, good condition. Shelving, desk, chair, sofa, music system. Coffee table, blinds. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

### OIL PAINTING

Unique oil painting from China with Chinese Garden picture. Size 100cm x 100cm. In good condition. Asking 4,000 baht. Tel: 089-150 2909. Email: artandpaula@gmail.com

### REFRIGERATOR

220-240V Homax fridge. 86L with small freezer box. 450 x 450 x 817mm, white, 1 year old and in very good condition. 2,500 baht. Tel: 083-388 3145, 082-539 8974. Email: sy.tombatu@gmail.com

### IRON AND IRONING BOARD

Philips Teflon steam iron and heat resistant covered board (100cm high x 120cm long). 1,000 baht for both. Tel: 085470 3410, 080-697 7502. Email: philipandyvette@gmail.com

### GOING AWAY SALE

Many household items for sale, from books all the way to ovens and barbecues. If interested, please contact for a full list of all the items. Everything must go. Tel: 083-504 3218. Email: beccatooley@gmail.com

### SAMSUNG WASHING MACHINE

Only 6 months old. Bought from HomePro. 5-year warranty. 6.5kg model. 3,000 baht o.n.o. Needs to go as soon as possible. Tel: 085-908 0594. Email: jorjaclare@gmail.com

## Household Services

### PHUKET PRO-BUILT

Construction, renovation, electrics, awning, shop fitting. Tel: 088-584 2535.

### DWF HOME SERVICES

Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: DWF\_homeservices@hotmail.com

## Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

\_\_\_\_\_ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

## Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

**Boatshedphuket.com**  
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**SELLING YOUR BOAT?**  
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

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Blue water cruising yacht  
Reduced to US\$ 119,950

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- ▶ **Valiant 40 (1977)**
  - Mint Condition
  - Westerbeke main engine
  - Watermaker
  - Huge cruising inventory
  - Monitor windvane
  - Ready to sail away
- ▶ **Roberts 37 CC (1982)** \$69,000 USD
- ▶ **Cumulant 40 (1996)** 149,000 Euro
- ▶ **Searay Sundeck 200 (2007)** 1,400,000 THB
- ▶ **Austal Marine TIC (2009)** 9,500,000 THB

**leemarine.com**

Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach

**5.8 RIGID INFLATABLE BOAT**



For sale. 10-month old, 5.8m long. Cholamark RIB power by 2x60hp Evinrude engines (operating hours). Includes bimini, raymarine 57D chartplotter/depth sounder, 170 liter stainless steel fuel tank, and bilge pump. Asking price: 975,000 baht or o.n.o. (Original price: 1.3 million baht, in April 2010). Tel: 089-770 3234. Email: jeremy.ayre@awrlloyd.com

**ANGLER 2,600 CC SPORTFISHING**

Nice 26ft American sportfishing boat 2x225 4-stroke outboards. Tel: 085-691 1837 (English). Email: mangelsson@hotmail.com

**6M SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE**

With trailer 40hp. Thai registered, with extras, in good condition. Price: 550,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 076-615810.

**VAN DE STADT 38' YACHT**

Ashore at Langkawi Port, due for inspection in March. Photos and spec on request. Price: US\$ 45,000. Tel: +60-125-531 4030 (English). Contact for more details at email: brianralphgoodwin@yahoo.com

**55-FOOT CATAMARAN**

6 double cabins, 105sqm. Sails, in composite. Ready to sail! Price: 1.5 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-461 8089.

**SWISS CATAMARAN 24 FEET**

A perfect fishing boat made of fiberglass. Comes with 2 Honda 4 stroke engines, each 50 Hp. It has a hydraulic system, a Simrad navigation GPS chart plotter and electric Ankerwisch plus toilet. Phuket registration. With 4-wheel aluminium trailer. Price: 600,000 baht. Contact Khun Aree. Tel: 089-474 5168.

**SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE**

With 2 company work permits. Building B&B. Boat length: 27'. Year: 2007. GPR Fiberglass capacity: 35 knots. Engine: Honda 225MP. Price: 960,000 baht. Negotiable. Tel: 087-518 1347.

**35 FOOT POWER CAT FOR SALE**

Brand new fiber glass with flybridge. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

**WOODWORK FOR BOAT & HOUSE**

All for wood and more!

- Full hull repairs
- Internal woodwork
- Teak wood work and decking
- Teak wood accessories
- Fiberglass repairs
- Spray painting
- Antifouling
- Super Yacht repairs
- Built-in furniture for homes, kitchens, flooring, decking, wardrobes
- Concrete waterproofing and more.

Tel: 076-238947, 081-968 3118 (English), 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238947. Email: info@procarpentering.com

**18FT DORY**

18ft dory style boat with bimini, trailer, life jackets etc. Very low hour 60Hp Mercury + 6 Hp Mercury. Thai registered. Tel: 089-290 6925 (English). Please send email for more information at: rayb100@hotmail.co.uk

**50% BOATSHARE**

Riviera 48 and 34 ft speed boat, both fully equipped for fishing and diving. Approx Investment: US\$ 275,000. FULL MANAGEMENT AND FULLY CREWED.



Tel: 081-895 1724 or Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

**POWER CAT FOR SALE**

Brand-new, 35 feet, fiberglass with fly bridge. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

**SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE**

19 Rib with 4-stroke engine built for coastal waters. Excellent for snorkeling, fishing and family outings. Safe and economical. Comes with a trailer and many extras. Price: 595,000 baht. Tel: 082-814 9912. Email: alistair@aimdb.net

**CHALOMARK DINGHY**



40Hp and 5Hp engine. Can carry 8 persons. Like new. Price: 230,000 baht. Tel: 089-658 5664.

