

# Phuket Gazette

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## New transport chief to open bus terminal by high season

TEERAYOUT Prasertphol, the new chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office, needs to "break" the traffic island in front of the new bus terminal on Thepkasattri Road if the terminal is to start operations by October.

Work on the new bus terminal was completed in December 2009, but neither Rassada Municipality nor the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization agreed to take over its day-to-day operation.

The 128-million-baht facility has thus remained vacant for the past 19 months. That will become 23 months if it opens in October.

A three-month trial of using the u-turn at Tantalum Junction, slated to start on August 26 last year, never began due to resistance from local residents.

"Local community leaders told us that if we started the trial, the local residents would have staged a protest," said Chief Teerayout.

"It is extremely possible to break the traffic island. We need no more than three million baht to do it. I have set the goal to push and have everything done by this October," he added.

"And if Rassada people don't want this, they will have to provide a reasonable explanation in writing," he said.

# Brazen thief steals B6mn in gold heist

## 200,000 baht reward for return of uninsured loot

By Chutharat Plerin

THE owners of a Phuket Town gold shop robbed in broad daylight by a man armed with only a fake gun and a pair of comedy glasses with fake nose have upped the reward to a maximum of 200,000 baht for information that leads to return of the stolen jewelry.

Jirasak and Chantana Tarnattanasombut on Wednesday said that those who recovered any stolen items would be given 30 per cent of its value as a reward.

The robber, dubbed "Ake" on the Phuket City Police arrest warrant, made off with gold jewelry with an estimated value of more than six million baht.

Mrs Chantana said she was behind the display counter in the shop with her 17-year-old daughter when the robber entered. CCTV footage shows the man wearing a Starbucks t-shirt, jeans, fake glasses and nose.

"He came in and asked to see a necklace. As I was picking it up



The robber's disguise was only party glasses with attached fake nose.

[from a display case behind the counter], he pulled out a gun. I heard a bang as he jumped over the counter. I thought he had fired his gun but could not see any damage. I knew the gun was fake," Mrs Chantana said.

While the robber was taking gold jewelry from display cases, the Tarnattanasombut's older daughter pressed an alarm switch

in a rear room.

Mrs Chantana tried to activate the alarm behind the counter. Both switches did not work, Mrs Chantana said.

"My daughter picked up a gun from behind the counter, but he saw it and wrestled it away from her. We got his fingerprint from a band-aid on my daughter's shirt," Mrs Chantana said.

"Our shop is uninsured and we are contacting the company that installed the alarm to see what action they will take regarding the inoperative system they installed," Mr Jirasak told the *Gazette*.

Mr Jirasak showed the insignia that is engraved onto 90 per cent of his products and asked other gold shop owners to look for it on items sold to them.

"If you see this insignia on any gold items being sold to you, they originated from my shop. You can buy them [from whoever is selling them to you] and then inform me, I will buy them back.

"Please give me any information and CCTV footage you may have," Mr Jirasak said.

"I really want this man arrested. He may do it again. We need [the public's] help," he added.

"The robber did not have a southern accent. He spoke Thai, but I am not sure whether he is from the south or not. The police told me that they are searching for this man night and day," Mrs Chantana added.

# Tsunami detection radar coming to Patong

By Atchaa Khamlo and Stephen Fein

A HIGH-frequency radar system to monitor ocean currents and aid in the detection of tsunami waves will be set up in Patong by the end of the month, local officials say.

The Thai Meteorological Department (TMD), in cooperation with Patong Municipality, is preparing the site at Kor Sai Lod, a headland on the south coast of Patong Bay.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban told the *Gazette* that Patong Municipality

has contracted BO Power Tech Company to run over 100 meters of cable to reach the site at a cost of 189,600 baht.

Once the supply is available, the radar will be installed by its supplier, American firm Medlink, he said.

The Patong radar is one of two that will be installed along the Andaman coast by Medlink under contract with the TMD.

Dr Wattana Kanbua, meteorologist and director of the TMD's Marine Meteorological Center, told the *Gazette* the second unit will be installed at Baan Nam Khem in

Takuapa District, Phang Nga.

Baan Nam Khem was the worst hit area in Thailand in the 2004 tsunami disaster, with about 6,000 people dying in the waves.

Typically used to monitor ocean currents on an hourly basis, the radar technology can be used to detect and measure the velocity of "particle currents" known as Bragg waves detectable above sea waves.

If the velocity of such waves increases unusually quickly, it could indicate a tsunami wave moving from deep to shallow water, he said.

A single radar can be used to detect height and velocity, but two units are needed to assess current direction, he explained.

The technology is effective at distances of up to 200 kilometers, he said.

The overall budget for the TMD project, 200 million baht, includes radar installation set up to monitor currents in the Gulf of Thailand.

Two of the units are to be located in Rayong, another to be installed off Koh Samui and a fourth in Sichon District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

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## This Week

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### Sport

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# Suniran retains title of Cherng Talay Mayor

SUNIRAN Rachatapreuk secured enough votes last Saturday to remain Mayor of Cherng Talay.

"The election results were sent to the Election Commission of Thailand yesterday [June 5]," confirmed Kitipong Thiengkunakrit, Director of the Phuket Election Commission.

"If no complaints are filed with us within 30 days, the results will be approved and Mr Suniran will be able to start his new term in early July," he added.

In the preliminary count, Mr Suniran garnered 1,449 votes from the 2,491 ballots cast.

Somsak Sophanon, the only other person to contest the mayoral election, scored 893 votes.

There were 117 spoiled ballots and 32 people cast "no" votes by marking the "I decline to vote" box.



Suniran Rachatapreuk secured enough votes to remain Mayor of Cherng Talay.

Of the 1,843 eligible voters in Cherng Talay Municipality electoral Zone 1, 73 per cent cast ballots.

Of the 1,512 eligible voters in Zone 2, 76 per cent cast ballots.

"I am ready to start my new

term. I always talk with the people, and I know well what to needs to be done to develop the Cherng Talay area," said Mr Suniran.

Mr Suniran has served as Cherng Talay mayor since July 1999. His latest re-election will see him continue as mayor until 2015.

The local election also saw Charoon Thawichatanon, Suphat Athiudomphol, Somkid Thanadonwat, Wirote Chuphak, Manote Chidchiew and Amporn Ruengdet voted in as councilors representing Zone 1.

The six councilors voted in to represent Zone 2 were Ittikorn Athiudomphol, Abhisit Ngarnprasertkit, Prasert Changlek, Lengtek Phongsanon, Wisut Techauppathumkul and Pol Sen Sgt Maj (Rtd) Korakrit Sirisakulsombat.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

## Councilor arrested for drugs, weapons

CHERNG Talay subdistrict councilor Nakhin "Poo" Wisuttharom has been arrested along with two friends and charged with possession and sale of narcotics after a raid on their jungle hangout in Phuket last Friday.

Mr Nakhin confessed to drugs and weapons charges, while the two other men, Wichai Kongthap, 34, and Pornsak Wanthong, 39, denied them, said Provincial Police Superintendent Pekad Tantipong.

Seized as evidence in the case were 310 grams of heroin, three kilograms of dried marijuana, a 9mm handgun and a rifle.

Also seized were 10 *krathom* plants growing outside the hilltop retreat and a wide variety of drug-taking paraphernalia found inside.

The raid followed the arrest of Udom Rattnomanee, 34, listed as a resident of Nakhon Sri Thammarat but living in Cherng Talay.

Arrested after selling 24 grams of heroin to an undercover police officer from the same unit, Mr Udom was found in possession of



Maj Gen Pekad holds Nakhin's head up for the press. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

a 9mm pistol. A search of his home uncovered more heroin as well as *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

During questioning by police, he identified Mr Nakhin as his supplier and led them to his jungle retreat in Cherng Talay Village 1.

Another Phuket official, Kathu Deputy Mayor Somkuan Somboon, was arrested last October in a 4am roadside sting operation after drug dealers identified him as their supplier.

— Yodsak Jarana

## Wanted: automatic immigration clearance

IMMIGRATION officers at Phuket Airport say they would welcome an automatic passport check-in system like the eight machines that will be installed at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok at cost of 76 million baht.

"The system will be used first at Suvarnabhumi Airport. It seems the machines will not be installed at Phuket Airport anytime soon as we have yet to receive any details about this," said Capt Amporn Musikkapan, an immigration officer stationed at Phuket Airport.

While the number of international passengers passing through Suvarnabhumi Airport was high, it was fairly consistent throughout the year, he added.

However, immigration officers at Phuket Airport had a much greater workload per officer during Phuket's high season, he added.

## Karaoke shooting likely fuelled by booze, drugs

CHALONG police are investigating whether the Monday shooting of a Karon karaoke bar and restaurant owner is drug related.

Three men were arrested in Chalong on Monday while a man-hunt ensues for the alleged gunman and two more accomplices, police said.

Following a night of drinking, Somwong "Lui" Saemin, 42, was allegedly beaten before being shot in the shoulder and stomach at about 7am at his venue, the Kon Lar Fun Karaoke on Patak Road.

The three men, detained after testing positive for drugs, were identified by police as Anusak Kungthong, 19,

Surasak Hankiew, 21, and Weerasak Longrak, 20, all from Koh Yao.

They told police that at the time of the shooting they were sleeping in a car while the other three men, identified as Wirat Sawatdee, 39, Surachai Thongkongmai, 37, and another man identified only as "Bang Pu", were still in the karaoke.

Police are seeking to question Wirat and Bang Pu, and expect to obtain an arrest warrant for Surachai, the alleged gunman, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Police have yet to question Mr Somwong, who is recovering from surgery.



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HOLIDAY INN PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH RESORT

## Light-rail inches forward

PHUKET Provincial Office will finalize its list of potential bidders for work on light-rail and other transport mega-projects next week.

At a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last Wednesday, Phuket Vice Governor Nivit Aroonrat told officials and private sector representatives the province would draft invitation letters to the final bidders on June 16.

Another Korean delegation joined the bid to invest in Phuket's light-rail project on Monday, with Moo Han Tech (Thailand) Co Ltd Director Jin Ying Ji and two representatives from Global Business Leader Group (GBL) from Korea – Han Min Ho and Kim Chang Ha, respectively President and Chairman of GBL – meeting Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

Miss Kim told the governor her group has invested in several projects around the world including a hospital, a university, a rail link and an airport.

The light rail investment, which would tentatively link Phuket Airport to points as far south as Chalong Circle, is estimated to be about 10 billion baht.

# Double murder over drugs

By Chutharat Plerin

POLICE have arrested two men for their part in the murders of a man and a woman whose bodies were dumped over a beachfront cliff in Nai Thon before dawn Tuesday morning last week.

Sittipong Chareonrak and Ammarin Pantip were presented to the media last Friday at a press conference at Tah Chat Chai Checkpoint.

The men were identified by Sanit Choocheun, 49, who allegedly survived the attack.

Sanit identified Sittipong, Ammarin and six other people involved in the killings by viewing a police book of known offenders, said Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen.

Sittipong stands accused of two counts of murder, while Ammarin has been arrested for driving the bodies to where they were dumped.

The two men have confessed to their role in the killings, said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong.

Meanwhile police have launched a manhunt for six other persons involved, he added.



Sittipong re-enacts the shooting as Sanit, who survived the murder attempt by playing dead, lies down in the pickup bed. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Sanit told police that on Monday night he drove from Krabi with his wife Urai Limsakul and his friend Somporn "Lek" Kungert, Gen Pekad said.

The three travelled hundreds of kilometers to meet Pairin "Joom" Yaemtim at a bungalow in Sakoo. With Joom were Sittipong and Ammarin, now arrested, and another man, Nattawut Yaming, the police commander said.

All seven then moved to a shack in a rubber plantation in Thalang around midnight on Monday, explained Gen Pekad.

At the shack, the party of seven were joined by four more men: Joom's husband So-lae Wongsard, another man named Kittisak Wongsard (relationship with So-lae not established) as well as Apirat Koomban and a man named by police only as "Mard".

While talking in the shack, members of the group were taking *ya bah* (methamphetamine), said Gen Pekad.

Then a fight broke out between Mr So-lae and Mr Lek about their "drug dealing business", he said.

"They could not make a deal, so So-lae ordered his men to kill Mr Sanit, Mrs Urai and Mr Lek," said Gen Pekad.

"The three victims were tied up and blindfolded, then beaten. Mrs Urai and Mr Lek were unconscious, while Mr Sanit pretended to be dead.

"The men moved the three victims to the back of the pickup truck, then shot dead two of them, Mrs Urai and Mr Lek," said the commander.

Gen Pekad did not elaborate on whether any attempt was made to shoot Mr Sanit.

"The men drove to a cliff near Nai Thon Beach and threw the victims over the edge," he said.

Sittipong and Ammarin conducted a re-enactment of the crime after the press conference.

Police are continuing their investigation and searching for the six others involved in the murders, Gen Pekad said.

## Democrats receive police protection

PHUKET Democrat Party candidate Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr has been provided two police officers as personal bodyguards in the run-up to the July 3 election.

Also to receive police protection is Wirasak Saksomboon, president of the Democrat Party office for Phuket 1 constituency.

"I, Mrs Anchalee and the president [of the Democrat office] for Phuket 2 constituency, requested security due to concerns for our safety during the election process," Mr Wirasak said.

The news was announced at a conference of all police superintendents in Phuket.

"The police must be impartial and provide security to any candidate who requests protection," said Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong.



Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr

However, he added that precisely which officers will be assigned to protect who was the responsibility of the police.

"Government officials requesting protection would not be involved in the process," he said.

"The run-up to the election in Phuket [so far] has been calm, but there is the potential for it to become violent," he added.

## TV crew assuaged by dirty water outcome

THE host of the popular German TV travel show *We Save Your Vacation* on Tuesday said he was "satisfied" with the action being taken by Phuket authorities to ensure untreated wastewater does not contaminate Phuket beaches.

Environmental engineer Siripong Pasari of Southern Thai Consulting Co Ltd treated Mr Benko to a full explanation of what happened in March, when the German TV crew filmed wastewater making its way into the surf at Kata and Karon beaches.

The presentation was a full repeat of the explanation given to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on May 30, including how backup generators will ensure pumps keep working during



German TV celebrity Ralf Benko

blackouts and new facilities will cope with extra loads during the rainy season.

"It's not a perfect solution, but for me it is good to see that at least people are starting to take steps to improve the situation," said Ralf Benko, host of the TV show.

"I think everybody has to be realistic. It is not possible to solve the problem in weeks or months. The important thing is that everybody knows about the problem.

"For me, most important is that no tourists are going into the water without any warnings and no tourists are affected by any bacteria," he added.

To help Phuket authorities get off in the right direction, Mr Benko today presented them with a bio-hazard sign he brought with him.

The sign was attached to the hatch of the overflow outlet at the pumphouse on Kata Beach, where any excess wastewater pours onto the sand and flows toward the sea.

– Janpen Upatising

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# Drugged-up Ball kills crippled man

TWO MEN whose all-night *ya bah* (methamphetamine) binge at a Bangkok hotel was interrupted by police fled half-naked, firing four bullets at the officers in order to make their escape.

When one of the suspects came across a disabled man sitting on the street, he shot him in the head "because he thought he was a plain-clothes police officer", according to a report in *Khao Sod*.

The dead man, Chintat Saensuk, 49, had two withered legs from childhood polio.

The suspect, Thammanun "Ball" Tanki, 33, remains on the run while accomplice Chanon Anchaoen, 29, is in police custody.

Mali Phu-ngern, owner of a nearby grocery shop, said the suspect arrived at the shop and without saying a word, shot Mr Chintat in the temple.

Maj Gen Itthipon Phiriaphanyo said that before the June 5 incident, police had established that a gang of criminals had rented a room in Bangkok Noi district in order to take drugs.

When Chanon and Ball came



out of the hotel, officers identified themselves and tried to arrest the pair. The suspects tried to flee, with Ball firing four slugs at police to clear an escape route.

The police were able to detain Chanon.

Ball made his escape, executing Mr Chintat outside the grocery store. He then stole a nearby motorcycle and fled.

Chanon told police that he and Ball rented the room the previous day and stayed up all night doing drugs. The pair had only just met, he said.

A check on the pair's histories revealed that both had been prosecuted for drugs cases. Ball had been charged with a drugs offence in Phuket, while Chanon had four cases in different provinces.

Police are searching for Ball.

# Monumental crash

By Wichai Witthawat

A FULLY-loaded truck bound for Bangkok caused misery for Phuket commuters last week when it crashed into a tour van at the Heroes' Monument in Thalang.

Thalang Police were notified of the crash at 6:40pm.

At the scene they found the 10-wheeled truck on its side, pinning a crumpled van operated by the Phuket Adventures tour company against a traffic barrier.

Fortunately there were no passengers in the van and both drivers escaped injury.

Thalang Police duty officer Somkhit Khawsang questioned both men, learning that the truck was coming from Pa Khlok loaded with crushed cardboard boxes bound for a recycling plant in Bangkok.

Much of the cardboard fell onto the pavement when the truck crashed onto its side.

The driver said he was unprepared for the barriers set up to divert traffic flow during rush hour.

Unable to brake in time, he slammed into the van, which was heading south on Thepkrasattri Road.



The truck driver was unaware of barriers at the roundabout.

The driver of the truck was charged with negligent driving.

The accident caused long tailbacks at the busy roundabout, home to statues of Thao

Thepkrasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn, who are popularly believed to have led the successful resistance to a marauding army of Burmese in 1785.

# Phuket rubbing for mass massage record



RUB ME: Phuket hoping for happy ending in massage attempt. Photo: TAT

PHUKET will stage a bid to break the world record for the largest simultaneous group rubdown in a mass Thai massage on Karon Beach on August 19.

The current record holders, credited to "Tourism Victoria Australia", the state tourism board for the southeastern state down under, grabbed the record with 232 pairs on March 30 last year.

Phuket participants will try to double that figure and seize the title for Thailand, who already hold the record for longest massage chain of 1,223 massage links.

Five hundred pairs are expected to take part in Phuket's world-record bid.

If successful, the group massage title is not expected to stay in Phuket long as an even bigger mass rubdown is planned for Bangkok later in the year, *The Nation* reported.

There are three similar events leading up to the Bangkok event, when 840 pairs are expected to take part – and rub out Phuket's expected spot in the record books.

The first Thai mass massage event took place last Friday at the project launch in Chiang Mai, where 199 pairs took part.

There will be two other similar events in Surat Thani (400 pairs) and Ubon Ratchathani, with 214 pairs.

The project is organized by the Public Health Ministry, the Department of Export Promotion, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and THAI Airways with the aim of promoting Thai massage to the world and – you guessed it – inbound tourism.