**Sunseeker Manhattan 58, 1995**  
6.5 M.B. (Private Boat)



**Sunnav 72 F.B. Flybridge, 2007**  
28 M.B. (Excl. Vat)



**Boat Sale!..BIG REDUCTIONS**

Contact: 66 (0)89 476 7443 66 (0)85 352 1942  
Email: sales@sunnava.com www.sunnava.com

**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**

**Crossword puzzle:**

1	I	N	O	N		5	G	O	W	K		9	S	T	O	P	S					
14	B	A	L	I		15	R	I	E	N		16	H	O	R	A	E					
17	I	M	A	C		18	E	L	B	E		19	R	A	B	I	D					
20	D	E	V	O	T	E	E		22	E	X	I	T	I	N	G						
26	G	A	S	I	F	Y		23	M	E	L	E	E									
31	O	N	E	A	T			32	B	O	R	A		33	S	S	N					
36	R	I	A				37	S	A	L	T	A	N	T		40	I	T	A			
41	E	L	M					42	B	A	H	T		43	O	O	Z	E	D			
48	T	U	P	E	L	O							51	F	O	R	D					
52	I	N	A	N	I	T	Y					54	L	U	S	T	R	A	L			
58	E	T	U	D	E							59	E	P	O	S		61	I	O	N	E
62	R	I	S	E	N							63	A	I	R	E		64	M	O	N	T
65	S	E	E	D	S							66	N	E	A	R		67	E	T	A	T

**Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:**

- Kentucky Derby
- Jodi Foster
- Halifax
- St Petersburg
- Rooster
- Nocturnal New Zealand Parrot
- Velociraptor
- Daylight Savings
- Union
- Wind Speed
- Bridge
- Comb
- Reason to Live
- Pekinese



**ONLINE JOB APPLICATION**  
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B  
[www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm](http://www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm)

**The Sponsorship Experts**  
**Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd**  
is looking for **Sales/Marketing Executives** to join there growing Bangkok based team. The successful applicant must have experience and a strong command of both spoken and written English/ Thai  
Tel: **02-622 0605-7**, Email: [admin@paulpoole.co.th](mailto:admin@paulpoole.co.th)



**THE PRIVILEGE**  
RESIDENCES • PATONG

The Privilege At BayCliff Co Ltd is and exclusive real estate company located at Prabaramee Road. We are urgently looking for professional and qualified and candidates to join our team in Phuket. Must have the following qualifications:

**Sales Manager**

- Preferably 30-40 years old
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in sales or/marketing
- Good negotiation and English Communication skills
- Self-motivated and dynamic, service-minded and result-oriented
- Pro-active and well organized
- Pleasant personality
- Computer literate
- Car driving license with own car will be an advantage

Please e-mail your resume to: [niramon@thebaycliff.com](mailto:niramon@thebaycliff.com) or contact us at **076 342 696**, Attn: **Khun Niramon**

**HOUSE MAID WANTED**  
To clean pool villa. Easy work. No previous experience is necessary. Tel: 083-641 9327.

**ADMIN ASSIST**  
Thai national assistant needed for office work with good command of English. No previous experience is needed. Salary + commission. Tel: 088-168 5032. Email: [B\\_Gholami@hotmail.com](mailto:B_Gholami@hotmail.com)

**GRADE 1 TEACHER**  
International school is looking for a homeroom teacher for grade 1 (6 to 7-year-olds). Only native English speakers with appropriate degree should apply. Please send application to [phuketprimary@mail.com](mailto:phuketprimary@mail.com)

**SECRETARY/ PERSONAL ASSISTANT**  
Tropical Properties, one of Phuket's leading real estate agencies, is looking for a secretary / personal assistant. Must be able to work independently. Good knowledge of English and Microsoft office is a must. Experience in real estate is not essential. Tel: 087-882 2856. Email: [luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com](mailto:luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com)

**ACCOUNTANT WANTED URGENTLY**

We need a professional accountant. Qualifications as below:

- 1) Bachelor degree or diploma in accounting
- 2) Expert in express software
- 3) Minimum experience of 2 years in accounting will be considered.

Tel: 087-815 3777. Please kindly send your CV or resume by email to: [phuketimperial@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketimperial@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.phuket-stainless-service.com](http://www.phuket-stainless-service.com)

**STAFF WANTED**  
Nightshift receptionist for Patong guesthouse. Must speak some English. For more information. Tel: 083-388 4300.

**DTW BLOG EDITOR**  
Blog editor: 30 hours or 40 hours per week, depending on skills. Excellent English and good writing ability. Ability to learn some simple html for blog editing. Salary dependent on skills and time commitment. Please send your CV to [info@dive-the-world.com](mailto:info@dive-the-world.com)



**Wine Connection** Phuket is urgently looking for skilled and talented individuals to join our team.

**• SHOP MANAGER 3 Positions**

- Male / Female age 25 years old & up
- At least 2 years experience in retail business or related field
- Possess good interpersonal, teamwork, leadership and planning
- Able to communicate in English

We offer good remuneration package. Interested applicants please send resume to [hrrecruitphuket@wineconnection.co.th](mailto:hrrecruitphuket@wineconnection.co.th) Or Call 076 282 411 ext 13 for further information

**MARKETING MANAGER WANTED**

Business development manager for hotel contracting wanted by Thai Oriental Tours travel agency. Thai national with good English and hotel work experience. Tel: 076-629 3225, 082-323 9315 (English). Send CV with expected salary to [andre@thaiorientaltours.com](mailto:andre@thaiorientaltours.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.thaiorientaltours.com](http://www.thaiorientaltours.com)

**PART TIME ADMIN**  
Part time administration work from your own home. High degree of English and computer skills required. Tel: 085-258 0006. Email: [pat@aeropromgr.com](mailto:pat@aeropromgr.com)

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
We are looking for a keen amateur photographer to join our event team, preferably a Scandinavian. You need to be computer literate and have strong organizing skills as well. Tel: 081-891 5428 (English & Thai), 087-897 1761 (English). Email: [info@lamoet.com](mailto:info@lamoet.com)

**CHIEF ENGINEER**

Chief Engineer/Assistant Service Manager at a Yacht Dealership Company based in Phuket, Thailand is looking for a young enthusiastic Marine Engineer with an excellent knowledge in electronics and hydraulics, preferably with superyacht experience. The successful applicant needs to be competent and experienced in working with: Besenconi systems, Naviop., Furlanet, Gi8, Twin Disc & BCS. Work is shore based. Fluent English and excellent computer and internet skills required. For more information please contact Anthony Gates. Tel: 081-968 5119. Email: [anthony@leemarine.com](mailto:anthony@leemarine.com)

**ENTERTAINER - CABARET SHOW**

Salary 2,000 baht per show. Must have experience performing in a cabaret show and be an English speaking Thai national with knowledge of all music types. Must be able to entertain guests for a 15 minute show. Tel: 076-333222. Email: [sales@ccblooms.com](mailto:sales@ccblooms.com)