Narawean Sangchan, marketing officer at the TAT regional office in Phuket Town, told the *Gazette* today that the mass rubdown will be followed by a weekend full of fun activities at the Jungceylon shopping complex in Patong.

When asked how one might volunteer to take part as a recipient on the big day, she advised calling the Phuket Provincial Health Office at 076 211330 or organizing officer Mr Ekarin at 086 461 8434.

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# Family and friends mourn boy's death

A SEVEN-year-old boy drowned on Wednesday while bathing beside his father's fishing boat.

Sukaiya Kunpaw entered a canal in Mai Khao at about midday while his father, 38-year-old Adun Kunpaw, was cleaning his boat.

With tears in his eyes and a wavering voice, Mr Adun told the *Phuket Gazette* that young Sukaiya was bathing on the other side of the boat as normal.

"I didn't notice anything was wrong. It wasn't until 15 minutes later that I saw his feet sticking out of the water," he said.

Mr Adun frantically pulled his child from the water and administered CPR, but to no avail.

Sukaiya's mother, Watima Kunpaw, 39, and others nearby helped rush the boy to the Baan Maikham primary healthcare center across Thepkasattri Road – but it was too late.

Sukaiya's family then took his body to Thalang Hospital, where drowning was recorded as the cause of death.

By 4pm, the body was returned home, where tearful relatives prepared for a Muslim funeral.

About 100 friends, teachers, neighbors and family gathered at the small one-story house.

"He was a good boy – just a good boy," said Sukaiya's teacher, Suthep Prateep Na Thalang.



**FAREWELL:** According to Muslim tradition, a family member sprinkles tumeric on the burial shroud as young Sukaiya's body lies covered in the background. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

## Missing deckhand found dead

A SPEEDBOAT search party found the body of Nati "Ott" Tavorn, 50, floating off Koh Hei (Coral Island) at about 5pm on Tuesday.

Mr Natti was reported missing by his employer, Phuket Fish Boat fishing charter, earlier that morning.

During a search on Tuesday, a fishing boat was spotted towing one of Mr Eleveld's dinghies. The fishermen said they found it unattended near Koh Hei, said Martin Eleveld, owner of Phuket Fish Boat.

Mr Eleveld said he viewed CCTV footage showing Mr Nati walking toward a dinghy dock on Chalong Pier late Monday night.

He said he had known Mr Nati for about four years and employed him for 14 months.

Lt Col Jarun Bangprasert of Chalong Police told the *Phuket Gazette* Mr Nati may have been drunk or suffered a panic attack before falling in the water.

Mr Nati leaves behind a wife and 11-month-old son.

# Crackdown on tattoos

**Culture minister says religious tattoos on foreigners only skin deep, orders ban**

THE Culture Ministry has attacked the growing trend for tourists in Phuket and other parts of Thailand to have religious images tattooed on their bodies.

It has ordered provincial governors across the country, including Phuket, to crack down on such tattoos, igniting a debate on the human rights implications of forbidding the practice.

Culture Minister Niphit Intharasombat told reporters on Monday that Phuket's Culture Office had uncovered an "alarming trend": tourists have images such as those of the Buddha, Ganesh and Jesus Christ tattooed on their arms, legs and ankles.

It is culturally inappropriate and erodes respect for religion, Mr Niphit said.

But the ministry is likely to face an uphill battle to end the practice. The service is highly popular and tattooists can charge extra for such work, with some jobs costing upwards of 20,000 baht.

Mr Niphit downplayed the like-

lihood that the tattoos could be a genuine expression of spiritual belief.

The tattoos were just part of a fashion trend among tourists, who most likely did not believe in the religion and were ignorant of the true significance of the image.

As a result, the ministry's Subcommittee on Safe and Creative Media had decided to order the governors of all Thai provinces to ban foreigners from getting tattoos of religious images of any faith, Mr Niphit said.

Governors would be asked to convene meetings of those involved in the industry to ask for their cooperation, he said.

"At the meeting, we noted that these tattoos were all over the country, in particular in tourist destinations such as Khao San Road, Tawanna and Chatuchak Market in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Phuket," he said.

People with visible religious tattoos who engaged in "bad behavior" such as "sitting drink-

ing alcohol and arguing" would damage the faiths through association, Mr Niphit said.

Acknowledging that Thai law did not prevent people from getting such tattoos, he said the ministry needed to coordinate with relevant agencies to draft measures to prevent the practice.

He would also propose to the National Culture Committee that a law be drafted that forbade the use of religious symbols for commercial purposes. The law, if passed, would affect both those who offered and used such services.

But Human Rights Commissioner Wasan Panich pointed out that while Thai law prevented people from violating the Thai flag and other national icons, there were no such laws concerning religious symbols.

"If people have Buddha images tattooed on their body, on their arms or chest, for example, you can't forbid that because it's not insulting," he said.

"Anyone can get these tattoos because it's their right to do that to their own body," he said.

– *Kom Chad Luek*



At "Into the Sea", the signature restaurant at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, chef Thomas Jakobi's Modern Logical Cuisine showcases his latest innovations in the form of new, creative interpretations of a cuisine that has both visual and textural appeal. The taste and focus on fresh, wholesome and local ingredients are paramount.

The wine program, created by our sommelier, Harry Haan, has been granted the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for the second year in a row.



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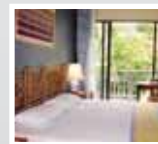
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# Big Buddha too big for its permit?

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE management of the Big Buddha image has come under scrutiny in recent months for slow progress and alleged misuse of land and donated funds.

After more than nine years of construction, land officials are now demanding "a clear deadline" as to when construction at the site, high atop a hill in the Nakkerd Range, will finally come to an end.

In a meeting presided over by Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak at Provincial Hall last Tuesday morning, land officials concluded they will issue a demand for clarification from the Mingmongkol Faith 45 Foundation, set up a decade ago to build the giant structure.

The foundation must pull down all unauthorized buildings at the site that are not directly related to authorized construction, said Phoppol Sirilugsanapong, head of the Ministry of Natural Resources

and Environment office in Phuket.

Buildings that would need to dismantled include *kuti* (sleeping quarters for monks) and a large hall used to sell souvenirs such as Buddhist amulets, stage dhamma talks and offer visitors numerous ways to "make merit", Mr Phoppol said.

The foundation will also need to mark land-use boundaries, clearly delineate construction areas and set a definite completion date, he added.

Despite completion of the 45-meter-high image, the organization has yet to say when the work will end. The complex is already beyond the scope specified under the terms of the contract, he said.

The initial contract period, from 2002 to 2006, was extended until the end of 2011 after the foundation said it needed more time to finish the work, he explained.

If they do not clarify the situation, any further requests for extension might be denied, Mr



After nine years of construction and completion of the 45-meter-tall image, officials are asking when the project will end. Photo: Gazette file

Phoppol said.

As founder of Mingmongkol Faith 45 Foundation, Suporn Vanitchakul's responsibility was to build the Buddha image in the allotted time and nothing more, he added.

Instead, the foundation continues to seek donations through the sale of Buddhist souvenirs and erect large structures nearby.

"It's unclear why it is taking so

long to finish the project," Mr Phoppol told the committee.

Tritip Sakulpradit, an officer at Muang Phuket District Office, said he will examine the foundation's donation account.

"It will not be easy. The foundation has consistently sought postponement when we request information," he said.

Mr Suporn told the *Gazette*, "We already have a clear design

of what we are building on the 42-rai plot of land. Actually, we are only building on about 32 rai. The rest is for car parking and reforestation," he said.

"Since the budget to build the Big Buddha comes from donations, we can't set an exact time when the image will be finished," he said.

"We held a meeting among foundation members and agreed to fight for what is right," he added.

He had yet to receive any official requests to demolish structures at the site, he said.

"The *kuti* is for temporary accommodation of visiting clergy and proceeds from the sale of souvenirs are to fund construction of the Big Buddha," he said.

"Officials can give me their official letters, then we will see what we can do," he added.

Mr Suporn told the *Gazette* earlier that he welcomed any audit of the foundation's finances.

The foundation raised over 200 million baht to fund construction of the image and related structures, including the winding road that provides access to the site.

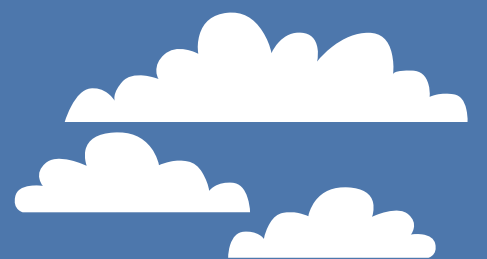
"Meanwhile there are many expenses, such as paying over 100 laborers," he said.

Most of the heavy labor at the site, including affixing marble sheets to complete the image's exterior, was carried out by Burmese workers.

V/Gov Somkiet urged local officials to move on the case.

"If they can't sort it out themselves, they can ask the provincial office for assistance, he said.

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**STRATEGIC**  
AIRLINES

# Let the mud slinging begin

Accusations fly as Democrats and Pheu Thai each look to deliver a knockout punch ahead of the July 3 elections

THAILAND's two largest political parties traded serious accusations questioning each other's legitimacy last week, as campaigning ahead of elections on July 3 becomes increasingly hard-fought.

The ruling Democrat Party accused Pheu Thai Party prime ministerial candidate Yingluck Shinawatra of committing perjury in a bid to protect the assets of her brother Thaksin Shinawatra in a corruption case last year.

Meanwhile, the Pheu Thai Party hit back by accusing Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of coming to power illegitimately in late 2008 on the back of military support.

Mrs Yingluck came under attack from a number of sources over her role in Mr Thaksin's asset-seizure case.

The case saw the Supreme Court seize 46 billion baht of her older brother's money, following an investigation by the Asset Examination Committee (AEC) established by the military junta that overthrew Mr Thaksin in 2006.

The court ruled that Mr Thaksin was guilty of four out of five counts of corruption, saying he

## AROUND THE nation

had enacted policies during his rule that benefited telecoms company Advanced Info Service (AIS), which was then owned by members of his family.

Kaewsun Atibodhi, a law expert and former member of the AEC, accused Mrs Yingluck of lying to the court in a bid to protect her brother's money.

Mrs Yingluck denied the claim. "I am ready to clear the accusation under the rule of law. I will exercise patience and will provide all facts to the general public," she told reporters.

The Democrats also attacked Pheu Thai's controversial plans for a "political amnesty" that would clear Mr Thaksin of any wrongdoing.

Meanwhile, Pheu Thai accused Mr Abhisit's Democrat Party of coming to power in 2008 at the



**HEAT IS ON:** The incumbent Democrat Party led by caretaker PM Abhisit Vejjajiva (left) is fighting to keep up with Yingluck Shinawatra's Pheu Thai Party, which polls show is in the lead. Photos: The Nation



head of a coalition of parties brought together by the military.

Government critics have claimed then Army chief Anupong Paochinda forced smaller parties

to join Mr Abhisit's Democrat Party in forming a coalition government after former prime minister Samak Sundaravej was removed from power by the

courts for conflict of interest.

Mr Abhisit responded on his Facebook page, claiming he took office purely with the support of parliamentarians.

## SEC head quits amid scandal

THE chairman of Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has resigned after allegedly becoming involved in a hostile takeover attempt that compromised his role as head of a supposedly neutral securities regulator.

Vijit Supinit, who had headed the SEC since 2008, offered his resignation just weeks before his planned retirement on July 13, his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mr Vijit was allegedly involved in an attempt by shareholders to drive changes in management at Thoresen Thai Agencies (TTA), the country's largest dry bulk shipper.

The group, who claimed to hold 30 per cent of the company's stock, had demanded a number of senior executives and directors be replaced at the firm.

Mr Vijit's resignation came after 300 SEC employees went to work wearing black on Thursday in protest at his damage to the regulator's reputation.

The former chief denied any wrongdoing but was unavailable for comment to media.

Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij expressed surprise that the SEC chairman could behave in such a way that tarnished both his own reputation and that of his organization.

It would take some time to fix the law on the qualifications of the



**Mr Vijit was due to retire on July 13, his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.** Photo: The Nation

SEC chairman, but the conscience of the chosen person was more important, he said.

Korn said he recently approved the appointment of Vijit's replacement, whose conduct was transparent.

Charamporn Jotikasthira, president of the Stock Exchange of Thailand, admitted that the TTA affair had attracted huge attention from foreign media such as *The Wall Street Journal*, but said it remained to be seen how foreign investors would react to it, *The Nation* reported.

"A way to gauge foreign stock-investor confidence is through the foreign media," he said.

## Pakistani refugees in historic release

THAI authorities released 96 Pakistani refugees from an overcrowded Immigration jail on Monday in the largest-ever freeing of refugees in Thailand.

Many of the immigrants, who belong to the persecuted Ahmadiyya Muslim sect, had been in the Bangkok prison for almost six months.

"It's like a new-born baby," detainee Tahir Mahmood told the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). "It's like a bird being released from a cage and flying free. I don't have enough words to express our feelings. You can just see them on our faces."

The detainees, about a third of

whom were children, were arrested last December even though all but two were granted official refugee status by the United Nations, *The Express Tribune* reported.

Rights groups said the detainees had been kept in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions, with 150 people sharing cells meant for 40.

In the women's cell, there were times when some prisoners had to stand so others could sleep, coordinator of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network Anoop Sukumaran told the *Tribune*.

"The children were often sleeping next to the toilets, which were overflowing with feces and urine.

"The conditions, to say the least, were horrific at some points," he said.

The release was negotiated by the National Human Rights Commission and the Thai Committee for Refugees. A coalition of groups put up bail money of US\$150,000 to free the Pakistanis.

Regional spokesperson for the UNHCR, Kitty McKinsey, praised the involvement of Thai civil society in the success.

"We really welcome the participation of the Thai non-government organizations and Thais coming forward to protect refugees and to advocate for refugees," she said.

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## Gun safety in the hands of children?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket gold heist: Arrest warrant issued, June 6

"[The robber] managed to wrest control of a real firearm from a 13-year-old daughter of Mrs Chantana"

Is it legal for a 13-year-old to handle a firearm? Maybe she was trying to hand it to her mother.

It was lucky they were both not shot with it. Just give them the gold!

Chas  
Gazette forum

## Think, then travel

Re: Gazette online, Phuket expats urged to ask visiting friends to insure themselves, June 3

Travel insurance sells by instilling fear, by cataloging what could happen.

There is much more value in learning about your destination before going. Find out how to avoid scams, dangers, diseases and so on, before you leave home. Be vigilant and sensible with your valuables whilst there.

Misguided souls in Phuket suck malaria tablets daily, but ride motorbikes in beachwear.

Spot  
Gazette forum

## Some tea with your condensed milk?

I can't be the only one who sees the unbelievable amounts of condensed milk that goes into coffee, tea and other drinks here, especially from roadside stalls. We don't need Krispy Kreme! We have Cha Yen!

sugar high  
Karon

# Net cafes home to misclicked youth

## Phuket Gazette

THE Culture Ministry's effort to certify "white" computer game shops appropriate for youngsters (see page 18) sounds like a good idea in theory, but the actual amount of paperwork involved is probably too large a hurdle for such a tiny ministry to overcome for such a project to ever become a widespread success.

According to figures offered by the local Culture Ministry office, the vast majority of over 460 computer game shops on the island are unregistered – even though many cater to youngsters who spend many hours inside them during their free time. In truth, many serve as surrogate daycare centers for children and hangouts for teenagers.

It may provide some comfort for working parents to know where their children are after school. There are, of course, much worse alternatives given the alarming rate of drug use and youth crime on the island.

To be fair, these venues do provide important gathering spots for children to learn to interact with peers, meet new friends and – to a certain extent – pick up some basic computer skills. At the very least they provide affordable access for the many children who do not have a computer at home.

Unfortunately, too many children spend far too much time in game shops, time that would be much better spent doing homework, playing sports or, best of all, spending quality time with parents.

There are also health risks involved. Let's not

forget that internet cafes are always the first places targeted by the Ministry of Public Health during the spread of contagious diseases – and with good reason. Viruses spread readily in crowded places with poor ventilation and shared keyboards, which studies have shown to be almost perfectly designed to spread a wide variety of disease-causing microbes.

Nutrition is another concern. As any parent knows, children left to their own devices will inevitably gorge themselves on pre-packaged junk food and sugar-laden soft drinks, all overpriced, yet with little or no nutritional value.

In terms of education, there is little doubt that the internet offers an endless font of information for those with the desire to seek it out and the discretion to accurately assess its reliability. Unfortunately, a peek inside the door of any internet cafe on the island shows that most young people are not there to seek out new knowledge, but to amuse themselves or, in many cases, simply kill time.

The Gazette suggests that the caretaker leadership of the Culture Ministry use its month of remaining time allotted to carrying out this project to do a cost-benefit analysis of this campaign and be ready to suggest a more realistic approach to the next administration.

## What's the good news?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Breaking News: Karaoke owner gunned down in Karon, June 6

In the last few days we have had:

A drug deal gone wrong with two murdered, involving firearms.

A large gold theft, involving a firearm.

A politician arrested for drugs and weapons.

A truck accident – lucky that 10 tourist were not killed.

A story urging all tourists to buy travel insurance.

Local politicians demanding police protection.

A night-clubber who was bashed and left for dead.

What a great image Phuket has.

The Stats Man  
Gazette forum

## Heroin is serious

Re: Gazette online, Phuket politician arrested on drugs, weapons charges, June 4

A bigger fish is snagged. Well done. Heroin is a serious drug that really destroys communities. The police are doing an amazing job.

irishkev24  
Gazette forum

## License revoked

Re: Gazette online, Phuket tour van crushed by overturned 10-wheeler, June 4

A 10-wheel truck is not a toy, driven 'negligently', it is a nightmare. Any professional driver causing accidents like this should never be allowed to drive again. Never.

george  
Gazette forum

## Comedy Capers

Re: Gazette online, Phuket gold heist: Arrest warrant issued, June 6

The alarm was not working? He managed to wrestle a gun from a 13-year-old kid? What is this, Comedy Capers?

Lung Manu  
Gazette forum

## Tsunami ahead?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket braces for more heavy rain, June 3

New tsunami on the way too? A monk has predicted an earthquake taking place in the Andaman Sea between June 4 and 15.

Terry  
Gazette forum

## First act as mayor

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Election: Chong Talay votes for new mayor, Jun 4

I hope the new mayor will fix the roads and the water problem (brown and smelly) in Bang Tao.

Billy the kid  
Gazette forum

## Issues & Answers...

### Leaking trucks a slippery slope

It is very common to see water splashing from open hatches on top of water delivery trucks and mystery liquids leaking onto roads from garbage trucks.