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR WANTED**

Needs good admin & secretarial skills to run a small international business. Good English & ability to communicate. Some bookkeeping & cash reports knowledge is helpful to the position. Attractive salary & benefits to the right person. Tel: 076-513370. Fax: 076-513370. Send your CV to [safety@services.sms23@yahoo.com](mailto:safety@services.sms23@yahoo.com)

**CUSTOMER SUPPORT WANTED**

We are the leading travel agency in Phuket. We currently want to fill 2 positions for customer support. Starting salary ranging from 12,000-15,000 baht. Tel: 076-367120, 086-950 6945, 089-469 2173 (Thai). Fax: 076-367212. Email: [korphong@hotmail.com](mailto:korphong@hotmail.com)

**HOTEL STAFF**  
Receptionist/bar staff (Thai) wanted for a new hotel in Patong. Good salary. Tel: 076-349655, 088-444 7840. Email: [kim\\_partanen@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_partanen@hotmail.com)

**ADMIN STAFF WANTED**  
Admin staff required by real estate agent in the Laguna area. Must be Thai national, female and have some experience in admin and accounts. Must also live locally. Good salary and immediate start. Tel: 076-271315, 081-895 6267 (English). Email: [info@phuket-landandhomes.com](mailto:info@phuket-landandhomes.com)

**Phuket Gazette**

In connection with a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add three **Classified Advertising Administrators** to its existing team of five.

**Qualified candidates will be:**

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 26
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

**and should have:**

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Tassanee Suwannarat, Classifieds Manager, at [Nee@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Nee@PhuketGazette.Net)

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 205 Fax: 076-615240

**BOAT REFIT PROJECT MANAGER**

Hands-on, good organizational skills, team player. Duration 2 to 3 months. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-270 9006 (English). Email: [ulrichkuhl@gmail.com](mailto:ulrichkuhl@gmail.com)

**SALES/SECRETARY**  
Sunrise Ocean Villas looking for a motivated Thai female to work as sales representative and secretary for the second office in Ao Por. Salary + commission and bonus. Email: [montha\\_phuket@yahoo.com](mailto:montha_phuket@yahoo.com)

**PADI DIVING INSTRUCTOR**  
Required for dive center on Phi Phi island. For further details, please send email to: [jkgk24@hotmail.com](mailto:jkgk24@hotmail.com)

**NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS WANTED**  
Brainy House is an English-language and computer skills institute committed to providing all of our students with high-quality instruction at affordable prices. We're seeking applicants with native speaker-level fluency in English.

Required qualifications:

- All applicants must have completed a BA degree or above
- All applicants must provide original certificates, passport and proof of their right to work in Thailand.
- Previous teaching experience would be an advantage
- Excellent compensation.

Contact Sasi. Tel: 080-907 7466. Email: [brainyhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:brainyhouse@hotmail.com)

**RUSSIAN SPEAKER WANTED**

Food supply company is looking for a Thai national with good Russian language skills to be manager. Tel: 089-054 4176.

**DRIVER**

Salary - 8,000 baht per month plus service charge. Morning and afternoon shifts. Work 6 days a week. Good driving skills required, as well as knowledge of Phuket and automobile maintenance. Position available now. Must be a Thai national fluent in English. Tel: 076-333222. Email: [sales@ccblooms.com](mailto:sales@ccblooms.com)

**OFFICE SECRETARY**  
We are seeking an energetic and proactive full time office secretary/administrative assistant. Candidates must have good English and computer skills. Tel: 086-004 3008. Email: [angius@villasuksan.com](mailto:angius@villasuksan.com)

**CYPRUS SEASON 2011**

Sales people required for Panaretti Resorts, the largest timeshare company in Cyprus. Sales person & OPC's required, British Germans, Scandinavians, Russians. Flight and accommodation provided. Contact Sales. Tel: Jacquest 35-79 7682698. Email: [a.hoefer@royalcoralbay.com](mailto:a.hoefer@royalcoralbay.com) or [marketing@royalcoralbay.com](mailto:marketing@royalcoralbay.com) Email: [kevsw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevsw@hotmail.co.uk)

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BE **W**. WE'RE INTERESTED IN YOU.

**POSITION:** Property Sales Manager

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Manage all aspects of the on-site property sales operation and customer service. Report directly to the Managing Director.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Successful track record of selling residential property or luxury products.
- Very good presentation, negotiation and communications skills.
- Highly motivated and able to work under pressure.
- Excellent command of the English language.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume, a covering letter, (including details of current and expected salary and commission, and reasons for applying) and recent photograph before 15 March 2011.

W RESIDENCES - KOH SAMUI  
 4/1 Moo 1, Tambol Maenam, Koh Samui, Surat Thani 84330 Thailand  
 T +66 (0) 77 915999 F +66 (0) 77 915998 Email [auditions@whotels.com](mailto:auditions@whotels.com)  
[www.kohsamuireidences.com](http://www.kohsamuireidences.com)

## Paradise Koh Yao



island hideaway near phuket

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 72 room Boutique Resort is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60 minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature, 'bare foot' luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi - NOW complimented with our Yoga and Wellbeing Center.

We are seeking a candidate with an outstanding personality to be the leader of our motivated team with commitment to personalized, superior customer service.

### GENERAL MANAGER

Covering all aspects of the operations, finance, local marketing - responsibility on bottom line results. Based at the resort on Koh Yao with regular visits to the Phuket office.

- At least 3-5 years experience in 5 or 4 star Resort/Hotel in similar assignment
- Front line person, strong customer relation skills
- Leader personality, Motivator
- Results / Marketing oriented
- Previous assignment in Thailand / Asia an advantage
- Foreign or Thai National 30 - 50 years of age

Comprehensive remuneration / incentive package will be offered to the right candidate  
 Send your resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to:

The Paradise Koh Yao – Boutique Beach Resort & Spa  
[joeraess@theparadise.biz](mailto:joeraess@theparadise.biz)  
[www.theparadise.biz](http://www.theparadise.biz)

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
 A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
 Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

## MY STORAGE

Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

MY STORAGE – Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket – is seeking an enthusiastic, motivated and result driven Sales professional.

### Sales Executive

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 – 35 years old, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years sales experience in the same field or position
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative office skills and a good telephone manner
- Good presentation, negotiation and communication skills
- Advanced customer service skills
- Honest, proactive and well organized
- Pleasant personality and service-minded
- Positive attitude, enthusiastic and able to work under pressure
- Car driving license with own car will be advantage.
- This is a full time position which may involve some weekend work/shift and flexible hours
- Salary & benefits plus commission - great earning potential!

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to [hr@mystorageasia.com](mailto:hr@mystorageasia.com) or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit [mystorageasia.com](http://mystorageasia.com)

### CAFE STAFF WANTED

Thai staff for a gourmet cafe in Rawai. Good personality, some English. Day work. Please contact Sandy. Tel: 080-695 3380. Or send email: [sanduquin@gmail.com](mailto:sanduquin@gmail.com)

### WEB DEVELOPER HELP NEED

Looking for a person who can do PHP, mySQL, CSS3, SEO, Googlemap API v3, HTML5, Web optimization (size, on both Images and code, caching for fast loading speeds). Tel: 076-239820. Email: [noinah@latitude1maritime.com](mailto:noinah@latitude1maritime.com)

### GENERAL HANDYMAN REQUIRED

Thai national, live-in position if needed. Must have experience, Surin area. Call Apple. Tel: 085-789 8443. Email: [info@villachangrajang.com](mailto:info@villachangrajang.com)

### PHUKET WATER SKI PARK STAFF

Looking for a Thai person with good English for a temporary job. Distribution of our advertising material and contracts to travel agencies. Payment: salary + commisssion. Please send your CV to [phuketcableski@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketcableski@yahoo.com)

### SALE EXECUTIVE NEEDED

Sale Executive needed urgently in Phuket Town. Qualifications: Aged between 25-45 years, male or female. Good command of English in writing and speaking skills. Minimum 2 years of experience as sales officer, any construction experience will be considered favorably. Salary: 8,500-12,000 baht not including commission. Tel: 0878153777 or [phuketimperial@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketimperial@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.phuket-stainless-service.com](http://www.phuket-stainless-service.com)

www.Scandinavian-Divers.com  
 THE WORLD OF DIVING & SNORKELLING

**One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has an available position in the booking department:**

- ▶ The following qualifications are needed:
- ▶ Excellent skills in spoken and written Thai
- ▶ Good skills in spoken and written English
- ▶ Knowledge of the dive business
- ▶ Knowledge in working with a computer
- ▶ Presentable and flexible

Interested candidates, who fit the above profiles, please email your resume immediately. We will then call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Chalong: Phone: 076-383 052  
 Email: [info@scandinavian-divers.com](mailto:info@scandinavian-divers.com)

### HOUSE MAID WANTED

To clean pool villa. Easy work. No previous experience is necessary. Tel: 083-641 9327.

### FRONT DESK & BOOKEEPER

Accounting & English skills. 1-9pm. Thai national. Experience required. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Send email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### MASSAGE THERAPIST JOBS

Massage therapists to work in fitness clubs in Russia. Good pay, free round-trip airfare and a free apartment. Tel: +1-602-904 5716. Email: [Wall.lawoffices@gmail.com](mailto:Wall.lawoffices@gmail.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.fitness.ru/content/ru/club-2009-02-18-15-46-06.html](http://www.fitness.ru/content/ru/club-2009-02-18-15-46-06.html)

### SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Requirements: Over 4 years experience as a sales & marketing manager of a business selling high-end luxury products. Fluent in English and Thai, excellent marketing skills and knowledge, and excellent computer and internet skills. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: [vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th](mailto:vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th)

### YACHT SALES EXECUTIVE

Requirements: Experience in sales & brokerage of luxury yachts, knowledge of boats, and technical issues, fluent in English and excellent computer and internet skills. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: [vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th](mailto:vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th) For further details, please see our website at [www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th](http://www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th)

## Employment Wanted

### EXPAT ENGINEER (MECHANICAL)

searching for employment or partnership in a company – 25 yrs experience. Email: [job-phuket@hotmail.com](mailto:job-phuket@hotmail.com)

### WEB DESIGNER EMPLOYMENT

for full-time employment. Developing and maintaining websites, SEO, e-marketing. Send email: [claudstrey@gmail.com](mailto:claudstrey@gmail.com)

**Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!**

Articles  
For SaleWASHING MACHINE  
2,000 BAHT

Washing machine: 5kg, front loader, hot water, 6 years old, for 2,000 baht. It works. Call me from 1pm to 6pm. You can see it in Phuket Town and I have pickup for delivery. Tel: 083-525 8914 (English & Thai). Email: adihousedj@hotmail.com

MICROLIGHT  
AIRCRAFT

Airplay Alis in excellent condition. Fitted super quiet Konig radial engine. Wing in perfect condition. Great fun and very economical. Easy to store and fly. Price: 295,000 baht. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

BREAD AND CAKE  
MIXER

Industrial electric mixer with 5kg bowl, in good working order. Price: 5,000 baht. Tel: 087-993 8737.

CERAMIC POT  
CLEARANCE SALE

50% off our entire range of quality ceramic pots imported from Vietnam. Closing business. Everything must go! Free delivery all over Phuket. Call Khun Karn. Tel: 076-271 3215, 087-382 1751 (English & Thai). Email: alwyn@phuket-landandhomes.com

## ELLIPTICAL TRAINER

for sale XT 1,500 Like new, silver color, excellent cond. 2-year warranty, excellent lose weight & firm muscles. Can deliver. Must Sell, movingasking 20,000 paid 32,000B. Tel: 081-477 4774. Email: getfitwithallan@gmail.com

CLASSIC KITCHEN  
EQUIPMENT

Kitchenaid Artisan mixer. Apple green color. New condition, used only 3 times: 14,000 baht. Dualit stainless-steel 2-slot toaster, very good condition: 4,000 baht. Tel: 086-940 2111 (English). Email: tom\_woos6@hotmail.com

## XBOX360 GAMES

steering wheels price 12,000 Baht (New) and 2008 Honda dream price: 20,000 baht. Tel: 082-288 3261.