This is a major problem when they travel over the many hills around Phuket.

The other day, on Patak Road between Kata and Chalong, I saw three separate motorbikes wipe out due to a slick of fluid that stretched from the Green Man restaurant over the hill to Khok Tanod Road.

The slick had the unmistakable stench of rotting garbage.

One elderly Thai lady was being tended to by an ambulance crew.

A few years ago at the exact location of one of those accidents, I injured my knee and my passenger got some nice road rash when I was unable to avoid a slick of water that suddenly appeared in my path.

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)

I wasn't speeding at all, but due to a lack of rain for several days, the water mixed with oil was so slippery that I couldn't even stand up on it.

Crews were quick to spread sand over the slick the other day, but it is still very hazardous for bikes coming down the hill.

Within minutes [of the sand being spread], as often happens, another larger slick covered the entire left lane coming down the hill into Kata.

Bikes were gingerly picking their way around the wet spots which often requires them to drive in the right lane where cars and buses give no quarter to slower bikes in "their" lane.

Is there any law about liquid falling from vehicles, especially when it causes a hazard?

Is there somewhere we can report the water or garbage trucks creating these hazards?

Considering the danger they pose to the public, there should be some way to take action.

Joe Blasy  
Kata

### Lt Woradeth Chookua of the Chalong Traffic Police replies:

Thailand does have a law regarding the leaking of liquids from motor vehicles.

It is part of the Cleanliness and Orderliness Act of Thailand.

The punishment for liquid leaking from a motor vehicle is a 1,000-baht fine.

Even though we have the power to act, situations such as these are the responsibility of the Karon Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor).

If you are concerned about liquid leaking from trucks in Karon, you may direct your complaints to the Karon OrBorTor.

## Phuket Gazette

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# Head to head on transport

The vice president of the Phuket Tourist Association and a local chauffeur weigh in on Phuket's 'taxi debate'



**Sarayuth Mallam** is vice president of the Phuket Tourist Association. Last month, he was among industry experts who explained to Interior Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Pranai Suwannarat the problems plaguing Phuket tourism. Taxi and tuk-tuk drivers were at the top of Mr Sarayuth's list. Here's what he has to say on the topic.

THERE are many taxi drivers in Patong who operate in groups, all of which are independent. They don't have one person to control them all. It's been a problem for the past 10 years and it's still a big problem today.

There is nothing wrong with Thai law, but people do not follow the law as they have "friends" – government officials who get money from people who ask for help, and they buy their positions. This is really happening in Phuket.

The previous Phuket governor, Wichai Phraisa-ngop, took the first step in solving the problem by setting standard fares in Patong, but the problem is still far from being resolved.

We once had a government bus operating in Patong, but it was attacked. The problem will return if we try to start a shuttle bus service around Patong [like the "baht bus" operating in Pattaya]. I'm not sure when we will be able to launch a shuttle bus, probably after all the tourists stop coming to Phuket.

We have already had many meetings to discuss the problem, but we do not have an action plan. It's been a big waste of time.

Also, taxi and tuk-tuk drivers sometimes block roads. This is a big problem that we should get serious about solving.

A good example is that there was a protest in Cherng Talay once that prompted many complaints from tourists, some of whom missed their flights.

Cherng Talay police were brave to record

a video of the protest and later arrested and charged all the protest leaders.

Those protest leaders have yet to do the same again. If the government deals strictly with lawbreakers, we can be successful.

Some people contend that "local rules" apply in Phuket and that this is just the way things are done here. But Phuket has developed into a global tourist destination, so international rules should be used here.

With the number of tourists increasing, we need to address problems with taxis – as the problems are also increasing.

Taxi drivers have to agree with the light rail project which will give travellers another option in addition to taxis.

Every project benefits some people and causes loss to others, but we have to go the route that benefits the most people. The taxi drivers are just thinking about themselves and their businesses and how they will be affected. They don't care about the average citizen. Actually, they should think about the public first, before themselves.

Whatever happens, the light rail project has to go forward. If anyone experiences negative effects from it or doesn't agree with it, officials need to explain to them and make them understand that agreement and harmony are necessary.

If we don't do anything, Phuket cannot meet international standards.



**"Ek"** has been a taxi driver in Phuket for 20 years. He has done it all: motorcycle taxis, tuk-tuks and cars. He now works as a chauffeur, driving a van that he owns. Ek, a Krabi native, chose not to publish his name for fear of retaliation. Here he explains why people in his line of work have been resistant to change.

FOR Phuket's motorcycle taxi, tuk-tuk and passenger van drivers, there are no alternative ways of life.

People often ask why we don't want metered taxis for tourists like they have in Bangkok or baht-buses like in Pattaya.

The same transport pricing standards in those places shouldn't be applied to Phuket.

The economy here thrives on high-end tourism, not agriculture, factory, office labor or even budget-backpacker tourism.

Also, the transport dynamics in Bangkok and Pattaya are incomparable to Phuket.

For one, taxis in Bangkok and Pattaya aren't going up and down curvy mountain roads.

If I'm not mistaken, plans to build a light rail in Phuket are for an internal route [between Chalong and the airport] that will not encircle the island. If that is the case, I don't think it will negatively impact the local taxi and chauffeur business as a whole. But there will surely be some resistance.

Tourists already have many options to get to and from the airport. They can take the airport bus and metered taxis if they want.

They can also use private taxis and vans that will take them to their hotels or anywhere else on the island.

For locals and expats, they have the choice of private or public transport. No one method is forced upon anyone.

People who say that tuk-tuk and taxi

drivers in Phuket are mafia or greedy are only looking at it from one side.

Phuket is our home – we are Thai southerners who have lived, worked and raised our families here for decades. Most of us have children. Some have grandchildren, who are in public schools.

Most of our wives and adult children also have to work to make ends meet. We are not rich like some may think. Many of us are getting old and have no other options.

If the system changes and we can't do what we've always done, who will hire someone in their 50s or 60s?

While the younger generation may be able to adapt or find different jobs, those of us who are left with no other choice will resist.

When people from Bangkok, China, Korea, Russia or anywhere else come and try to take away our livelihood, bypassing us and imposing their own rules, standards and terms, what are we supposed to do? Quit our jobs and become fishermen?

The resistance you have seen in the past and will surely see again in the future is not based on greed – not ours anyway.

It is about protecting our seniority and right to earn a living. Many have ignored and overlooked our rights in recent years.

Therefore, before we will be ready to negotiate, the government needs to address the problem of illegal tour companies operating here. Then and only then will it be possible to have smooth and successful talks about a new Phuket.

## FIRST PERSON

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

**Preecha Thaweethong, Director of Public Health at Karon OrBorTor, replies:**

Our garbage trucks have a container to handle liquid waste until it can be disposed of at the Karon wastewater treatment center.

I understand that there are occasions when liquid leaks from our trucks.

If leaks are reported to us, we send water trucks to spray the road surface and flush away the liquid.

Garbage trucks operate every day between 10pm and 6am and leaks are unavoidable when driving over hills.

Slippery road surfaces are not only caused by our trucks.

The rains also make the roads more dangerous and tourists are unfamiliar with Karon hill.

I would like to remind people to drive with caution and pay very special attention to the condition of the road surface, especially when driving a motorcycle.

The OrBorTor can be contacted at 076-330186.

## Unchecked foliage spawns snake invasion

I live next to a rubber plantation in a 14-house Pa Khlok community. The weeds and foliage near my house were cut during the first two years I lived here but it has now been growing unchecked for an additional two years.

The weeds are higher than the top of my house and my four-meter wall. The main problem with this is the huge influx of snakes into the garden.

This year alone, we have had 10 cobras and about 15 copper-head racers/black rat snakes come over the wall.

I have a small child and it is extremely worrying. How can I get the owner to cut down the weeds and foliage like he used to?

**Atipong Kongnam, President of Pa Khlok OrBorTor, replies:**

This is a tricky situation because not much information is known about your location and that of the neighboring rubber plantation.

The OrBorTor can help with the



This cobra was caught in a Rawai garden earlier this year.

clearing of trees and foliage when it has caused damage to structures.

However, we cannot intrude onto privately owned land without the owner's consent.

In the case of a rubber plantation, it would be best to contact the owner directly and discuss the problem with him.

If you are unable to track him

down, the Land Department Office in Phuket Town may be able to help if you can specify the location of the rubber plantation in question with details such as neighboring soils and streets.

If you have communicated with the owner and still need assistance, come to the Pa Khlok OrBorTor office any weekday from 8:30am to 4:30pm or call 076-529500 so the situation can be assessed.

**An officer at the Inquiries Department at Phuket Provincial Land Office replies:**

To contact the owner of a neighboring plot, you may bring a copy of the Chanote title deed of your residence to the Phuket Provincial Land Office and we can find the deed to the plot in question.

We normally have the contact details for land owners who have recently gone through administrative processes at the Land Office.

However, if they have not been here within about 10 years,

finding direct contact details is unlikely.

In that case, their house registration number will be recorded and it can be used to find more details. Our office hours are from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Narong Chuthong, Communications Officer at Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation Phuket, replies:**

We provide services to catch cobras if you can show us their exact point of origin. You can contact us 24 hours a day at 076-246301.

**'Kwan', an officer at Ruamjai Rescue Foundation Phuket, replies:**

For cobras in your area, please call the Kusoldharm Foundation at 076-246301.

Ruamjai Foundation is responsible for the Chalong, Rawai and Kata areas. You can contact us at 076-283346.

# Free English ahead of AEC 2015

By Janpen Upatising

THE Patong-based Pisona Group and the Phuket Skill Development Center (PSDC) in Thalang have teamed up to offer free English-language courses to the public at a new center in Patong.

The Network Center of Language Skill Development, located on the third floor of Pisona Group's head office on Prabamee Rd, aims to prepare Phuket's pool of human resources ahead of the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015.

"Competition will be fierce when the free labor transfer agreement comes into effect in 2015 and improving language skills in the tourism industry is important in meeting that challenge," Jiraporn Kesornsutjarit, Director-General of the Ministry of Labor's Department of Skill Development, said at the opening ceremony on June 2.

The joint effort follows the discovery of common goals between the two organizations.

"Our company wanted to develop the foreign-language skills of our personnel by setting up a language center. We met with the PSDC and discovered that they wanted to open a second branch," said Wirot Pahonkan, director of the new center and Pisona Group's human resource department.

"They were able to provide the necessary courses and instructors and Pisona Group was delighted to support the center in terms of providing the premises and equipment," he added.

The Pisona Group ponied up 600,000 baht, which paid for new projectors, televisions and computers at the center.

"People working in tourism and other industries should be able to speak a foreign language or at least greet guests in their native languages," said Mr Wirot.

"Thai people are at a disadvantage when it comes to English. We have to admit that even university graduates in Thailand cannot speak English well," he added.

Mr Wirot explained there will be free labor transfer among ASEAN members after the AEC comes into effect.

"The local Thai workforce should improve their language skills so they can compete with foreign workers who will come to work here in the future," he said.

The center's first English conversation lesson began on May 16, and new courses will be introduced this month. In time, the center will offer training courses for people working in food and beverage and other fast-growing industries, Mr Wirot explained.

"This center was opened for public benefit, not for private companies or only Pisona staff. We want to make a contribution to the local community in which we operate our businesses," Mr Wirot said.

The center is open from 8am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. The center is open to donations of language or tourism-related books and DVDs. For more information, visit <http://home.dsd.go.th/phuketskill/>



**STUDY TIME:** An English instructor at Phuket Skill Development Center speaks with center director Wirot Pahonkan and a Pisona Group employee.

## Local corporate investors confident in Phuket

CORPORATE investors in Phuket displayed an increase in confidence during the first quarter of this year, particularly in the island's tourism related business.

The confidence index for the island's service sector rose to 52 per cent, an increase of 3.4 per cent compared to quarter one (Q1) last year, according to a Phuket Provincial Commercial Office (PPCO) report.

In Q1 this year, there were 471 newly registered companies, an increase of 13.5 per cent from the same period last year.

Q1 also saw nearly 1.25 billion baht of new investments flowing into the province, 1.1bn of which were domestic.

Last quarter, investment in Phuket increased by 25 per cent year-on-year

(YOY) with most of the funds flowing into real estate, hotel and restaurant sectors.

However, investor confidence in the island's retail sector fell slightly due to rising production costs, increased competition and decreasing demand from foreign buyers.

Investment in the real estate sector also slowed despite several positive factors that should have helped the market, such as increased consumer spending.

Moreover, inflationary pressure continues to give the Bank of Thailand reason to push up interest rates.

Increasing land prices and construction costs may also have significantly hindered investment in the

real estate sector during Q1.

One indicator of the island's real estate performance is the amount of land that has been approved for construction.

Last quarter, 466,010 square meters of land were approved for real estate development, of which 345,743sqm were approved for building 1,981 new residences.

This figure showed a decline of 17.8 per cent YOY. The subdistrict with the highest level of investment in real estate projects was in Patong, followed by Rawai and Wichit.

According to the PPCO, consumer spending in Q1 increased YOY due to a boost in confidence in Phuket's tourism growth and a general increase in wage

rates across all business sectors.

Healthy consumer spending is reflected in the rise in revenues from value-added taxation (VAT).

Revenue from VAT in Q1 increased by seven per cent YOY.

Consumers in Phuket are also buying more motor vehicles compared to the same period last year.

According to statistics from the Phuket Land Transport Office, the number of new car registrations increased by 36.5 per cent YOY.

The number of truck registrations also increased by 23 per cent. Motorcycle registrations however rose by only 4.3 per cent.

— Anand Singh



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## In brief...

## Indie Chinese tourists wanted

REPRESENTATIVES from the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) will promote Phuket to free independent tourists in the People's Republic of China during a roadshow to take place June 19 to 24. Aiming to attract more non-package-group travelers, the roadshow will feature tourism promotion activities in Shanghai and Beijing, the two most populous cities in country of over 1.3 billion people.

Part of Tourism Authority of Thailand's "Good Value, Safe and Diverse" promotion campaign for southern Thailand, the trip is also backed by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO).

"Independent tourists from China are an expanding target market for Thailand," said PTA vice president for marketing Bhuritt Maswongsa, an expert on the Chinese inbound market.

No fewer than 800,000 free independent tourists are expected to travel abroad in 2011 and the PTA would like Phuket to emerge as one of its primary resort destinations in the region, he said.

- Kom Chad Luek

## Taipei tourists to provide B100mn boost to Phuket Green Season



THE first direct flight from Taipei to Phuket arrived Saturday morning with 180 tourists on board.

The flight was the first of 23 charter flights scheduled to arrive from Taiwan via TransAir from now through September.

"We expect the flights to bring between 3,000 and 5,000 tourists, injecting an estimated 100 million baht into the local economy during this 'green season'," said Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in Phuket.

Mrs Bangornrat pointed out that other carriers were introducing direct flights to Phuket during the island's traditional "low tourism season".

Among them was Kingfisher Airlines, which launched twice-a-week direct flights from Delhi to Phuket last month, she added.

"Other direct flights are coming to Phuket from Hong Kong, Russia and the Middle East, which is great for Phuket businesses during the green season," Mrs Bangornrat said.

- Chutharat Plerin

# Gov't refinancing credit scheme gets underway

By Anand Singh

THE Finance Ministry's debt refinancing scheme is likely to receive high demand from credit card debtors in Phuket. The province's three state banks, Krung Thai Bank, Government Savings Bank and Islamic Bank of Thailand started accepting applications for credit card debt refinancing on June 1.

The refinancing scheme will greatly help people who are having trouble paying off their credit card loans, which may have interest rates as high as 28 per cent. If their application is approved, a debtor can receive a clean loan of up to 300,000 baht, at a much lower interest rate of 10 per cent, business and marketing officer at Krung Thai Bank Phuket Town branch Phusit Monlate said.

"In the first three days of the scheme's opening, we have already received more than 100 applications. The scheme is set to

continue indefinitely until the government decides to end it," he added.

Phuket has around 18 government bank branches spread across the island, ten of which belong to Krung Thai bank, seven to Government Savings Bank and one is the provincial branch of the Islamic Bank of Thailand. In the first three days since starting the scheme, the Government Savings Bank, Talad Yai branch received requests totaling 2.9 million baht.

"The scheme is targeted at people earning a monthly salary of 15,000 to 50,000 baht. This is the lower-middle income group that may have gotten themselves into uncontrolled credit card debt.

"The government's refinancing scheme is targeted at helping this group of credit consumers, not business owners or high income groups," Mr Phusit explained.

"In a meeting I attended earlier, it was disclosed that the Government Savings Bank in



Cashing on credit

Phuket has already received over 600 applications for credit card refinancing throughout its branches in Phuket," Mr Phusit said.

"I believe that by the end of the month we may be receiving up to 5,000 applications [for credit card debt refinancing].

"However from all the applications we receive, it is expected that less than 40 per cent would be given a loan. Borrowers need to possess good financial discipline and there are strict conditions that must be met," Mr Phusit explained.

State banks across the country will be offering 10 billion baht in new credit for the refinancing scheme, *The Nation* reported.

Borrowers may be given up to three years to repay the bank loans. Successful applicants will have to commit to the bank's strict budgetary guidelines, which includes canceling their credit cards and agreeing not to incur new debt for at least a year.

## Cabinet opens window to register Burmese workers

IN A BID to get more members of Phuket's huge alien workforce legally registered, the Phuket Provincial Employment Office has announced it will open a "one-stop" registration center at Saphan Hin.

Employment Office chief Noppadon Ployyudee explained to a recent meeting of provincial officials that before Parliament was dissolved Cabinet passed a resolution that extended the registration period for low-wage workers from the neighboring countries of Burma, Cambodia and Laos by one year.

Under the extension employers will have 30 days, from June 15 to July 14, to submit their Tor Tor 1 registration forms, which state their

intent to hire alien laborers. There will be a 90-day period, from June 15 to September 12, for the workers to have health checkups at government hospitals to qualify for the state health care system.

Once these two steps are completed, employers will have from June 15 until October 12 to apply for work permits.

Before they can apply, workers must also obtain proof-of-citizenship documents from their home country.

For the Burmese workers who make up about 99 per cent of the local alien low-wage workforce, the process involves first submitting applications to Phuket Provin-

cial Employment Office. From there the applications go to the Bangkok office, to the Embassy of Myanmar Thailand, to Yangon and onward to provincial offices in Burma.

It takes at least two months before identification certificates are returned.

After receiving the documents, the workers can apply for temporary passports at the Kawthaung (Victoria Point) immigration checkpoint opposite Ranong, Thailand.

The temporary passports are valid for three years and the workers are eligible for two-year, non-immigrant visas when they cross back into Thailand.

- Chutharat Plerin

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# Internet in cruise control

IT'S FASHIONABLE to squawk and groan about our Internet connections here in Phuket, but the fact is that we're approaching the speeds one would commonly find in the United States and other developing countries. Er, well, you know what I mean. Scandinavia is much faster, as are Hong Kong, Singapore and much of South Korea. Those countries recognized the importance of being wired long ago, and invested the money and effort necessary to create superior information infrastructure. The US, and much of Europe, has dawdled. The result is what you see today.

Our reliability here in Phuket still isn't up to international standards. People with TOT Fiber Optic and the new True Cable TV-based systems (more about which next week) are having bad outage problems – teething pains for the new technologies. Other Internet Service Providers with long-established services have a nasty habit of kicking out for an hour or two every few weeks. That's why I strongly recommend that people who need Internet access get two separate, independent connections. Again, more on that next week.

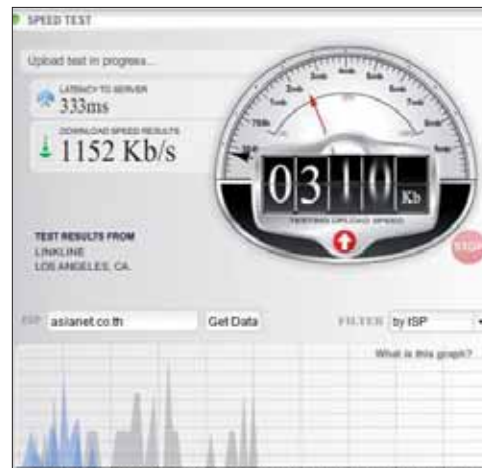
Part of the reason why our international

speeds have increased so much in the past few years is caching, the process I described last week whereby Internet Service Providers (notably 3BB and True) retrieve new web pages from overseas just once, then store a copy here in Thailand. Subsequent requests for the same page are "cached" – e.g., they're pulled from storage here in Thailand, as long as they aren't too stale. The net result is that our speeds have increased substantially, and the ISP's international data pipe requirements, and rental fees have stayed much lower.

As best I can tell, CAT doesn't cache anything. TOT may or may not, it's hard to tell, and if they do have a cache it looks like the amount of caching varies depending on which service you pay for: the TOT 10 Mbps and 12 Mbps service is fast (when it works) and thus may well have a cache, where the 4 Mbps may not.

## SPEED TESTING

Unfortunately, the speed testing site that we've been using for [www.phuketinternetspeed.com](http://www.phuketinternetspeed.com) seems to be susceptible to web caching. (The speed test on [Thaivisa.com](http://Thaivisa.com) has the same problem.) Ear-



**SURVEY SAYS:** Try a speed test at new site [www.phuketinternetspeed.com](http://www.phuketinternetspeed.com).

lier this year, several people remarked about amazingly consistent international download speeds on 3BB and True connections. Last month, Henry Habermacher hooked a sophisticated tool up to his line and discovered the reason why: the international internet speed tests that we've been running on [speakeasy.net](http://speakeasy.net) are getting cached in Bangkok. So instead of measuring download speeds to San Francisco, on some systems we're seeing download speeds from Bangkok.

That isn't necessarily bad. The fact that

more sites and more international access is getting cached (Google.com and Microsoft.com, among others, have been cached for years) means that the speeds we're seeing in day-to-day use are getting better. But to truly measure international download speeds, we need to find a speed testing site overseas that can't be cached.

I've looked around quite a bit and found a new home. DSLReports.com has run speed tests for almost a decade. The mods on the site have given us an invitation to move over to their site for our tests. DSLReports.com has tests with both Flash and Java, which means that people with computers that don't run Flash (including Mac OS, iPad and iPhones) will be able to get meaningful test results and post them for everyone to see. Best of all, the DSLReports.com speed tests aren't susceptible to web caching, so we won't have to worry about comparing apples and oranges.

If you aren't yet measuring and posting your Internet speeds, drop by [www.phuketinternetspeed.com](http://www.phuketinternetspeed.com) and sign up.

*Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketPC or visit his free computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.*

# More good news from our friend Canada

IN THE last column we touched on investment opportunities in Canada. For those who have been pining for the next installment, let's start with a brief recap from David Rosenberg, Chief Economist and Strategist at Canada's Gluskin Sheff & Associates.

"In my three decades in the forecasting business. I don't remember a time when the upside potential and downside risk to investing in Canada vis-a-vis the USA – from an economic, financial and political standpoint –

was as compelling as it is today."

He goes on to note, "The latest (American) Job Opening and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) data for January showed that US job openings dropped 161,000...and now stand at their lowest level since July 2009, when the economy was barely emerging from the worst recession since the 1930s. New hires also fell 193,000 and are now down in six of the past seven months, the lowest they have been since October 2009."



**Island Investor**  
By Graham Macdonald

So big pluses for the economy and employment. What about the currency? Rosenberg again: "Canada stands out as being one of the few countries that is not only rated AAA by the major credit agencies, but actually does have an AAA balance sheet. [Accordingly], the Canadian dollar...has emerged as a safe-haven currency – like the Swiss franc, but with a decent positive yield, and exposure to raw materials. The Canadian dollar experienced no fewer than five intermittent pull-backs last year, yet still finished 2010 with a 5.5 per cent gain, not just against the US dollar, but versus a basket of non-dollar currencies too... The added fact that the Loonie has so vastly outperformed its commodity counterparts, such as the Aussie and the Kiwi, attests to the view

that the Canadian dollar story transcends the prices of crude, corn and copper."

Not everything is peachy though. There is a potential problem with the property sector. Whilst other Developed Markets (DMs) have had massive corrections in the real estate world Canada has not yet been affected.

If there has to be an adjustment to the present situation, then it could have severe consequences for the national economy. Consumers will cut back and there will be no further property investment.

There is an argument against this though and that is the present state of things should allow for a "soft" landing at worst. The banks are in a much better situation than elsewhere in the DMs, interest rates are low, there are so many natural resources they do not know what to do with them and the mortgage market is much more attuned to the real world than their counterparts south of

the border were in the "Naughties". Also, the housing boom is due to demand and not greedy speculation.

Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that house prices are excessive when taken into account against actual earned income and family debt is on the rise. Economic historians point to other disturbing evidence. In 2009, residential housing investment – as a percentage of GDP – was at 6.48 per cent. This is down from its peak of over seven per cent in 2007. The previous peaks were in 1976 and 1989.

Soon after these dates, the housing market in Canada dived. Without doubt the ration of housing investment to GDP has been a good pointer to the real estate market corrections before, and it may be again. However, what these historians may not be taking into account is that any government and business community worth its salt should follow the wise words of President Harry Truman, "The only thing new in this world is the history that you don't know".

By learning from the recent mistakes south of the border and elsewhere, there is no reason why Canada should descend into the chaos that engulfed other parts of the globe. There is a lot to be said for Canada.

Investing there may not produce the best potential returns, but the volatility much more transparent.

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

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# July 3 Election: Foreign Trade, Investment and Tourism

Come and hear what the political parties competing in the July 3 Election have to say about policies on foreign trade, investment and tourism. The seminar is in English.

## Panelists:



**Khun Korn Chatikavanij**  
Deputy Leader  
Democrat Party



**Dr Olarn Chaipravat**  
Chief Economic Strategist  
Pheu Thai Party



**Khun Goanpot Asvinvichit**  
Head of Economic Team  
Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party



**Khun Kasemsan Virakul**  
Senior Member of Economic Team  
Chart Thai Pattana Party



**Mr Nandor von der Luehe**  
Chairman, Joint Foreign Chambers  
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**Phuket Promise: The beach guards 'will be back'**  
PHUKET: Lifeguards will soon be back on the beaches in greater numbers and with more new lifesaving equipment. Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) President Palboon Upatising has confirmed to the Phuket Gazette - The news follows the February 26 expiration of the contract for the Phuket Lifeguard...  
March 6, 2011  
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**Greater Phuket: Shock TAT report on stinking beach**  
PHUKET: Despite regulations of the local village government stipulating that garbage not be placed out for collection before 8pm, trash continues to be dumped on Krabi's Ao Nang Beach in broad daylight. Tourists say they don't like it. The stink and the unsightly mess are a source of harsh complaints not only from tourists....  
March 1, 2011  
Full Story

**Phuket lucky license plate auction raises more than BT23mn**  
PHUKET: The sixth annual "Lucky License Plate Auction" held in Phuket Town over the weekend raised 23,504,500 baht. Kanok Siripanchikom, chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), has told the Phuket Gazette - "I am very happy with the revenue raised - it's five million baht more than last year," he said....  
March 1, 2011  
Full Story

**Phuket Police target ladyboy meth users**  
PHUKET: Almost fifty per cent of the ladyboys rounded up in a sweep of Phuket's Soi Bangla area last night tested positive for methamphetamines. Patong Police say. The random testing, led by drug suppression division inspector Akanit Danphithuksart, targeted transsexuals along Soi Bangla and

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Date	Hours	Title
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Mar 7 - 11	21:00 - 01:00	Mango House Festival
Mar 8 - 10	07:00 - 16:00	Transforming Felicity and Adversity at Mind Centre
Mar 12	20:30 - 12:30	Salsa Night @ Les Angeles
Mar 13	09:00 - 12:00	Phuket Yacht Club Kid's sailing
Mar 16	10:00 - 12:00	Celebrating The Burgundy Grand Crus by Drouhin
Mar 17	19:00 - 22:30	Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch
Mar 18	10:00 - 14:00	Second Belly Dance Party
Mar 19	19:00 - 23:30	FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Mar 20	20:30 - 10:30	SIX of the Best in Phuket
Mar 25	10:00 - 12:00	Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron Island Regatta
Mar 26 - 27	18:30 - 23:30	Bacon and Stone Visual Arts Exhibition
Mar 26 - 31	08:00 - 17:00	FREE Computer Clinic - Patong
	11:30 - 23:30	Chakri Memorial Day - Public Holiday
		Stock Market Investing for Beginners (FREE)
		Phran Festival - Laguna
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# Low-cost airlines in regulation shake-up

A THAI government crackdown on low-cost airlines failing to provide adequate consumer protection in the case of delayed flights, cancellations and other service problems is long overdue.

As far back as 2006, consumer groups in Europe were complaining about budget airlines like pioneering Irish Low Cost Carrier (LCC) Ryanair flouting passengers' legal rights for a refund or complimentary flight home, plus meals and accommodation in the event flights were canceled.

Announced last month, Thai regulations applying to all domestic routes require carriers at their own expense to inform passengers about their rights in the event of flight delays, provide wheelchairs for disabled passengers at no additional charge, and provide meals, drinks and communication services to passengers if flights are delayed more than two hours – but not exceeding three hours.

In addition, carriers must also provide consumer protection agencies with details about minimum and maximum fares, disclose such details on their websites and give ticket refunds if passengers do not want to board delayed flights.

If a flight is delayed by up to five hours, the airline must provide a replacement flight or a flight to the nearest destination at no additional cost, or else pay the difference if the replacement fare is cheaper.

While these more stringent regulations may add to LCC operating costs and force up fare prices in the long term, they are long overdue because LCCs are now a mature and profitable part of the Thai domestic aviation industry.

Amid the depths of the economic recession in 2009, for example, a survey showed that 27 LCCs worldwide generated a combined profit of at least US\$1 billion. Comparing this to the loss of US\$9.4 billion reported by full-service carriers in 2008, one can see that LCCs are good investments. So the time has obviously come for tightening consumer



## Aviation

By Alastair Carthew

rights' regulations, both in Thailand and elsewhere.

In Europe, where LCCs enjoy a significant market share, regulations forcing airlines to advertise "real" prices have still been only partially implemented since their introduction in 2008. Millions of people have had the experience of being lured into flights for ridiculously low prices, as low as US\$1, only to find that the taxes, fees and other charges pushed the price up by several thousand per cent.

Added to these hidden charges is the annoying practice of "automatic inclusion" of added surcharges for optional services such as priority boarding, baggage check-in and insurance. Unless passengers "untick" the boxes,

they may end up paying for such services whether they wanted them or not. As many *Gazette* readers are likely aware, some of the LCCs servicing Phuket are guilty of this practice.

Unfortunately, the new Thai regulations don't directly address this issue, which remains a problem for LCCs around the world. Nevertheless, the new rules should be seen as a good step forward.


After all, it was not too many years ago when LCCs started making an impact in Europe, where many countries are within close flying distance. At the time, skeptics in the legacy (full service) airline industry were saying LCCs would not work in Asia.

There were a number of reasons: The increased distances LCCs would have to fly with their economical single-aisle, two-engine aircraft and relative lack of secondary airports offering less expensive landing fees.

There were also cultural considerations, with some unwilling to believe that Asian customers would take to the concept. But Asians have embraced LCCs wholeheartedly, proving skeptics wrong.



**THE LONG WAIT:** Flight delays and poor service from airlines can ruin a holiday, but it is hoped new regulations for low-cost airlines operating in Thailand will improve current operating procedures. Photo: AFP



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# Wine Connection's Asia empire at 33

By Alexandra Andersson

WINE Connection is no longer just a place to pick up a bottle for a special occasion. It is expanding rapidly, launching new bistro-bar-deli outlets nationwide. Four out of the six Phuket branches are going in this direction.

The company's new 150-seat flagship eatery at Central Festival is a testament to the new business model and how far the company has come since its first wine shop opened 12 years ago in Chalong.

As the largest of all the company's 23 Thai outlets – there are 10 more split between Vietnam and Singapore – the new venture is a sprawling expanse occupying a sizable corner slice of the ground floor at Central Festival.

As a mainstay of the company, the wine shop is still a major lure for customers visiting the new



outlet, but there's more to occupy time here too. There's the restaurant, a deli and even a bar that stays open until midnight, long after the last shoppers have left for the evening.

Wine Connection Chief Execu-

tive Officer Michael Trocherie says the company is committed to expansion.

"We started the new bistro-bar-deli concept at our branch in Sukhumvit, Bangkok. It's really doing well. It's full all the time, so



ON A PLATTER: Penprapa Chooklin enjoys a customized platter of cheeses and cold cuts at Wine Connection's new flagship store at Central Festival.

we expect the same format in Phuket to work too," he said.

Michael said the sizeable space available at Central Festival was too good an opportunity to pass on.

The new store has a cosmopolitan feel that you would find in Bangkok. It strikes you as soon as you enter.

As the *Gazette* ambles through the new Wine Connection, we pass several chefs working in the open-air cold kitchen who are preparing imported meats and cheeses for customers.

The interior as a whole is elegant and decor is chic without being kitschy or pretentious. Large pools of light pour in through the floor-to-ceiling windows during the day.

On the weekday that the *Gazette* stopped in at the new Wine Connection, the place was half-full at lunchtime. The new concept seems to be catching on.

There is both indoor and outdoor seating. In the back of the establishment there is a substantial bar, where staff polish glasses and go about their duties.

Past the attentive – and impeccably dressed staff – is an open-plan hot kitchen where Executive Chef Laurent Valette and his staff are hard at work preparing food for the even-keeled cross-section of expats, locals and tourists dining in the restaurant.

"People can shop for their wine, they can buy deli items and, if they want to, they have the choice to enjoy these things in the restaurant at the same price as the retail," Michael explains.

Although he is keen to let us know the new venture follows a similar format to his other bistro-bar-deli outlets, there is one difference: the music, which after the shopping center closes goes up a few notches.

After dark, the mood at the new outlet is one of ambient cool.

"We want to be able to accommodate people and stay open late.

SShhhhh.....

## Wine Connection's best kept secrets

- After 6pm, fresh baked goods are 50 per cent off. You can get a loaf of French bread, baked the same day, for as little as 17.5 baht.

- If you ask for a "make your own platter" form, you can pick and choose from a wide variety of imported cheeses, marinated vegetables, olives, cold cuts, condiments and bread at market price to enjoy in the restaurant – tailored specifically to you and your company.

- Take-away prices for the delicious cakes and desserts are almost 50 per cent lower than eating them in. So bring 'em home.

- If you join their Facebook group and "like" their page you are in with a chance of winning a 3,000-baht Wine Connection voucher.

Here you can walk in at 9:30pm and eat casually and not have the feeling that we are rushing to close the place and cleaning around you. We clear from midnight," he says of the new opening times.

The bistro-bar-deli concept has been a hit in Bangkok and now Michael is adamant the Central Festival venture will be as successful as the others, if not more.

With a wide selection of wines, breads, cheeses, meats and other deli items supplementing lengthy menus which abound with Mediterranean flavors, the late opening time and readily available parking, this new venture will no doubt capture the imagination of shoppers and foodies alike.

Whether it's for a late-night liqueur or breakfast baguette, Wine Connection seems to be on the tip of everyone's tongue of late.



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# Headaches for Hangover boys

## Film

By Scott Phillips

### The Hangover Part II

**Director:** Todd Phillips

**Starring:** Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis, Justin Bartha

**Genre:** Comedy

**Gazette Rating:** 3/5

TO ALL readers who've had the good fortune of embracing the debauchery of both Las Vegas and Thailand's nightlife: how many times have you looked back on the glowing lights of endless go-go bars along Soi Bangla and Patpong and thought, "Well, you don't see that in Vegas." One of *The Hangover* crew members apparently shared the same experience.

*The Hangover Part II* reunites Phil, Stu, Alan and Doug in an attempt to ante-up the antics of the breakout hit *The Hangover*, which unexpectedly became the highest grossing R-rated comedy of all time. Though claims that Part II simply replaces the setting of the original for an otherwise identical story are very true, it's still bound to be a success.



ONE NIGHT IN BANGKOK: 'The Hangover' boys wake up in the big mango.

This time, it takes place right here in the land of smiles. The film's highly anticipated release has felt mixed emotions from those who call Thailand home. It will assuredly be the most widely seen film ever set in Thailand. That's an awful lot of publicity. Optimists might say that it could serve as a boost to tourism.

But if we're being honest, debauchery is the name of the game in *The Hangover Part II*. It's fairly straightforward: a group of guy friends use bachelor parties as an excuse to release the inhibitions that their domesticated lifestyles keep at bay. The essentials of a successful bachelor party are no secret: strippers and alcohol, al-

cohol and strippers. Thailand's got plenty of both. So it should come as no surprise that the film centers on Thailand's wild side and sidelines the cultural aspects.

There are ladyboys (of course), illegal drug trading, incompetent law enforcement, and drunken monks. Here's a disclaimer: some of it could easily be considered disrespectful, such as the scene in which Phil (Bradley Cooper) throws profanities at a monk.