## KAYAKS FOR SELL

I have 1 double and 3 single sit-on-top, high-quality Ocean Kayaks for sell. All in good condition and they come with back rest and paddles. Wants 45,000 baht for all ono. Tel: 080-529 1449. Email: psongmuang@hotmail.com

Bar &  
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EquipmentP.O.S. SERVICE  
FOR IPAD

GHBS POS is an iPad based, affordable, simple-to-use, web-based point of sale (P.O.S.) solution with Business Intelligence (B.I.) features that make it ideal for restaurants, guesthouses, resorts, hotels, bars, nightclubs and country clubs. This service will put your company on cruise control. You can start using this service tomorrow for 1,900 baht per month. Tel: 085-784 3043. Email: prodgers@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.b-structures.com

## Bulletins

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings  
Mission Hospital - Phuket City  
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City  
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 17 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong  
Tue 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront  
Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting  
Elephant Restaurant - Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)

Tel: 086-9440460 Swe, 085-4647450 Swe

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

## SPONSOR

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

## SKIPPERS PUB QUIZ

At Royal Phuket Marina. Last Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. Happy Hour and prizes. Tel: 076-360890-3.

Business  
OpportunitiesTRAVEL AGENCY &  
INTERNET

Located in Patong. Business has been running since 2004. Excellent potential with a good client base of local expats and tourists. Tel: 084-994 5453. Email: bongkot62@hotmail.com

## BIG BAR FOR SALE

Bar on Bangla Rd, Patong under Seduction disco. Key money 4.5 million baht. For 2-3 years. includes tvs, sound/light-system. Tel: 083-391 2695 (English & Thai). Email: info@7theavenbar.com

KARON GUEST  
HOUSE

For sale. 7 rooms, 5 guest rooms, 1 office, 1 staff room. 35-seat restaurant with room to expand and huge Euro kitchen. Also includes 9-seat bar and 12-seat patio area. At a prime location, 5 minutes to the beach. Has been profitably operating for past 5 years. Thai registered company and website included. 4 years left on the lease, plus options for another 3 years' rent. Rent: 28,000 baht per month, increasing to 30,000 baht next year. Sale price: 2.95 million baht. Tel: 084-842 0340.

## COMPANY FOR SALE

Thai registered company which includes a 490sqm, 3 bedroom pool villa on 1,600sqm of land, and 3 approved CEO working visas for foreigners. Price 19million baht negotiable. Email: deedee777@live.com

RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE

Well established local restaurant at Soi Nam Tok Kathu for 200,000 baht only! Tel: 086-742 0783 (Thai), 084-186 4882 (English). Email: phuketingo@yahoo.de

GUESTHOUSE  
IN KARON

12 well-furnished rooms, with trendy restaurant/sport bar able to seat 40+ customers. Situated on main road between Karon and Kata Beaches. Freehold with Chanote title. Price: 18 million baht. Long-lease contract optional. Must see. Tel: 081-891 9461.

## PHI PHI ISLAND

Shop unit for sale - a few steps from the road and close to the main beach. Suitable for all businesses or a franchise. 1st floor: open plan with 2 toilets, full width doors and aircon. 2nd floor: Separate access to 2 en-suite rooms with aircon. Long lease. Low rental and priced to sell. Genuine interest only, please. Tel: 082-542 2121. Email: sgiandubh69@hotmail.com

## MUST SELL

Fully functioning restaurant located in Cherng Talay / Manic area on a main road. 3-storey shopfront restaurant with living quarters upstairs, including 4 rooms, 3 bathrooms and small lounge area. Still operating with 24 seats, wall-mounted TV sets, double-door stainless fridge, double-door ice-making fridge, with all kitchen equipment, stainless tables, crockery, glasses and more. Excellent potential with a good client base of local expats and tourists. 3-year lease with option to continue. Cheap rent: 15,000 baht per month. Bargain sale price at 250,000 baht. Contact: Shane. Tel: 084-327 6711. Email: sdee@home.in.th

## BAR FOR SALE

Price: 750,000 baht. The Resort Bar at Rat-U-thit 200 Pee road on Patong Beach. Tel: 089-731 4077.

## RESTAURANT IN KATA

Includes new fridges, freezers, TV, DVD player etc. For sale at only 560,000 baht. Monthly rent: 12,000 baht. 3+3 years' contract available. Tel: 081-891 9461.

BANGLA BAR  
FOR SALE

In Soi Crocodile. 2-year lease with no key money: 1.4 million baht or o.n.o. Contact Spike. Tel: 085-787 5526.

BUSINESS  
FOR SALE

Established successful business. Very profitable and non-tourist related. High potential for further growth and easy to manage. Genuinely interested parties can contact us for full details. Email: db1@europe.com

KATA BEACH BAR  
FOR SALE

Successful, long-term bar/business for sale in central Kata. A "turnkey" business with seating for 35-40, pool table, foosball, darts, double cooler, full bar, 4 sofas/sleepers. Can arrange a Thai bank account with gold visa and work permits possible. A reasonable and realistic price of 550,000 baht. Will consider offers. Tel: 089-040 2800 (English & Thai). Email: buchner michael@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT  
FOR LEASE

Restaurant for lease next to JW Marriot Khao Lak. 1.8 million baht for 5-year lease with rent at 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-840 2448 (English & Thai). Email: antonyromeo@hotmail.com

SHOP FOR LEASE,  
2.5 YEARS

Key Plaza, Patong Beach road. Beautifully furnished. Can start business immediately. Tel: 084-094 0854 (English & Thai). Email: ktp\_9@hotmail.com

## BUNGALOW RESORT

Good business opportunity. Quiet paradise directly on the lake, near Loch Palm Golf. 10 mins to Patong and shopping areas. Rental contract 9 years. Price: 6.5 million baht. Down payment 3.5 million baht and the rest 3 million baht in 3 years time of running the business. Tel: 086-267 0229.