The story is identical to the first, with a few modest adjustments. This time, Stu is getting married – not Doug. Still weary of the Vegas experience in the first film, he insists on having a "bachelor brunch." Thailand becomes the



CRUMBLING: Ed Helms plays Stu.

setting not because the guys are seeking the ultimate bachelor destination, but because Stu is engaged to a Thai woman living in the US.

Yet the film opens with Phil making the call-o-shame to Doug's wife, Tracy. "It happened again." They started drinking, blacked out, and awoke to a missing member of their party and a set of mysterious clues to piece together the unknowns of the evening.

The wedding is set to take place at one of Thailand's pristine shores (filmed in Krabi) with the beaming limestone karsts in the background. This is one of the few elements that show the relaxing, peaceful side of Thailand. Most of the film, however, takes place in Bangkok,

where the guys wake up after their memory-depriving evening.

Though identical the storyline may be, the characters are still spot on, and that is where the film finds its entertainment. Phil is still the shameless laid-back guy who just wants to get drunk and have a good time. Stu is still the quiet dentist discovering he has an affinity for prostitutes. And Zach Galifianakis still steals a handful of scenes by playing crazy Alan with a quirkiness that is both recognizable and original.

In short, viewers who enjoyed the first film are also likely to enjoy the second. It does attempt to up the stakes in terms of drugs, mobsters, sex and violence, but the core of what made the first movie so popular is intact. Unfortunately, none of those elements make the movie any better.

Just don't expect an original tale. Right down to replacing Stu's famous "Best Friend Doug" piano sonnet with a guitar on a longtail, an awkward speech from Alan, and Stu waking up with a new tattoo instead of a missing tooth, there's almost a scene-for-scene transfer of humor.

Apparently, what happens in Vegas doesn't really stay in Vegas. If more is needed, it gets packed up and shipped to Thailand in search of a duplicate experience.

## Still mastering the music scene a hundred years on

### Robert Johnson *The Complete Recordings* (Remastered)

THE late Robert Johnson inspired generations of musicians, most notably Eric Clapton. Remastered using modern production techniques, *The Complete Recordings* brings new clarity to his songs and should be compulsory listening for any blues fan.

Commemorating the centenary anniversary of his birth this past May 11, the album pays tribute to a legend whose genius was not realized during his short life, which ended when he was just 27.

Johnson's premature death makes him one of the earliest members of the 27 Club, a group of stars including Jimmy Hendrix and Janis Joplin who passed away at that same age.

*Rolling Stone* awarded the album four-and-a-half stars in May and also placed Johnson fifth in their list of *100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time*, while the original 1990 release garnered perfect ratings from *Q*, *Allmusic*, the *Washington Post* and more.

The superstitious believe that



ROCK REVIVAL: Robert Johnson's remastered album is now available.

Johnson gave his soul to the devil at a Mississippi crossroads in order to gain his musical skills.

His songs are reminiscent of their time, and therefore sound a bit dated, but this double album deserves a place in the collection of any guitar lover, or Rock and Jazz enthusiast, on its historical

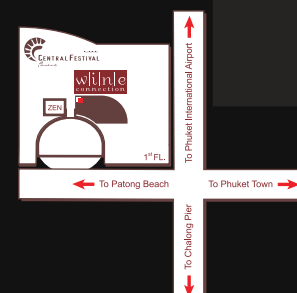
merit alone. Between The Doors, Bob Dylan and Lynard Skynard, a host of artists have covered his songs, both in the studio and on stage. Don't let the music's age deter you, Johnson's talent is timeless and kicked off some of the most popular genres of our day.

– Michael DesPortes



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# Culture Ministry coaxes correctness at computer shops

**GAME ON:** Two men play computer games at an Internet cafe. The popularity of such establishments in Thailand has led to the Ministry of Culture enforcing new laws on proprietors.

By Janpen Upatising

MANY Phuket parents see the popularity of Internet cafes and computer gaming shops among youngsters as a sort of mixed blessing: of course it is good to know where little Somchai goes at night, but what really goes on in there?

Aiming to ensure the safety and well-being of youths who spend much of their time in Internet cafes and similar establishments, the Ministry of Culture has invited computer shops across Thailand to join its "White Game Cafe for Youth" campaign.

Launched in 2009, there are already 25 shops on the island that have been certified as having passed the requirements.

"I expect 20 more computer game operators in Phuket to join the campaign this year," said Phuket Culture Office chief Prayoon Noosuk.

"Many radio and TV news reports portray gaming cafes as hangouts, where bad and unethical activities occur. However, I believe that there are plenty of good operators who want to make a contribution to society," said Mr Prasop Rieng-Ngoen, director of the Culture Ministry's

Film and Video Screening Office.

The ministry wanted to support such operators by creating the White Game Cafe for Youth campaign, he said.

Gaming shops whose services and facilities meet the standards set forth by ministry will be awarded an official certificate, he said.

"Joining the White Game Cafe for Youth campaign will improve the shops' image. Parents and guardians will feel confident that it is a safe and acceptable place for their children to spend time," Director Prasop noted.

Shop operators can join the campaign by filing an application, available online, and submitting it to the Provincial Culture Office, he added.

"The main problem we have found in Phuket is that some operators allow youths to play games during prohibited times," Chief Prayoon said.

"If we find any game shop owners allowing youths to play games during prohibited periods, we first issue them a warning. If the problem persists, we will submit a report to the provincial registrar. This gives the Phuket Governor the [discretionary] right to suspend a shop's license

for up to 90 days," he added.

"While we have issued first warnings to some shops in Phuket, we have yet to file a license suspension here," he noted.

According to Culture Office records, as of September 30 last year there were 461 gaming and internet cafes in Phuket. However, few had valid licenses – let alone White Cafe certificates.

## THE PAPER TRAIL

"The reason why there are only a few right now is because of the Film and Video Act of 2008. Amended from the earlier 1987 version, it requires us to examine the personal profiles. Additional documentation is required for license applications and renewals, and each must be considered on a case-by-case basis," Chief Prayoon said.

Parents leaving their children at computer game shops expecting the shop operators to look after them has also become a social problem, Mr Prayoon said.

"Parents are neglecting their responsibilities by leaving their children in the care of game shop operators. It is not right. It is unreasonable for parents to expect shop operators to take care of their children, because a computer game shop is not a nursery," he said.

Likewise, operators should not be greedy and collect extra [child care] service fees from parents, Chief Prayoon added.

"This is especially true for kids under 10 years old. Parents paying gaming shop operators for child care is not a solution," he stated.

"[Both sides] need to consider the effects on society," he said.

Orange Net, a gaming and Internet cafe on Nimit Road in Talad Yai was one of the shops certified as a White Gaming Cafe for Youth by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha in October last year. Operating for eight months

now, the shop is equipped with 14 CCTVs monitoring the cafe, which stays open 24 hours a day and has 109 computers to meet the needs of customers of all ages.

"The certificate is a guarantee that our cafe is safe," said Miss Nichakorn Kawparwat, assistant to the owner of Orange Net.

"Once school is out, kids come here and play while their parents are at work. At about 7pm to 8pm, parents pick them up and take them home. Most parents give money to their children to buy food. No parents have asked us directly to give their children special attention," she explained.

"We are not a nursery. However, our cameras will provide proof if something happens inside the cafe," she said.

As for young customers using shops during prohibited times, Miss Nichakorn said that she and cafe staff can generally tell if the kids are older than 15.

"It is no problem if the kids are under 15. However, it is difficult to differentiate if the kids are between 16 and 18. We once asked to see the ID card of a boy, but he said that he forgot to bring it. We would not have known what to do if there had been a police inspection," she said.

However, the staff know how old their regular customers are, she added.

"For new faces, we will ask for ID to avoid problems. When anyone claims they forgot their ID, we will tell them in advance that we will not be held responsible if the police inspect the cafe and arrest them for being underage," she said.

At 10pm, staff walk past every computer and let them know playtime is over, she said.

"In the future, we plan to start reminding users at 9:30pm. At 10pm, we will send a message to every computer, reminding them that it is time to stop playing and go home," she added.

## White Game Cafe Youth Certificate



Application deadline:  
July 29, 2011

Required documents:  
application form (download from [www.culture.go.th](http://www.culture.go.th))  
– Copy of valid shop permit  
– Copy of owner's ID card  
– Map showing shop location  
– Three photographs showing the shop

Note: Certificates only issued after approved inspection by a Culture Ministry officer

Director-General of the Cultural Promotion Department has specified a semester break for game shops each academic year. For the summer break in Academic Year 2010, it started from April 1, 2011 to May 15, 2011.

## Times youths are allowed to play at computer shops

Age range: Under 15

Monday to Friday: 2pm to 8pm  
Semester break, national holidays, weekends: 10am to 8pm

Ages 15 to 18

Monday to Friday: 2pm to 10pm  
Semester break, national holidays, weekends: 10am to 10pm

For more on this issue, see this week's editorial on page 8.

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# Goetz Dienel

GOETZ Dienel is Managing Director of Thai-Dien, a company he established in 1994 to provide installation materials to Phuket's booming building industry of luxury villas, estates and resorts. He sold products and technology from Europe at a time when it was difficult to get quality products on the island.

"We began our business supplying designer and high quality construction materials. This was before the major home hardware and appliance companies came to the island. We still provide European designed and manufactured materials and equipment on special request as we have a fast import capability."

As many of Phuket's hotels and villas are now 20 years old, Goetz has refocused his business to provide the best materials for leaks, structural repairs, resin coatings and insulation. He is kept busy fixing cracked swimming pools and leaking roofs.

He also designs, supplies and installs electrical systems for both homes and buildings used by the public. His business grew big in response to the growth of the tourism industry.

"But I have scaled back the last few years as I want to focus more on giving attentive service to my clients. That's not possible if you have too many customers and too many staff."

Goetz first came to Phuket on holiday in 1983, on leave from his work with the German manufacturer Si-

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

emens. It was his third trip to Thailand, but on this trip he met his future wife, Wilaiwan, which encouraged him to eventually settle on the island.

He was born in the Saxony region of Germany, near the border with Czechoslovakia. At the time it was part of East Germany and his family was determined to get to the West.

"It was still possible for East Germans to get out in the 1950s. Up to 2,000 people left every day. We moved to Karlsruhe, West Germany in 1959, where my father worked with the Singer Sewing Machine Co and my mother worked as a midwife."

Goetz took a three-year professional training program to become a radio and television technician with Grundig, the largest manufacturer of electronic products in Germany. During the 1960s he volunteered for the police along the border with East Germany and later took a job with Olympia office machines repairing all types of equipment.

By 1971 he had upgraded his qualifications and worked monitoring traffic flows on the country's major highways, before joining Siemens

where he learned to calculate the mineral elements for steel and aluminum using x-ray beams. He then worked on anti-aircraft artillery and other military systems.

"I enjoyed my work but wanted to get out of the factory, so I transferred to the field service branch of the medical division where I repaired defective equipment used mostly in hospitals. This work suited me as I have good concentration skills."

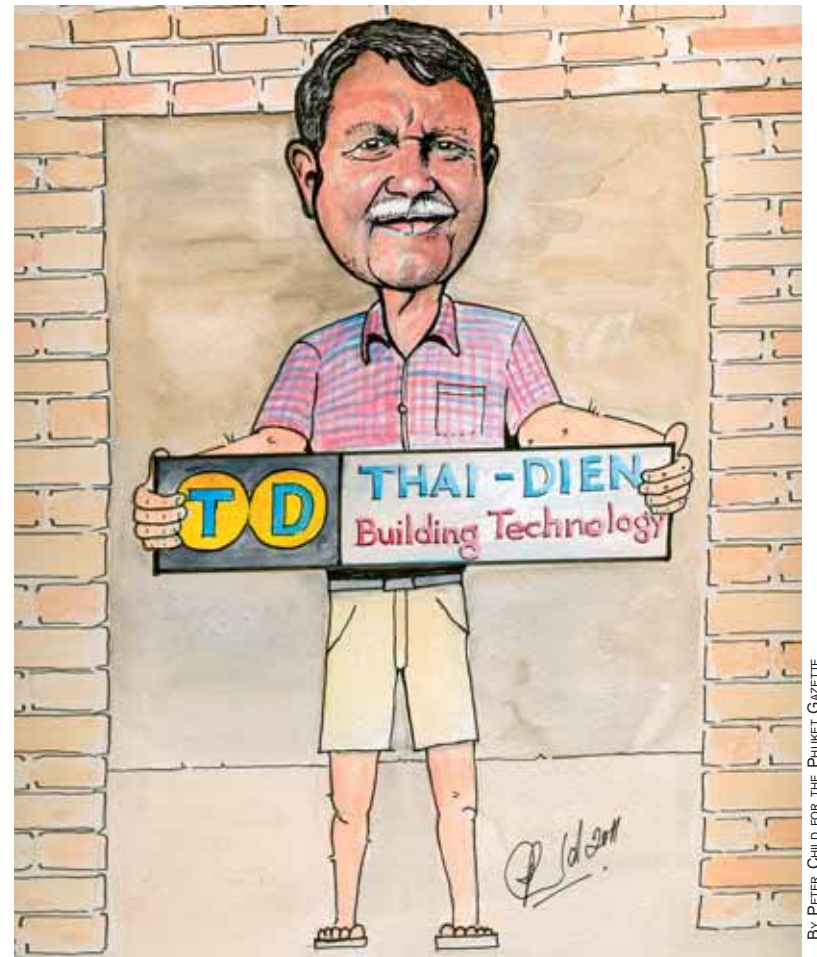
His first overseas posting, in 1984, was for three years in Baghdad during their war with Iran. He counted 35 rockets that exploded around him during those years.

His next posting was to Oman for two years, then back to Iraq in 1990.

"The Gulf War started and the borders were closed and we were held hostage. But we were allowed to continue our work repairing and servicing equipment in the hospitals. We had to find food from private sources as the import markets were closed. By November, I was allowed to leave."

Goetz returned to work for Siemens in Germany, but before a year had passed he decided to retire and move to Phuket, where he bought land and built his family home.

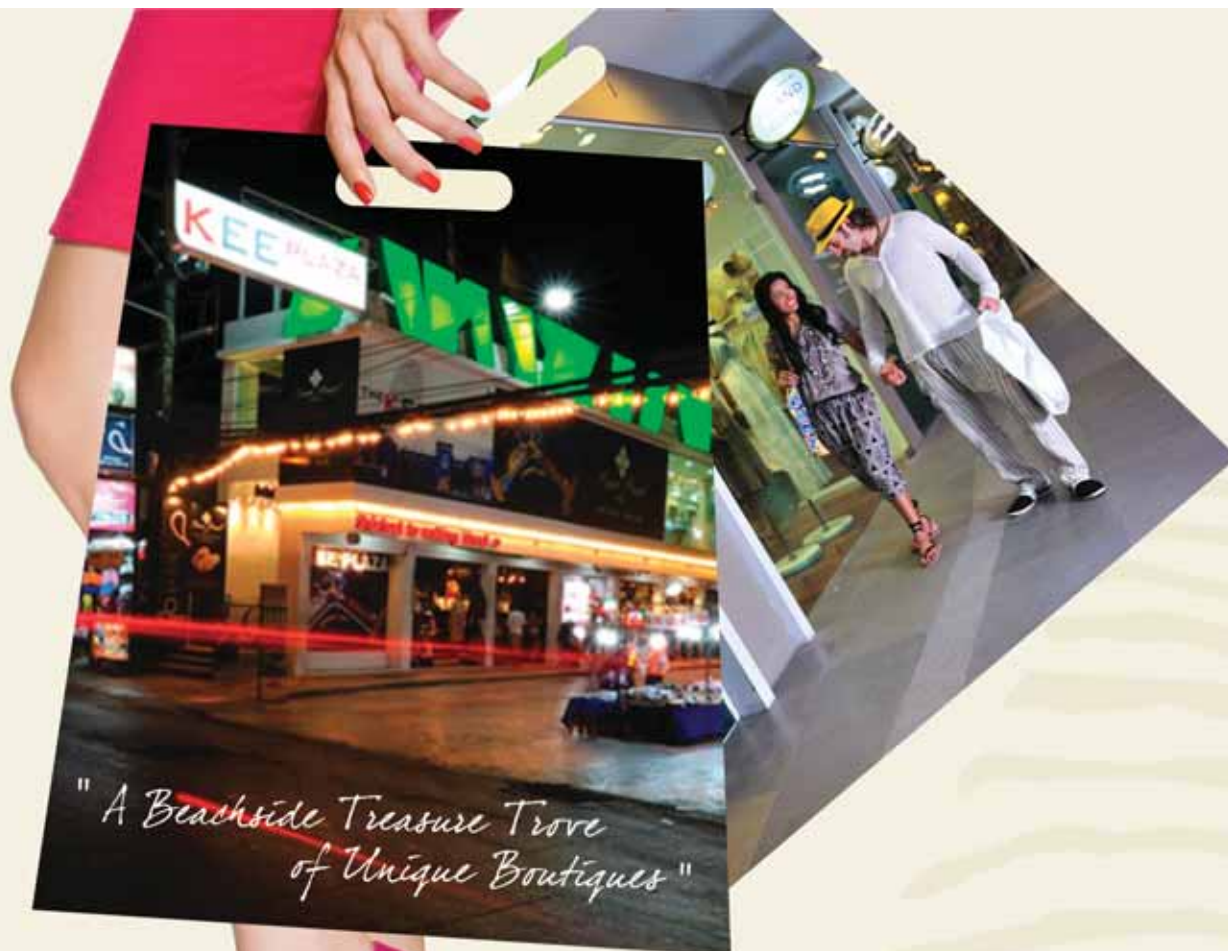
"Soon I was bored with not working, so started Thai-Dien, a new career that has lasted these seventeen years. I've been able to raise my two sons here and have a productive and happy life."



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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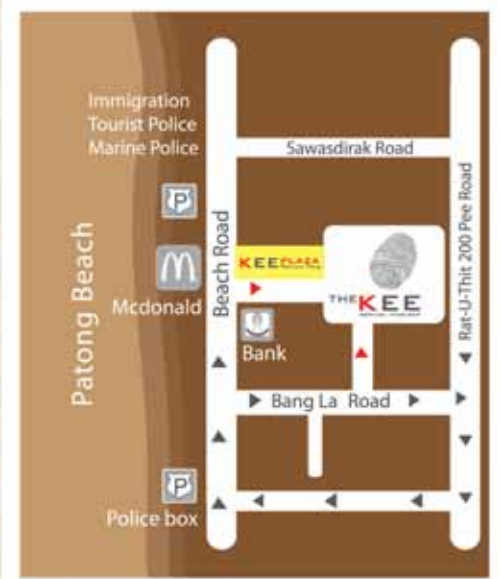


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# It's in the bag

## What does your bag say about you?

By Abby McMillin

WHETHER you're planning a day trip, getting ready for work or heading out for the night, it's crucial to be prepped and packed in Phuket.

What you're stowing away or what you're forgetting in your tote can make or break your day. Are you all about the gadgets, the products, or the sentiments? Maybe being overly prepared for the unexpected is more your mode. In the first installment of a two-part series, here's a sneak peak in the bags of two Phuket residents.

### The Gadget Guru: Amy Cordeau, Travel Industry Insider



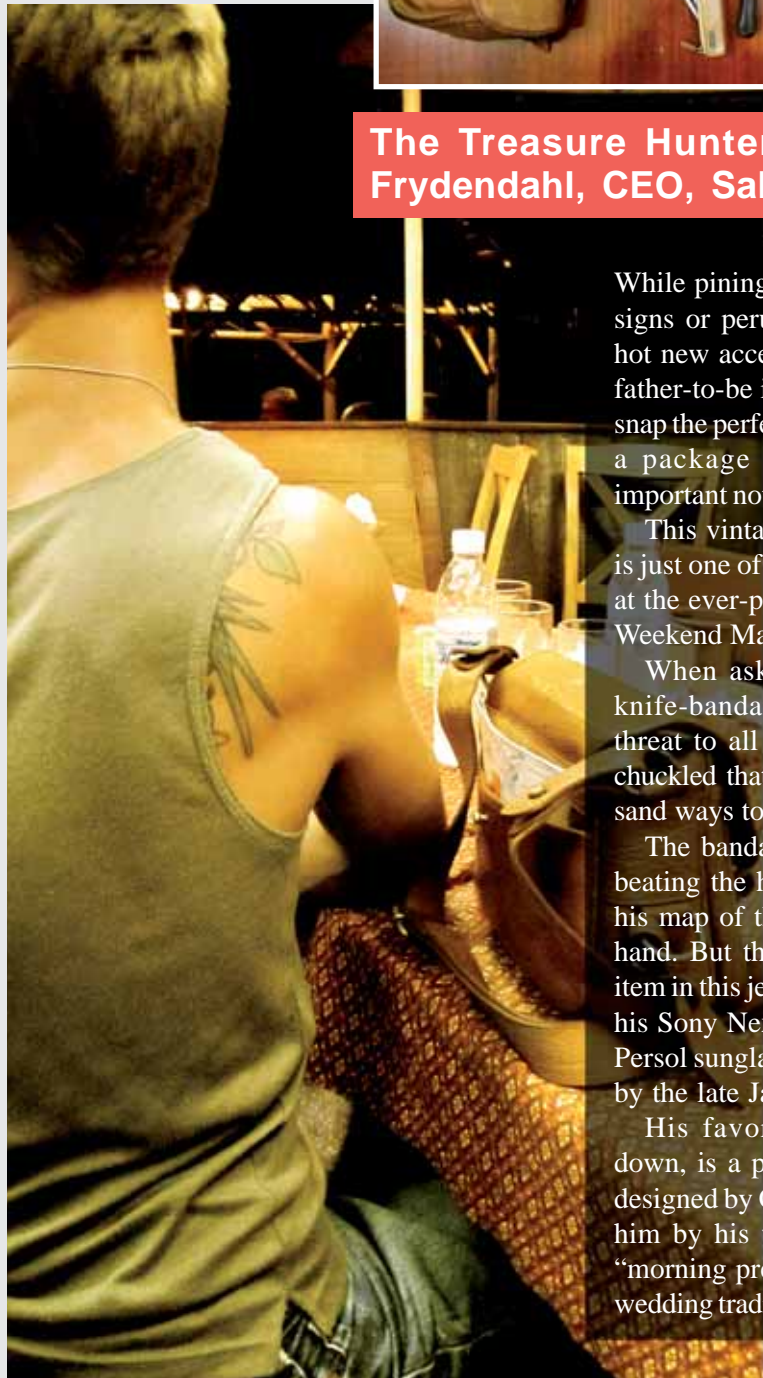
This walking workspace doesn't dare leave home without an arsenal of technology at her fingertips. Amy says she couldn't function without her Black Berry Bold 9700, or without her eleven inch MacBook Air, which she says frees her from the office so she can work from home, go on holiday and mold her own schedule.

Amy never thought she'd be writing emails from her mobile phone, but now frequently finds herself doing just that. "I can't believe I wrote that whole thing with my thumbs," she jokingly says of a business correspondence.

The Aldo bag was bought solely with her appliances in mind. It boasts seven outside zipped pockets for all her chargers and cords and is large enough to take her through her whole day. But in spite of her professional temperament this fashionista isn't all business. She insists that she can't part with her iPod Touch, which is always plugged in when she's driving to meetings in her Mazda 3 Sport or soaking up the sun in her Marc Jacobs shades. Whatever her day demands, this island urbanite can count on her bag to be "very, very functional," and never lack a fashion forward approach.



### The Treasure Hunter: Noah Lund Frydendahl, CEO, SakdidetRoad.dk



While pining over jewelry designs or perusing markets for hot new accessory trends, this father-to-be is always ready to snap the perfect shot, slice open a package or jot down an important note.

This vintage leather satchel is just one of his amazing finds at the ever-popular Chatuchak Weekend Market in Bangkok.

When asked if his pocket knife-bandana combo was a threat to all of Phuket, Noah chuckled that he finds, "A thousand ways to use a knife!"

The bandana is his trick to beating the heat and he keeps his map of the island close at hand. But the most important item in this jet-setter's bag isn't his Sony Nex-3 or his vintage Persol sunglasses (also donned by the late James Dean).

His favorite item, hands down, is a pencil and pen set designed by Cross and given to him by his wife Sophie as a "morning present" – a Danish wedding tradition.

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## Wrapped up in fashion this week

### Balenciaga in Bangkok

FANS of French fashion house Balenciaga no longer need to fly to Paris. They can check out the brand's newly opened concept store on Siam Paragon's M Floor.

Nicholas Ghesquiere, who designs garments as well as the decor of the Balenciaga stores, has come up with a "modern, dazzling and elegant" concept for the Bangkok boutique.

The interior is highlighted by blue and golden icebergs and bright white beehive-like compartments decorated with gold leaves.

### Seriously smart, trendy too

CALLING all stylish men! The latest trends will be on display at the "Central Men with Style 2011"

promotion, which runs until June 7 at all branches of Central department store.

Many international fashion brands are displaying their newest designs that focus on good cutting, smart patterns and quality materials. Among the brands are Fred Perry, G-Star Raw, Evisu, Vivienne Westwood and Carlo Basano.

### Chinese marvels

THE Forbidden City, Beijing's ancient imperial-palace museum, is to loan more than 100 works to the Louvre in Paris, some of which have never left China.

The 130 artifacts include arms, clothing, bronzes, pieces of jade, lacquerware, enamels, seals, ceramics and personal effects of the Ming and Qing emperors, offering a window on life at China's imperial court.

"The Forbidden City at the Louvre" is scheduled for September 29 to January 9 next year.

### Boo for the bags

AS IF returning the favor, the French luxury luggage maker Louis Vuitton is displaying its wares in the exhibition "Voyages" at the new National Museum of China in Beijing through August 30.

The event has drawn complaints online, as some Chinese people think it inappropriate to showcase a foreign commercial brand in the museum, which with 191,900 square-meters of floor space, claims to be the world's largest.

An expansion of the former National Museum of History site on the west side of Tiananmen Square, the new museum was opened in March. It aims to highlight Chinese art, host exhibitions from home and abroad and continue the history museum's role in promoting patriotic education.

— The Nation

## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### June 4-17 and 19-25. Kalim Kinetic Art Fair

The Kalim Kinetic Art Fair will be held from June 4 to 17 and 19 to 25, from 4pm to 1am, and will showcase talent in Phuket to promote the creativity, imagination and inventive skills of children and adults alike. Brush Restaurant along with the Underwood Factory has asked schools and companies to design their own kinetic art sculpture to be displayed at Brush from June 1 to 25. Anyone who cannot produce their own piece can submit their design by the end of May to have it made by the Underwood Factory. Then, on June 25, a finale event will unfold at Brush to display all finished pieces along with a performance by Panatta Design. Contact Able Wanamakok at T:076-340348 E:info@awprphuket.com or visit W:facebook.com/brushphuket.

### June 6-11. Sangsom Thailand Ranking Circuit Phuket Cup

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thailand Ranking Circuit Snooker Championship Phuket. Watch all the action live at Phuket's Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa, June 6 to 11 from 10am to 7pm in the Grand Ballroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Get a chance to meet your favorite world-class snooker players, including Stuart Bingham, Alfie Burden and Ratchapol Pu-Orm. *The Phuket Gazette* and PGTV sponsor this event. Admission is free of charge. Contact reception at T:076-340666 E: info@royalparadise.com or visit W:royalparadise.com.

## June 17. Phuket Property Dot Com Pro-Am Invitational



Phuket's first charity Pro-Am Golf event was launched last year and following the success of the inaugural event it will take place again this year at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club from 8.30am to 11pm. This is your chance to play with the pros. Up to 30 touring pros from the Asian Tour and OneAsia tours will be taking part. A great day of golf followed by a gala dinner at B-Lay Tong Resort. Contact Graham Haslam at T:087-2791230 E:golf@phukethasbeengoodtous.org or visit W:ProAmPhuket.com.

### June 11, 18 and 25. Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata

Every Saturday Two Chefs proudly presents their brunch with a Scandinavian touch from noon to 3pm. Eat all you can for only 395 baht. Add only another 300 baht and you can drink as much as you want from the wide choice of free-flow beverages. During each brunch, MJ & Megan provide the entertainment with their lovely voices. Contact Two Chefs in Kata branch at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

### June 12. Laguna Phuket International Marathon

Have some friendly fun in the sun. The marathon course is set along the beautiful coast of Phuket. It runs from 4:30am to 12pm and

takes in a typical Thai village market, a rubber plantation and beach, before finishing at Laguna Phuket in the northwest of the island. Contact Roman Floesser at T:022362931 E:info1@phuketmarathon.com or see W:phuketmarathon.com.

### June 15-21. Central Festival Grand Sale

Central Festival Phuket and the TAT are presenting a new promotion with discounts of up to 70 per cent on many leading brands and purchases at Central Festival Phuket. Thai customers can win a cash voucher worth one million baht. Tourists can win a 30-day special holiday package. More privileges for visa card holders, who will receive double lucky draw coupons. Don't miss this amazing grand sale. Contact Siromanee at T:076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com.

### June 16. Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

The June lunch of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) will be held at Peppinos Restaurant, Kata Beach Resort & Spa, in Kata at 11:30am. All are welcome and prior booking is essential. Price: 500 baht for PIWC members, 650 baht for non-members. Contact Carol Dux at T:076-316711 E:info@phuketiwc.com or visit phuket

iwc.com to find out more about the PIWC and their activities.

### June 16-22. Canon Professional Photography Fair

This is our First Canon Professional Fair. Central Festival Phuket and Canon proudly present the photo shooting course "Fashion on the Beach" by professional Photographer Khun Bee Prerapong Leawrakwong. "Beauty on the Beach" is the concept of the exclusive workshop and the Canon Photo Contest. Learn more tips from Canon's technology solution. We'll also have a meet and greet with famous actress Apichaya 'Ice' Kraekongka. Contact Central Festival Phuket T:076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com for more information.

### June 17. Curry Fridays

Curry Friday is held every fortnight. Here is your chance to en-

joy a lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorites chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, goan fish curry, chickpea curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught by the glass just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7pm to 11:30pm. Reservations call: 076-286464 ext 4.

### June 17-19. Thai Gems and Jewelry – The World's Finest

The Gem and Jewelry Business Development Committee of Thailand is holding a roadshow entitled "Thai Gems and Jewelry – The World's Finest", which is a rare collection of precious gemstones and jewelry worth over 500 million baht. The pieces come from all over Thailand. Showcased are masterpieces such as a sculptured red ruby of the Goddess Guan Yin with 1,000 hands, a Barbie doll whose dress is made of platinum and decorated with colorful gemstones, an orchid-shaped ruby pin, a heart-shaped faceted ruby; and a pair of onyx wing-shaped earrings. Contact Central Festival Phuket T:076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com for more information.

### June 18. F Club Fino Party

This exclusive party for F Club members includes all famous Thai super stars and celebrities. There will be a jaw-dropping fashion show held on the F Club Chic Runway, and a concert featuring Chin Chinawut, Slot Machine and Paradox. Don't miss it: 4pm to 9pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Central Festival Phuket at Lan Lom Bar Circle. Contact Siromanee at T:076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com for more information about this event.

## 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*.

June 12 – Laguna  
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Island Technology Managing Director Gay Autcharawan Pratumwan with Tony Henthorne and sales and technical staff.



FROM LEFT: Lin Kirjon, Lillian Carpernter, Chintana Sethi and Porntip Noppakoon

# Island Technology's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

GUESTS at Island Technology's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration got more entertainment than they could have imagined with a sophisticated multimedia show featuring opera, modern dance and a spectacular show of sound and light.

The big event was held at the Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club at the Phuket International Academy. A couple hundred of the island's premier business owners joined for an evening which paid tribute to Phuket's most innovative and successful technology firms.

Gay Autcharawan Pratumwan, Managing Director of Island Technology welcomed guests to enjoy an evening marked by tapas provided by the recently opened DiVine restaurant, with generous offerings of wine and cocktails, raffle prizes, dance music and fast-paced entertainment that kept the party moving until late. She also presented Tina Hall, Director of Operations at the Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation a check for 30,000 baht to assist operations.

The entertainment was led by opera diva Kantinan Kiraticharoennan who graduated from the London College of Music and Media.

With a backdrop of multimedia projections, her large voice easily moved from classical opera to contemporary pop music. She was joined by MOVEMAN.D, a Bangkok based contemporary dance troupe well known for making any event exciting.

— Bruce Stanley



Gay Autcharawan presents a check for 30,000 Baht to Tina Hall, Director of Operations, Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. RIGHT: Opera Singer Kantinan Dincgil.



Island Technology Managing Director Gay Autcharawan Pratumwan



Opera Singer Kantinan Kiraticharoennan (left) with her husband and Island Technology Staff.



FROM LEFT: Lillian Carpenter, Rona Hoskings and Natasha Purdom



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## Muddy for mangroves

Vice Admiral Chumnum Atwong, Third Naval Area Commander, presided over a mangrove planting ceremony near the Phuket Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center at Laem Sai in Pa Khlok on June 2. Volunteers from the research center, Air Force, local universities, schools and 500 members of the general public were in attendance, planting 1,290 trees and 10,000 pods over a 30 rai area to mark the lead up to the United Nations World Environment Day on June 5.



## Marriott serves up a smash sports day



**SEVEN FOR SPORTS:** Courtyard by Marriott resorts in Phuket recently hosted the Southern Sports Day 2011 with eight Marriott hotels in the South of Thailand taking part in the event at the Prince of Songkla University Phuket Campus.

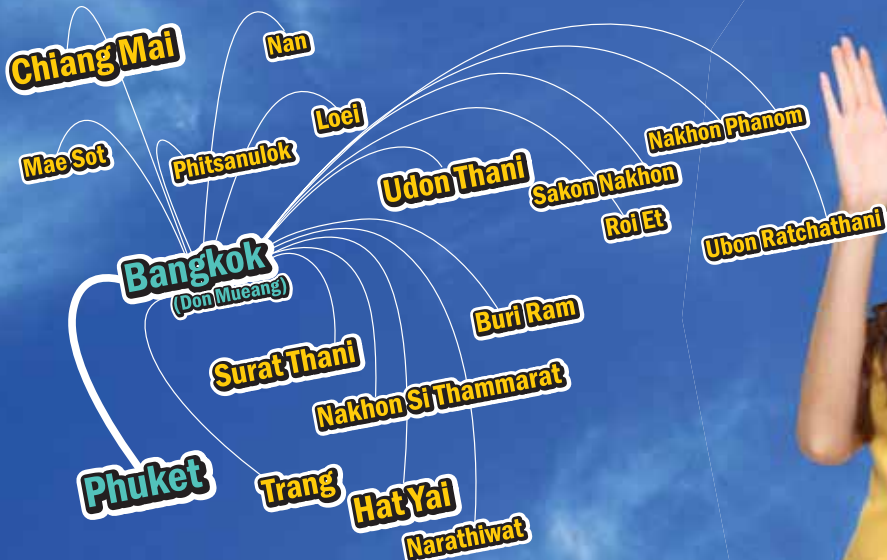
Staff and management from three Courtyard resorts in Phuket took part with colleagues from other hotels in the group including JW Marriott, Ritz Carlton and Renaissance in a fun day aimed at promoting teamwork, harmony and socializing.

Pictured from left are: President of Phuket Reporters Club, Peerapong Polpramoon; General Manager of Phulay Bay, Estelita Sebetto; Country Director of HR, Marriott Thailand, Panjit Howe; Cluster General Manager of Courtyard by Marriott, Theera Kanjana; General Manager of Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa, Jason Nuell; General Manager of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, Tony Pedroni and General Manager of JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa, Ty Matthew Collins.

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## The Impossibly Possible Quiz

### General Knowledge

1. Andrew Patterson wrote which popular Australian song?
2. If a doctor says you have singultus, what have you got?
3. What nationality is Richard Hannay, hero of the 39 steps?
4. Amerigo Vespucci Airport is in which city?
5. What place name means many islands?
6. In which country do the Sumi people live?
7. According to J K Rowling, what are muggles?
8. Who released the album *Invincible*?
9. In food products, what does UHT mean?
10. Which group of Marvel superheroes fought Doctor Doom?
11. Which chemical was introduced to US as a cough suppressant?
12. Meter-maid Lovely Rita appeared on which Beatles album?
13. What is the name for the group of men who elect a Pope?
14. Abel Magwitch and Biddy appear in which Dickens book?