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

## CHALONG

- Julapan Stationery (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

## PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

## PHUKET CITY

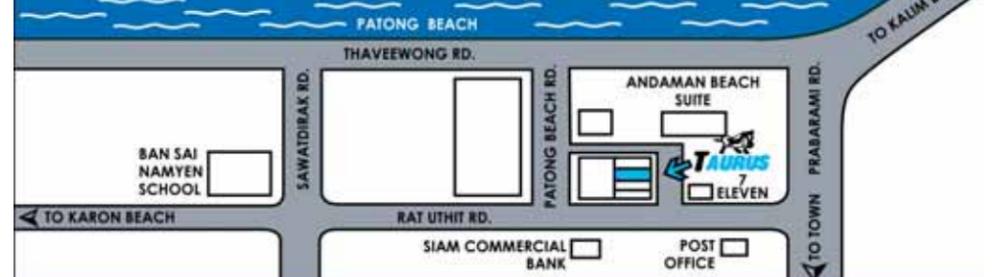
- NAVA Language School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369

## CHERNG TALAY

- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket) Tel: 076-324313
- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

## RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

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Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
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Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published  
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If are interested in investing in 99.999% physical gold that returns a monthly cash investment of 2% or yearly 24% while you hold the physical gold, then contact Martyn Rolton. Email: mprolton@gmail.com

### LAUNDRY SHOP FOR SALE

Laundry in Nanai 2 for sale. Cheap price. Good location. Tel: 084-550 3342 (English).

### CHALONG BEST BUY

Nice restaurant for sale. Owner needs to relocate. Price for a quick sale: 150,000 baht. Tel: 087-852 2057.

### BAR FOR SALE

On Nanai Rd. Long-term (4.5-year) cheap rent. Tel: 087-280 3616.

### SALE OR RENT KATA

8-room guesthouse with WiFi and restaurant 5 minutes' walk from beach. With Chanote title. One of the busiest guesthouses in Phuket. 80% occupancy rate in past 3 years. Even low season. For further info, please call. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

### ROOFTOP RESTAURANT FOR RENT

On the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

### LAUNDRY SHOP

Sale price: 280,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Includes 2-bedroom apartment. Tel: 086-115 2184.

### HOTEL LEASE 9 MILLION BAHT

35 rooms, a pool, rooftop bar with seaview, a club/lounge. At a top location in Patong. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Fully equipped. Composed of a large kitchen and dining area with 19 seats. 3-year contract. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Company licenses included. Price: 1 million baht. Only serious callers please. Contact Jo. Tel: 089-724 1775.

### BAR IN BANGLA, 4 YEAR LEASE

Best location, Soi Crocodile. Low rent, no key money. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 080-699 3158 (English). Email: sturedj@gmail.com

### TWO SHOPS FOR SALE AND RENT

Large new beauty and massage shop behind Jungceylon Patong. Small nail-and-beauty shop on Baanzaan Nanai Rd in Patong. Tel: 089-504 8882.

### 17 ROOMS FOR RENT

Monthly rental 120,000 baht. Pay 6 months up front. Key money 500,000 baht and refundable security deposit 500,000 baht. Tel: 086-967 0372. Email: annyouchou@hotmail.com

## Business Products & Services

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

1,500.-	Daily Visa Run To Ranong Border. Fully Includes Food - Drink - 10\$
1,800.-	Daily Visa Run To Andaman Club Resort Casio & Spa. Fully Includes Food - Drink - 10\$
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BUSINESS VISA 15,000 B. MARRIED TO THAI PERSON					
VISA 25,000 B. ONLY ONE YEAR VISA FOR UNDER 50\$					
45,000 B. RETIREMENT VISA 25,000 - 32,000 B.					
Trip To Malaysia	Day	Jan.'11	Feb.'11	Mar.'11	Free pick up around island
	Wed.	5, 12, 19, 26	9, 16, 23	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	
	Sun.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6, 20, 27	6, 13, 20, 27	

WE OFFER CONSULTING & SERVICES ON COMPANY REGISTRATION, WORK PERMIT, VISA, ACCOUNTING, AUDITOR, LEGAL ADVICE

### PHUKET VISA LAW OFFICE

64/46 Moo 1, Chao Fa Road, Tambon Vichit, Muang Phuket District, Phuket 83000. Email: phuketvisa@hotmail.com  
Tel: 076-263475, 076-264476. Fax: 076-374563 Mobile: 081-8929960

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# 'Minx' draws first blood in ACYC

By Phuket Gazette

KEVIN Gillow and Mick Kealy's *Minx* scored the first Racing Class win of 2011 in the opening race of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keel Boat and Multihull Club Championship series on March 13.

The race, the first of eight in the Victron Energy Series, saw the fleet head out to the safe water mark off Baan Nit in Ao Yon, then back down Chalong Bay and round Koh Bon and Koh Lone before heading back to the finish line offshore from the ACYC.

Clear skies and a steady breeze got the fleet off to a good upwind start, but the wind soon became finicky as the yachts sailed round Koh Bon.

Most of the fleet finished together, though stragglers had to make it home with light puffs instead of the steady breeze the rest of the fleet enjoyed.

Also making good use of the wind was Peter Wood's *Windstar*,

which finished second in the Racing Class, followed by Nick Band's *Emerald Blue*.

Kevan Perins' *Rusalka* won the Cruising class, followed by Jim Kane on *Chetak* and Hugh Thompson on *Fidji*.

In the Multihull class, David Liddell's *Miss Saigon* led from start to finish, with Grenville Fordham and Bob Mott on *Nina* taking second.

The longstanding annual race series is open to all keel yachts and multihulls with a length overall of greater than six meters.

Eligible boats may enter on each race day.

There is no entry fee for boats. Crew fees are 200 baht per person for ACYC members, 300 baht for non-members. Crew fees include a post-race buffet.

The club will also hold an open day on April 24 that will include a fun race around the bay.

Striving for the continuing success of the club, ACYC Secretary Leslie Hand is calling on



'Miss Saigon' took the lead from start to finish in the Multihull class.

all members to renew annual memberships, which expire on March 31.

"If you haven't yet renewed for 2011/ 2012, please do so as soon as possible to retain your membership privileges. Payment can be made by cash at the club or paid directly into the club bank account," she said.

"For those new to Phuket who would like to become members, we welcome you in advance to our club," she added.



TAKING IT EASY: 'Fidji' sailed in the Cruising Class. Photos: Leslie Hand

## Squadron success at inaugural Youth Regatta race series

A SOLITARY point was all that decided the winner of this year's inaugural Phuket Youth Sailing Regatta.