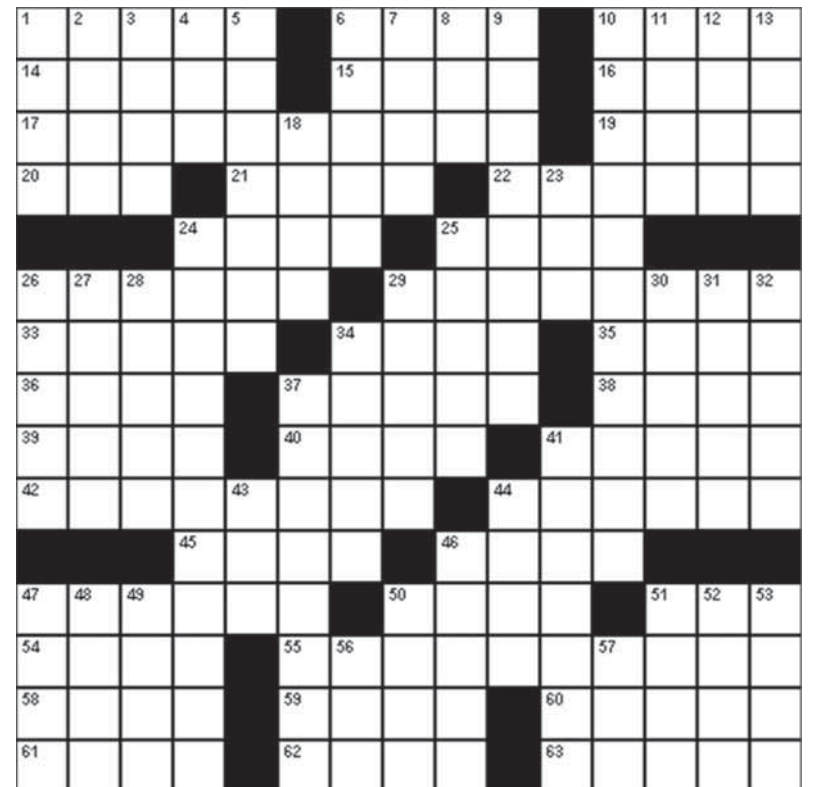
Quiz answers on page 39

### Across

1. Mother of Isaac
6. Break, card game
10. Female horse
14. Get hitched quick
15. Area of 4,840 square yards
16. Borodin's prince
17. Giraffe
19. Fizzy drink
20. It's past due
21. Bones found in the hip
22. Likenesses
24. Scored 100 on
25. Fed
26. Gazes fixedly
29. Table supports
33. Measured with a watch
34. Skater Michelle
35. Pressure
36. Langston Hughes poem
37. Concerning
38. Pro \_\_\_\_
39. Bust maker
40. Dweeb
41. Histological stain
42. Submerged to the mid-leg
44. Be about to happen
45. Entre \_\_\_\_
46. Catch a view of
47. Owner of a slave
50. Prefix with plasm
51. AOL alternative
54. Copycat
55. Processed oxide of uranium
58. Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
59. Slammin' Sammy
60. Bert's buddy
61. Apply powder to oneself
62. Bump into
63. Cheerful

### Down

1. Denomination
2. Banned apple spray
3. Capital of Italy
4. Big galoot
5. Decorated with spirals
6. Palatable
7. Final Four org.
8. Sheet music abbr.
9. Gable over portico



10. Dislike of humankind
11. Awestruck
12. Got on
13. Ages
18. Corrida cries
23. Barker and Bell
24. Centered on the planet Mars
25. Stately
26. Stench
27. Saturn's largest moon
28. Love, Italian-style
29. Pipsqueak
30. Buy alternative
31. Kind of kitchen

32. Rise to one's feet
34. Leg joints
37. Arterial dilatation
41. Enable
43. Anonymous John
44. Analogy words
46. Acclaim
47. Germinated grain used in brewing
48. Capital city of Western Samoa
49. Exchange for money
50. Additional
51. "Give that \_\_\_\_ cigar!"
52. It's got you covered
53. Depilatory brand
56. Fair-hiring abbr.
57. Dernier \_\_\_\_

Provided by BestCrosswords.com  
Used with permission

Puzzle solutions on page 39

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



There could be more than meets the eye where an employment matter is concerned this week. Those born under the sign of Gemini who thought they had found a dream job may learn something that makes them think twice. Sharing your suspicions with a trusted fire sign friend will help you see clearly what to do. Those with a birthday in the days ahead will develop more patience in the coming year.

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



Cancerians could make their lives difficult by looking for complicated answers this week. The stars suggest that simple solutions to your problems are within reach and an earth sign friend can provide pearls of wisdom this weekend. The stars suggest that your romantic partner's mind could be working in mysterious ways this week. Those who are single should be pleased to learn that another water sign has had a change of heart.

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



Many of those born under the sign of Leo are forecast to be more connected with nature during the second half of June. Even if you never

considered your fingers to be green, this is an auspicious time to take up gardening as a hobby. Your outlook at work this week could be affected by news received on Monday or Tuesday – keep a cool countenance until you know more about this situation.

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



A water sign's reaction could be the last straw for some Virgoans this week. The stars suggest that you have allowed this person to take advantage of you for too long. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to lay your feelings on the line. Simple pleasures shared with family and friends will be the source of more happiness than you have known recently.

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



Librans are likely to be lost for words at important moments this week. The astral atmosphere will encourage you to daydream, causing you to lose out on opportunities. Wednesday is a day when you should make extra effort to stay on the ball as potential financial gain could be at stake. Those in a settled relationship may be tempted to intervene when their partner is put in a difficult position at work.



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



The stars indicate that you could be tempted by a shady deal this week. Scorpions should take care to investigate thoroughly before making major commitments, particularly on Wednesday and Thursday. An earth sign is impressed by your caring nature this weekend. Those looking for love could find that they have much in common with this person.

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



Sagittarians should benefit from auspicious astral conditions this week. The stars suggest that your energy will be on a more even keel, making it possible to achieve more than you expect. Earth signs will respond well and a business partnership with Capricorn is well-starred. Romance goes well, with Sunday highlighted to be a day when you learn that a relationship with an air sign is on the cards.

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



Capri corns' heightened self-confidence might not be easy for everyone to take. A water sign at work is forecast to be intimidated by you early next week and this could complicate communications. The stars advise that you approach meetings calmly and be prepared to let others do as much talking as you want to do. Romance could be affected by disagreements over money this weekend.

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



You should endeavor to get to the point this week as beating around the bush won't yield results. Aquarians who are not yet sure of their facts and feelings will not make any lasting impressions. The stars advise that July will be a more productive month where employment is concerned. In the realm of romance, an important message could be lost in translation this weekend.

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



A potential business arrangement could become too hot to handle for Pisceans and you should give this matter your immediate attention. The middle of June is an auspicious time to take

decisions that will have long-lasting effects on your life. Romance is subject to cloudy conditions during the week ahead. The stars advise that you resist saying the words you think a romantic partner wants to hear unless they are heartfelt.

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



Arians are likely to over-analyze this week and this could lead to situations being made much more complicated than they need to be. Your luck with finances improves during the second half of June – an overdue debt is likely to be repaid very soon. Romance with another fire sign is well-starred, but expecting commitment from an air sign will lead to disappointment.

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



Recognition of your skills comes from an unexpected source this week. Taureans who have been frustrated by lack of progress will see events move more quickly during the second half of June. The stars suggest that family could pull your emotions in different directions this weekend. Staying true to your beliefs is the best remedy. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday; romance is well-starred on Wednesday.

# PROPERTY Gazette

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

## Architects at the helm of development

By Michael DesPortes

DISCUSSING the future of Phuket property is often left to analysts, investors and developers. Rarely do we receive insight from the professionals who turn these ideas into reality. The *Phuket Gazette* sat down with two successful architects, each at different points in their career, to talk about what makes Phuket unique and what the future holds.

Pisit Aongskultong, design director at Modiva Co Ltd, has been involved in interior design for Siam Paragon and Central World shopping malls in Bangkok. He has also worked with leading hotel chains

and currently travels to Phuket up to three times a week.

Phuket is unique to Mr Pisit because he often deals with families who own and develop the land rather than international corporations and their representatives, a detail that makes the work more personal.

Teerayuth Waipunya is a freelance architect with five years' experience working on projects in Phuket. He has also worked extensively in Chiang Mai and Koh Samui.

His projects range from commercial units in Karon to private residential villas in Phuket's north.

"Here in Phuket they [industry professionals] definitely under-



Pisit Aongskultong: 'Phuket needs a master plan.'

stand the architect's role in the entire construction process, not only in the initial design phase," Mr Teerayuth told the *Gazette*.

When talk turned to Phuket's future, both men held similar positive opinions.

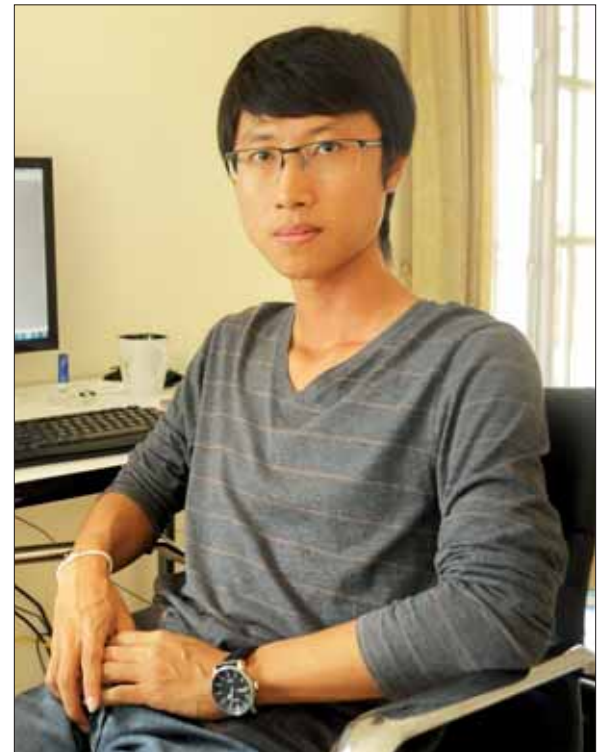
"Phuket opened its doors to foreign influence and investment after the 1997 Asian financial crisis, this was key to its success in the property sector. It is definitely still a land of opportunity, but there are potential drawbacks to consider.

"Phuket needs a master plan. Development has been happening without direction and we should learn from destinations like

Singapore, Hong Kong or even cities in Florida. Power, water supply and other infrastructure issues will arise soon," Mr Pisit said.

Mr Teerayuth is keen to point out that architects also play a major role in future development here.

"I would like to see Phuket take on similar standards to Singapore, where laws ensure intelligent and balanced development. There are some laws in place here, but it will take a collective effort to achieve more. Architects can take a strong stance, not agree with all their clients' ideas and try to influence them to take measures that are in Phuket's best interest," he said.



Teerayuth Waipunya. Photos: Michael DesPortes

Mr Pisit believes progressive thinking is needed to find the right path, "The right questions must be asked to get the right answers. Where will Phuket be in five years time? Ten years time? Then the master plan will come...Without a master plan, development will become a big issue," Mr Pisit said.

In making the plans, Mr Pisit said local government must recognize differences and needs in Phuket.

"Governance will have to be similar to conducting a symphony, using each area for its strengths and keeping Phuket unique overall...you have to micro-manage to achieve a macro goal."

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# Property wolfpack menacing the market

**WATCH OUT:** There are big, bad, rogue developers taking advantage of unsuspecting buyers. Photo: Tambako the Jaguar

FOR many children *Little Red Riding Hood* and all the other tales of the big bad wolf remain etched in their psyche for a lifetime.

These children grow into adults and become buyers of resort property and as with the three little pigs, all that huffing and puffing and imminent peril of the house being blown down is the very stuff homeowners' nightmares are made of.

The biggest fear of these little red riding hoods is the wolf in sheep's clothing being a greedy developer taking buyers' money but not delivering the product.

Over the years I have written about the Phuket property scene, I have found that most developments have happy endings, or at least no

nail biting or hair pulling. There are many cases of buyer remorse, epic conflicts and troublesome market conditions, but for the most part things turn out okay.

That said, there are a growing number of cases that raise the hairs on the back of your neck. Stories akin to packs of wolves chasing little red riding hood deep into the tropical jungle and feasting on her corpse. Ugly, but true.

Many people watching the Phuket property scene wonder how some fairly shady characters have remained out of jail and many

of the stories never get the reporting they deserve.

Truth be known, the ability to bring these people to justice is one key factor, given the potential

financial and even criminal consequences for the media, and specifically journalists.

There is not a news outlet I know of that does not carefully consider publication of these types of investigative stories. And don't blame Thailand.

Consider the journalists being bashed and battered in Egypt or the WikiLeaks saga as just two examples. Another key factor is the huge gray area involved in foreign-dominated sectors. Precisely like the environment that property ownership is forced to operate in. The current lack of reforms in the sector doesn't help. Not everyone wants to live in a freehold condominium. Many buyers prefer homes or villas.

So you can say where there is a will, there's a way, and that as long as buyers and sellers continue to cohabit common terrain, the limited barriers to wolves leaves a foregone conclusion.

In so many instances, highly intelligent people get caught up in holiday mode and buy property without even a clue about what

they are paying for – no due diligence, no legal representation, no checking of the developer's track record or even consideration of the current market realities.

It's impossible to blame those taken advantage of, but it does take two to tango, and perhaps some dance lessons before entering the fray might be prudent.

All too often buyers go to lawyers when it's too late, realizing the developer has mortgaged their land, or did not own it in the first place or never had capacity to build their property despite full payments being made.

There has been an uptick in sob stories since the global market slumped and Phuket flattened. Now legal firms, who once were content with transactions, bring on the litigation or dispute-resolution teams.

And those rouge developers who thankfully represent a fledgling minority, perhaps that little thing called karma may be something they need to keep an eye on in the rear view mirror.

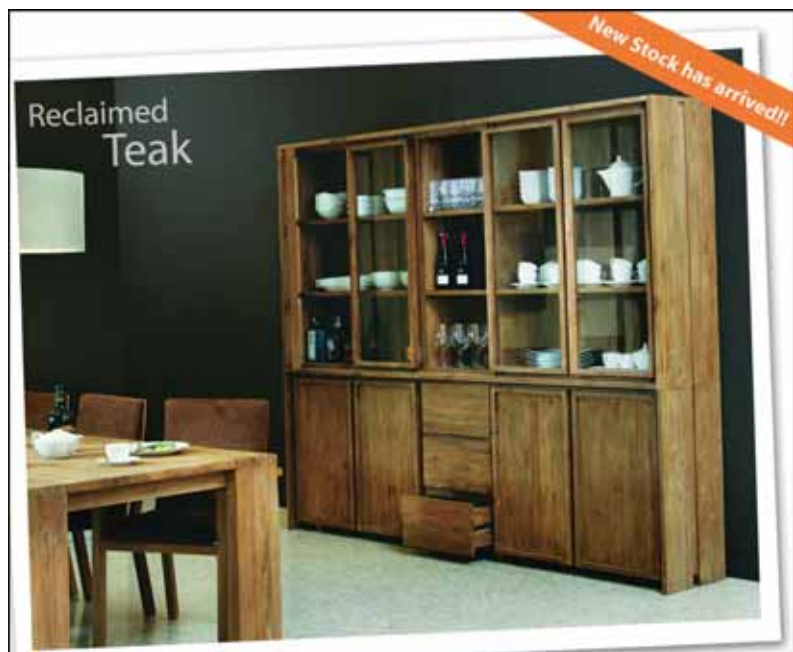
Wolves and red riding hoods look set to cohabit our island for years to come, and all the huffing in the world won't change that.

While for the most part Phuket's property trade works well, in some unfortunate cases it simply fails to deliver. Did I just hear someone knocking at my door?

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



**Property Watch**  
By Bill Barnett



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## In brief...

### Chic Condos going in Karon

PHUKET has recently experienced a wave of 2 million baht and above "sweet spot" condominiums cropping up. The latest addition is Chic Condominium in Karon.

Priced from just 2.49mn baht, units range from 45 square-meter studios to two bedrooms measuring 82sqm. The seven-storey development includes a swimming pool, fitness center and lobby. Launch prices are at a low-entry price of 55,000 baht per sqm.

### Laguna Beach Resort buyer's B14bn Asia move

THE buyer of the Laguna Beach Resort in Phuket, Real Estate Capital Asia Partners, said they will invest up to 14 billion baht in Asia this year.

The group remains bullish in Thailand on the heels of the recent launch in Bangkok of the M Society Condominium project.

Aside from Phuket and Bangkok the fund is active in Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.

### Anantara's new four star brand

UPSCALE chain Anantara are set to launch a second brand targeting the four star market.

According to *The Nation*, the group will launch a new brand by year's end. The name has yet to be announced.

This comes on the tail end of news that Minor acquired the majority shareholding of Australian-based midscale Oaks Hotels and Resorts.

### New move for Dewa

LARS Ydmark's boutique Dewa Resort in Nai Yang has teamed up with Zuppa F & B Concepts to launch a new innovative dining concept.

The Hong Kong restaurant consulting firm is headed by well known industry player Heinz Egli.

The market debut is expected within a few months.

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

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# Townhouses in tune with life

## Designing homes in Layan with low-density in mind

NEW low-density residential development Baan Tak r Kard on the west coast of Phuket is setting a new real-estate trend with affordable town homes with a bit of sass thrown in.

The Layan Beach development of 59 two-storey homes had already won over several buyers even before the project's official pre-sales launch on June 1, with more than 26 units (40 per cent) already sold.

The town homes have many distinct features to make them more appealing than conventional town houses, project director Torsak Jaichuen said.

"We have focused on giving as much space, convenience and privacy as possible to each homeowner, rather than focusing on maximizing profits by fitting as many units as possible into each row of houses," said Mr Torsak.



"Residential developments like Baan Tak r Kard are allowed a maximum of nine units per row, but we have kept the number of houses per row to between just three and six, giving residents more individual space and privacy while allowing for more green space and wider roads," he said.

This low-density approach also means that out of a total of 59 homes, 30 of them are corner units with extra green space, while also leaving enough space for a communal green area and up to two car-parking spaces for each home.

The homes are available in two types: Emotion One and Emotion Two, both of which include a variety of features for added convenience and luxury.

Tall and broad windows allow ample natural light on both floors. Each unit has an enclosed back garden on the lower floor, and back balcony on the upper floor, where the master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom.

A front-facing balcony doubles

as a roof for the car port and shades the lower-floor entrance and elevated bay window, which prevents people looking in from the outside while giving an unobstructed view to those inside.

Each has a tiled open-plan living and dining area with the kitchen tucked around a corner, and the upper floor is lined with polished wood floorboards.

Emotion One is the two-bedroom and three-bathroom option, which is currently on the market for 2.69 million baht during the June pre-sales promotion. Measuring five meters wide, the living space covers a total area of 108 square meters, not including a 18.4sqm driveway and a 12sqm garden.

The larger six-meter-wide Emotion Two homes have three bedrooms and three bathrooms – each of which can fit a king-size bed. The living space measures 125sqm, the driveway 23.6sqm and the garden 14sqm.

Baan Tak r Kard is located off Dom Jom Thow Road in Thalang, near the Laguna international resort community.