Organized by the new Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron in Ao Yon, the three-day regatta ended on March 13, when *Kiddies Home*, skippered by Akapoj Kankeaw secured the overall title in a thrilling finish.

Runners-up positions were also decided by a single point. *The Sponsorship Experts*, skippered by Teerapong "New" Tohkratoak took second and *Charlie* skippered by Sukanya "Anne" Saiman placed third.

Overall winner in the Division B fleet went to *Go Go Goochie*, skippered by Salawutt "Ta" Kullatt.

A total of 12 sailors aged from 8 to 15 years took part. For six of the children, it was their

first-ever regatta series.

The young competitors were fortunate to have enjoyed ideal conditions throughout the event, providing the perfect stage to demonstrate their sailing skills.

On March 26 and 27, Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron (PYSS) will host their first Interclub Island Trophy Regatta, entitled The Island Optimist Trophy Regatta.

A total of 25 boats and crew have already confirmed their participation. A further number of entrants are expected to register in coming weeks for the event, which is open to anyone with racing experience.

Racing starts at 10am and can be viewed from Ao Yon or Cape Panwa, but the best vantage point will be from aboard the *Andaman Cabriolet* spectator yacht out on the water.

Tamarind Villa Phuket is spon-

sor for the event and The Squadron are delighted to have their support.

"It's a great pleasure to be a sponsor for this event," said Helene Fallon Wood, Managing Director of Tamarind Villa Phuket and Honorary Consul of Ireland.

"Sailing provides the opportunity to develop independence and self-confidence - important skills

that can be adapted and used in future life and work," she said.

"It is also important for the underprivileged Thai children of Phuket to enjoy their own ocean and become not only proficient, but champions in the regular national sailing program," Helene added.

Other local companies are also asked to join in and support this event to help promote

youth sailing in Phuket.

Individuals interested in supporting the Squadron are invited to join the supporters club Friends of the PYSS - sponsorship comes at a 500 baht subscription fee per year.

For further information visit the website [W:phuketyouthsailing.org](http://W:phuketyouthsailing.org) or contact Katy at [E:phuket.youthsailing@gmail.com](mailto:E:phuket.youthsailing@gmail.com)

- Phuket Gazette

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# Sport

## Brother gives back to Camara's cause

In an exclusive interview with the *Phuket Gazette*, Camara Lancina talks about his brother's recovery...

FC PHUKET's Ivory Coast midfield star Camara Ahmed suffered a near-fatal heart attack while playing for his adopted club in a Division Two promotion play off game late last year.

Speaking exclusively to the *Phuket Gazette* at the FIFA Tsunami Memorial ground in Phuket, Camara Lancina discussed his younger brother's condition and future.

Lancina now cares for his brother while he continues to recover, living with him in the same apartment. Ahmed was allowed to leave Bangkok Phuket Hospital over two months ago, but is still unable to speak.

When asked about the cause of his brother's heart failure, Lancina was still uncertain. Stress and a tendency to eat just prior to matches were given as causes for the cardiac arrest, but this does not sit well with Lancina, who remarks that his brother never had any problems before.

"My brother did eat before games," he explained. "When I coached him at home in the Ivory Coast, he did the same. I advised him not to do this, but he would complain that he was hungry," Lancina added.

"In Africa we don't eat particularly well, so when our players go abroad they eat more frequently. In Thailand, where the food is so good,



**ADMIRABLE:** Camara Ahmed's brother Lancina (above) has been giving back to Phuket by teaching youth football. Photo: Phuket Gazette

they eat even more," he said.

"We are still waiting on a definitive answer, which will take time," he said.

Doctors have said that Ahmed's condition will improve over time and that there is no indication of permanent damage to his brain or other organs.

Sadly though, it appears that this is the end of Ahmed's football career. Six or seven months should see a full recovery, but a return to his beloved game as a player will not be an option.

Although Ahmed's contract with FC Phuket has finished, his brother is quick to point to the club's role in his brother's recovery.

"My family and I cannot express enough our appreciation to FC Phuket. They still pay for our

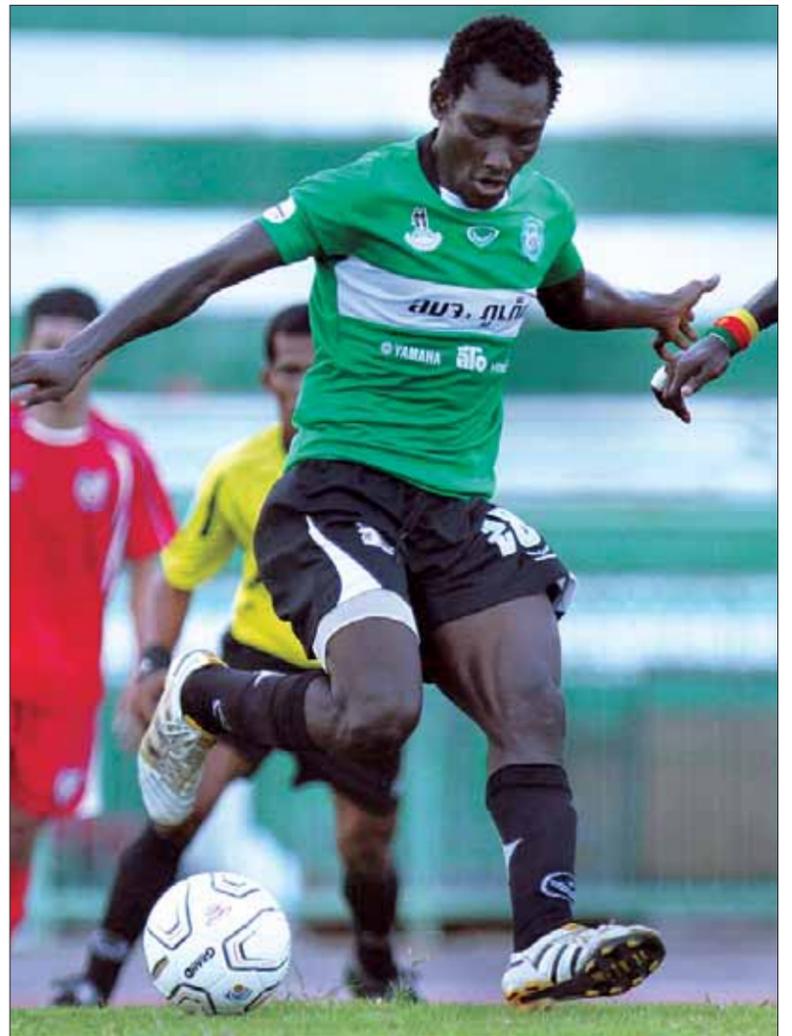
accommodation and medical bills. They even paid for me to come here so that I can care for my brother," Lancina said.

Lancina is a qualified football coach with a B Diploma from the Ivory Coast Football Association and a FIFA Confederation of African Football (CAF) coaching award.

"I want to give something back to all those who have helped my brother. Coaching the children here is my way of repaying a little of what this club and country have done for my brother," he said.

The Under 12 team he coaches, named "FIFA", just won their first tournament after five years without a trophy.

Lancina expressed a desire to carry on the relationship with FC Phuket.



**STRICKEN STAR:** Camara Ahmed moments before he collapsed during play against Chainat FC on October 30 last year. Photo: Apinun Saithong

"I would like to assist with coaching here, but that is up to the management," he said. "I would be very happy to return [to Phuket] once my brother has returned home safely," he added.

Asked about the club's prospects and the standard of Thai football, Lancina offered some of his experienced insight.

"I believe FC Phuket have the squad and staff to take them into the top division and do very well there," he said.

"Thai football players are ex-

tremely good, but they lack self-esteem. Instill more confidence and they could perform at a very high level," he said.

Finally, Lancina made special mention of the fans of FC Phuket.

"Their support and best wishes have meant a lot to me, my family and especially my brother. Many thanks to them all," he said.

As soon as Ahmed is able to travel, the two brothers will return to their family in the Ivory Coast.

- *Phuket Gazette*



### THE PHUKET OILFIELD CLASSIC 2011

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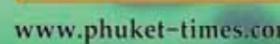
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# FC Phuket in deadlock at home

## League Table (after three matches):

1. Big Bang Chulalongkorn University FC (7 points)
2. Rajpracha FC (6 points)
3. Chainat FC (6 points)
4. Chantaburi FC (6 points)
5. Buriram FC (5 points)
6. FC Phuket (5 points)
7. Songkhla FC (5 points)
8. Air Force United (4 points)
9. Bangkok United (4 points)
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13. Thai Honda (3 points)
14. Saraburi FC (3 points)
15. Bangkok FC (3 points)
16. Rangsit JW (2 points)
17. Suphanburi FC (0 points)
18. RBAC FC (0 points)

DESPITE some excellent chances by both sides, FC Phuket and Division One leaders Big Bang Chulalongkorn University (BBCU FC) played to a scoreless draw last Sunday before a record crowd at Surakul Stadium.

The scoreline barely reflected the intensity of the fast-paced action.

One of the best opportunities for FC Phuket came at 75 minutes, when Sarach Yooyen fired a free kick on target that was punch-saved by BBCU FC goalie Shaun Mark.

The ball landed on the right foot of FC Phuket captain Wiratroj Janteng, who narrowly missed the second chance.

The flamboyant BBCU FC goalkeeper was named "man of the match" for this and several other good saves throughout the game.

FC Phuket coach Surachai Jirasirichote expressed disappointment that his side failed to take away three points.

"We had several good scoring opportunities, but failed to convert.

"Overall the kids played better than they did in their second match and seem to be better adapted to

the system, so now the key is finding the scoring touch," he said.

BBCU FC coach Kiattisak Sanao-muang conceded that FC Phuket were the better team on the day and said he was satisfied with a draw. "We learned something from today's game that will help us in future matches on the road," he said.

## Other Thai League Division 1 matches played on Sunday:

Samut Prakarn United 3 - 0 Bangkok FC

Saraburi FC 1 - 1 Chiangmai FC

Air Force United 2 - 3 Bangkok United

FC Phuket's next match is a home fixture against Rangsit JW, whose home ground is Don Meuang Stadium outside Bangkok. Rangsit JW remain winless, but have collected two points from draws. Kick off will be at 6pm Sunday March 20 at Surakul Stadium.

- Stephen Fein



FIGHTING SPIRIT: FC Phuket in action last weekend. Photo: Apinun Saithong

## Thai football team one step closer to the 2012 Olympics

THAILAND entered the football history books last week, when the "War Elephants" won the second leg of their 2012 London Olympic qualifier against Palestine.

The result, however, was only a byline to the real story. The game was the Palestinians' first-ever competitive match played at home on the West Bank, in the Faisal Al-Husseini International Stadium.

Having defeated Palestine in Bangkok on February 23, with a single goal by Patchya Narat, the Thai National team traveled to Al Ram - north of Jerusalem - to play the return game of the Asian group qualifier on March 9.

A second below-par performance from Thailand almost gifted Palestine their first competitive home win.

Poor finishing from Palestine's strike force allowed Thailand to hold a 1-0 score line and snatch an anti-climatic 6-5 victory.

Seeket Madputeh secured the win for Thailand with his decisive spot-kick.

The head of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), Mohamed bin Hammam, was there to witness the historic occasion. "Football is a bridge between people and a way to reach peace in this region," he said.

Now one of the 11 winners from the preliminary round, Thailand will join the 13 higher ranked teams in two-legged knock-out matches to be played on June 19 and 23. Only three teams will qualify from 35 AFC nations. The draw will be held on March 30.

## Here's a cue to break into the northern pool league

CHERNG Talay Pool League is showing distinct signs of the trophy drifting towards Bang Tao this year, despite the half-way stage not yet being reached.

Arena Sports Bar has a game in hand over nearest rivals Liquid Lounge and BB's, but they already boast a six-point lead and a clean sweep of wins.

The league was established three years ago by Jon Bishop

and Alan Dinning to provide local expats and Thais an opportunity to compete in an organized pool competition, as well as to draw business to local bars during the low season.

The 2011 contest will see five teams play 16 games, home and away. Individuals or bars interested in participating can contact Jon Bishop E: jonbishop72@gmail.com



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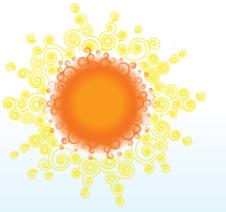
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