Developers Living Vis Ltd put the early success of the new project down to a transparent approach and attention to detail to ensure long-term cost-

saving convenience for home owners, coupled with the well-established reputations of the three directors: Sunchai Nuengsit (MBA), a member of the Judging Committee of the Thailand Property Awards and with 15 years experience as a manufacturer and distributor of cutting-edge solutions for environmental sustainability; Sokoun Chanpreda, multi-award-winning developer of Bangkok's iconic Bed Supper Club; and Pakhin Aungulsant (B Arch), an award-winning architect and leading design consultant for large-scale resort and residential projects in Phuket and around Asia with more than 20 years experience in the architecture industry. He won the BCI Asia Green Leadership Award last year.

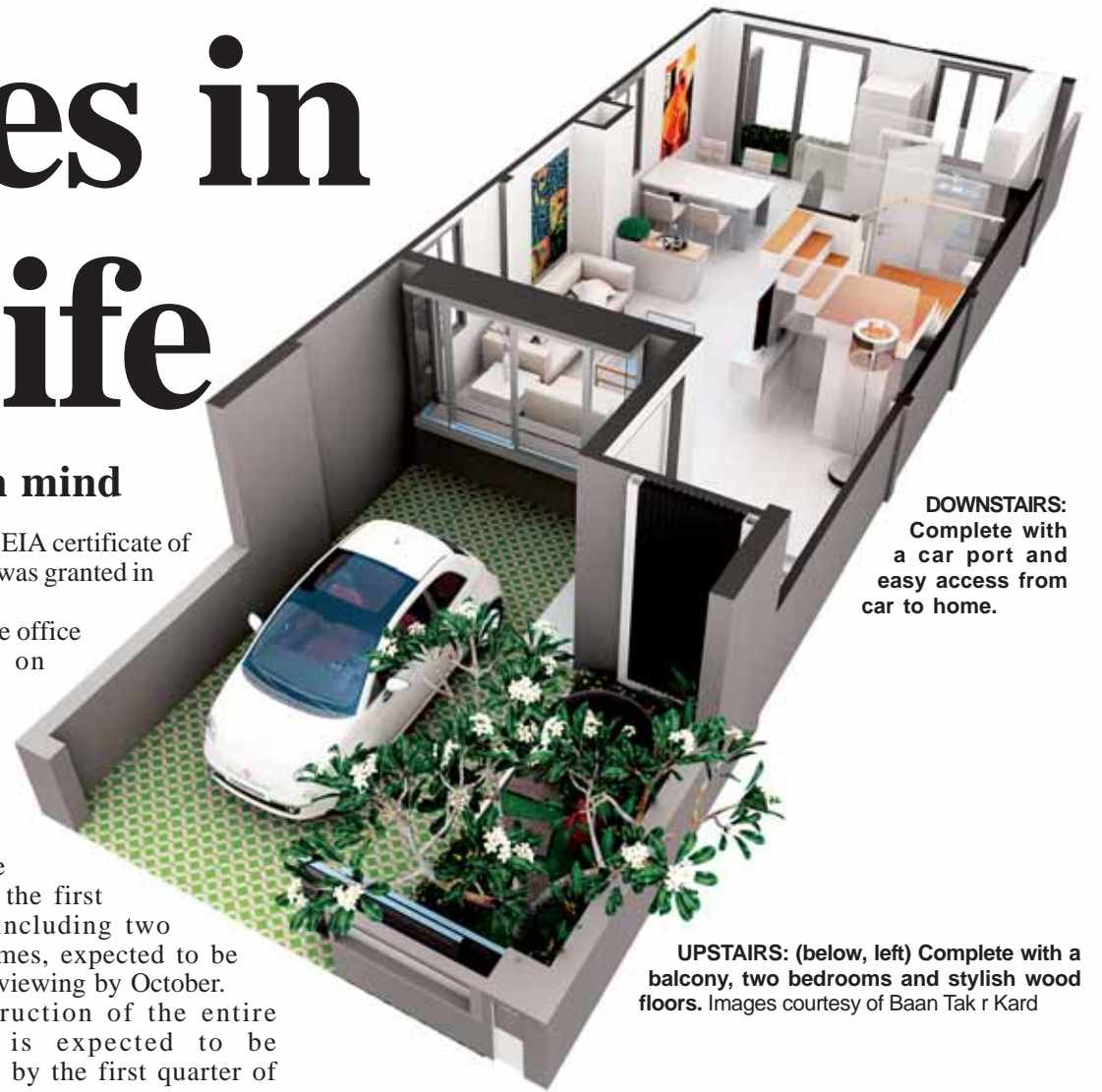
Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) granted pre-finance backing in

April and EIA certificate of approval was granted in February.

The site office opened on June 1 and the pilings are set to be put down from June 15, with the first homes, including two show homes, expected to be open for viewing by October.

Construction of the entire project is expected to be complete by the first quarter of next year.

– *Phuket Gazette*



**DOWNSTAIRS:**  
Complete with a car port and easy access from car to home.

**UPSTAIRS: (below, left)** Complete with a balcony, two bedrooms and stylish wood floors. Images courtesy of Baan Tak r Kard

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# Delving into the Dragon



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

ONLY a select few members of the cactus family produce edible fruit. In Thailand, you will only regularly encounter one that does – the dragon fruit (*hylocerus undatus*), known locally as the *pitaya*.

It is one of those tropical oddities that make your mind boggle in astonishment when you first encounter it at fresh markets – a unique rose-pink colored fruit covered with sparse, green scales like a dragon's armor.

The flesh, which is somewhat reminiscent of a kiwi or prickly pear, contains many crunchy black seeds and has a mild and slightly sweet flavor.

The *pitaya* is grown widely in Thailand. It is a cactus-like, climbing tree that can produce five or six crops a year. This may not be ideal for your home garden, but it is a valuable commercial proposition nonetheless.

In fact, Phuket is probably a bit too wet for the dragon fruit, since it flourishes in areas of relatively low rainfall. It blooms only at night, when its attractive flowers are pollinated by nocturnal creatures such as bats or moths.

But if you do decide to go for it, be encouraged by the fact that it grows readily from seed, and will germinate in as little as two weeks. Be careful not to over-water though, since, as is the case with all succulents, too much liquid will be the kiss of death for the plant.

If you're feeling adventurous, save a few seeds from your next *pitaya* purchase and give it a try.

Next, another cactus-like odd-



**MYSTICAL FRUIT:** The dragon fruit, a member of the cacti family, is widely cultivated in Thailand. Photos: Lucas Jans, Jeremy Weate and Eran Finkle

ity. It took me some time to identify it. Its name is *euphorbia lactea* or *yok* in Thai. A smallish plant, it is usually sold in pots at select nurseries. SuperCheap's garden section normally carries a few. The plant is grown commercially in Thailand, but not here in Phuket.

What is distinctive about this fellow is that its oval, pale green foliage is surmounted by a fleshy,

yellow and red-edged, semi-circular, fan-shaped crest, so large that it dominates the whole plant.

Other cultivars come in orange and variegated green and violet. It is like nothing else in the plant kingdom. I have two of these, one on my rockery and the other in a pot where it quickly lost its crest, thanks to over-zealous watering.

There are other, much bigger varieties of *lactea*, such as can-

delabra, but only this one, *thong kham*, has the distinctive crest.

Less eye-catching without its crowning glory, the plant will continue to grow and produce its attractive leaves, even if neglected. Each leaf has a spine underneath its axil.

Moreover, the sap is latex-like and sticky to the touch, a characteristic which at first suggests it must be a member of the *euphorbia* clan. It

can be propagated from cuttings, but as with most *euphorbias*, they should be left to dry out for a week or two before putting in a potting mix with plenty of sand.

Some succulents belong to the *crassulaceae* genus of sedums. They possess only shallow roots, but have particularly fleshy and often unusually colored leaves, which also close their pores during the day in order to retain moisture.

Known colloquially as "stone-crops", they are forgiving of poor soil, and some desert varieties can exist without water for a month. In fact, over-watering or over-feeding is a no-no. If you want to pot them, use porous containers such as unglazed terra cotta.

On the other hand, you can use the low-growing varieties as ground cover, or add the rosette-like flowers of some species to your rock garden to create variety.

One more succulent worth cultivating is the *mesembryanthemum*, a mouthful of a word meaning "midday flowering". It has long, pointed, juicy leaves, and spreads rapidly across the ground, producing masses of deep pink or white daisy-like flowers.

It will grow in the most unlikely places, including sand dunes in Spain, and it blooms almost continually in the sunshine. This succulent has yet to be spotted in Phuket though, which is a pity.

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



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**Phuket Gazette**  
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## Properties For Sale

### RAWAI/SAIYUAN VILLA



for sale or rent. 2-storey villa on 620sqm land. Living space: 220sqm. In quiet area. 3 bedrooms, office, open living area, western-style kitchen, bathroom, cable TV, telephone, ADSL, balcony, car parking, beautiful garden, swimming pool, jacuzzi. Must see. For urgent sale. Original price: 12.5 million baht. Now: 10.5 million baht. Contact Harrij. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

### VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

Villa for sale or rent. 2-storey with pool, 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, western kitchen, sala, electric gate, CCTV, security system and tropical garden on one rai (1,606sqm) of land. Email: nisaya@hotmail.com

### 4 RAI 2 NGAN 64SQ WAH

For sale. In Rawai, near Shell Museum, with 80m front. Price: 7.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: namjai land@csloxinfo.com

### COFFEE SHOP IN KATA SUPER OFFER

Nice little coffee shop in Kata with a good atmosphere. Comes with all furniture and equipment. For pics contact Morten. Price: 350,000 baht negotiable. Tel: 089-591 7249 (English & Thai). Email: morten.pasby@gmail.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATA



Price 5.4 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-476 4476.

### GOLF VIEW LAND IN KATHU

For sale: 17 rai with a view of Loch Palm golf course, connects to main road, Nor Sor 3 Gor. Price: 75 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: info@botanvillage.com

### CHUAN CHUEN LAGOON

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, fully furnished. In Chuan Chuen Lagoon, Koh Kaew. Price: 3.95 million baht. Contact Scott. Tel: 081-866 8716.

### 4-BEDROOM HOUSE



For sale. Due to owner's relocation. Price: 9.8 million baht with Chanote title. Located at Manik Baan Permsap Villas. For viewing, please call 080-520 2989.

### BRAND NEW CONDO



Mid Town, Royal Place Project, 2nd floor, 37sqm. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476 9612.

### RUBBER PLANTATION 48 RAI



For sale. Located on the main road to Laguna Phuket. Suitable for a housing project. 4 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Please contact owner's representative. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

### LAND IN PATONG

Nice plot of land for sale in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach in a very quiet, natural setting, ready to build, with access road, water and power. Cheap price for quick sale. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

### 5.6 RAI BEACH LAND 4 MILLION BAHT/RAI

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### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Several cheap plots of land for sale from half rai to 3 rai. Located close to Layan Beach or Mission Hills. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th

### EVERYTHING GOES

Land plots on eastern side of Phuket. Some have seaview. Price: 500,000 baht and above. Reasonable offers are considered. Financing is possible. Contact Chris. Tel: 086-942 1930. Email: chrisfisherii@gmail.com

### SALE NAI HARN RESORT

21 small villas, 8x4m pool jacuzzi, sauna. 3 bedrooms, owner's house. Up to 2 million baht return per year. Prime location. Set on 2 rai. Price: 27.5 million baht. Financing is possible. Contact Vincent. Tel: 087-892 6204.

### NEW VILLA FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, office/laundry room, 3 bathrooms, 2 of which are en-suite. Open-plan living area with western kitchen, garden, car parking, pool, sala. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 087-265 0118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

### 2 RAI OF FRUIT PLANTATION



Near Chalong Temple. Price: 9 million baht per rai, with Chanote title. Situated among nice villas in tranquil area. Has road and electricity. Good size for housing projects. Tel: 080-520 2989.

### THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-1194262, 081-356 9754. Email: peecho74@hotmail.com

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### TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG



Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: 10.2 million baht. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: penprapa2526@gmail.com

### HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peace and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

In Land & Houses Park Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-606 2284.

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

### PATONG APT

2-bedroom apartment for rent or sale. 87sqm unit on the 5th floor with sea view. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-891 6502. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

### PATONG TOWER FOR SALE

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**HOUSE IN THALANG**

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**BAAN SAIYUAN VILLA**

Detached house in Rawai 98sqm, 3 bedrooms. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

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

**3-BEDROOM HOUSE**

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

**SURIN BEACH**

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

**SEA VIEW LAND RAWAI**

Beautiful land plot with stunning sea view, adjacent to Mangosteen Resort, 864sqm, ideal for private villa. Price: 8 million baht only. Several other options, larger or smaller plots for urgent sale available. Tel: 076-289399, 081-536 5846 (English), 081-539 5373 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-289389. Email: phuketresorts@gmail.com

**BANGLA SHOPHOUSES**

Four shophouses on Bangla for sale or rent. Opposite Rico Hotel. 16.5sq wah each, 4 floors each. Tel: 081-825 8961 (English & Thai), 081-825 8969. Email: amorn21@gmail.com

**KOH YAO YAI LAND FOR SALE**

A small plot of land for sale: 3 rai and 22sq wah (4,888sqm) near Klong Son Beach. Asking Price: 4.5 million baht. Nor Sor 3 Gor access document included. Tel: 087-887 7133, 084-848 7474. Email: kasina\_navamachiti@yahoo.com

**NICE PLOT**

Urgent sale. Behind Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo Area). 1,364sqm. Original price: 7.2 million baht. Now: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

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

**BEST PRICE POOL VILLA**

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

**LAND AT PA KHLOK**

1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd 11km from Heroines' Monument, near Mission Hills. Price: 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

**LAND AT CHERNG TALAY**

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

**LAND 9 RAI FOR SALE**

Seaview land for all the main road to Promthep Cape. With Chanote title. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-693 9571.

**KATHU LAND 1.2 RAI**

Hillside lake view, offered as a whole with 2 separate Chanote titles. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 087-900 8445.

**30 RAI IN TOWN**

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

**PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG**

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

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Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Keaw. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.4 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

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**KATA BEACH POOL VILLA**

Large, Thai-designed, high quality villa. Price: 16 million baht, finance available. Tel: 081-091 8908 (English). Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

**2-STOREY HOUSE**

At Dusitburi, behind Rajabhat University. 51sq wah, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-970 5009.

**SALE CONDO KATHU**

1 bedroom 25sqm, with balcony, 1 bathroom, full furniture, freehold, Price 400,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 0991.

**LAND FOR SALE**

In Cherng Talay. 15 rai. Price: 10 million baht per rai. Contact K. Sunit. Tel: 081-787 9021.

**CHEAP LAND FOR SALE**

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

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**FRONT SEAVIEW**

Mountain view at the back. 288sqm of land (Nor Sor 3 Gor), Ao Por Marina. Price: 2.3 million baht. Tel: 081-979 1761.

**SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE**

Near Supalai Resort on the east coast of Phuket slope. A 3-rai plot with road and electricity access. Price: 3.6 million baht per rai. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

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## LOOKING FOR HOUSE

Looking for small house in Chalong, Rawai, or Naiharn. Max: 2.5 million baht. Email: bengtjansson@hotmail.com

## RAWAI/NAI HARN

Looking for a 3 bed house, needing work is ok, to a max 7.5m must be in 450+sqm plot ideally 600sqm. Must be in safe location, very close if not on concrete road. Email: patrick@mancity.net

2 BEDROOMS  
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4 person: 3 adult & child (10 years) coming in Phuket from 28 June to 17 July. We're need 2 bedrooms, kitchen, swimming pool and security. We're from Russia. We love Thailand. Email: margaret.adv@gmail.com

HOUSE IN RAWAI /  
NAI HARN

Looking for a house/villa in this area on plot of 400+ sqm, ideally 600sqm. Willing to pay up to 7.5 million baht. If it needs renovation, that is okay, depending on size and location. Needs to be close to a concrete road. Email: patrick@mancity.net

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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. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com See: www.banglasuites.com

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LUXURY HOUSE  
IN NAI HARN

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KATA ROOM  
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6k WiFi, maid, laundry, cable. Must be quiet & no bringing bar girls/boys home. Tel: 087-888 9089. Email: jaisabai@gmail.com

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APARTMENT

At The Sands Resort, 2-bedrooms, 126sqm, WiFi, cable TV, fully equipped. 12,000 baht/week 40,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-396639, 083-648 8820 (English). Email: rtmeakin@samart.co.th

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OR 9,000 BAHT/MONTH

Studio room, full fur, aircon, fridge, hot water, cable TV, Internet, maid, quiet place in Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 089-728 6242. Email: purimas\_re@yahoo.com

BEDROOM IN  
LARGE HOUSE

Shared house in a gated secure community. All amenities, long-term, non-smoker. Tel: 087-077 9816. Email: williet98248@hotmail.com

THE HEIGHTS  
KATA BEACH

Great rent for great tenant. 5-star luxury living. Panoramic ocean view. Massive deck. Amazing pool and gym. 2 bedrooms, 170sqm. Price: 65,000 baht/month. Dates negotiable. Contact Lillian. Tel: 083-833 6863 (English). Or send email: lilliancornell8@hotmail.com

PATONG MONTHLY  
WEEKLY DAILY

Rates: 9,000 baht/month, 500 baht/day and 3,000 baht/week OBO. Includes WiFi, cable/DVD, maid, 24hr reception. Jacuzzi for 99 baht/night. Tenants also get 99 baht/day scooter rate at Seablue Phuket, Soi Banzan. Tel: 076-344405, 089-474 6670. Email: seanthepilot@hotmail.com

## SEAVIEW BUNGALOW

Directly on Karon Beach, at a stunning location. For further details, please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

BRIGHT APTS  
CHALONG

Serviced studio apartments now available. Rates from 9,000 baht/month. Includes maid services, internet, TV, full furnishings. and a rooftop pool. Great location near Big Buddha. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-282 6221. Email: info@chalongapartment.com Website: www.chalongapartment.com

PATONG GRAND  
CONDO

Apartment for sale in Patong. 1 big room, bathroom, balcony. Fully furnished. Community pool. Low rent. I also have 3 rooms on the beach road. Tel: 087-882 1445. Email: peter\_bloom77@hotmail.com

ONE-BEDROOM  
CONDO APT RENTAL

Quiet & scenic 1-bed apartment with pool and gym. One minute drive to Tesco. Tel: +65-9-423 8994, 081-087 1312, 081-968 4644 (English). Email: drew.lok@gmail.com

## BEAUTIFUL HOUSE

Fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 toilet, big TVs, western kitchen, small garden. Long-term rent price: 33,000 baht per month. Short-term: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-627 0788, 084-848 7474. Email: kasina\_navamachiti@yahoo.com

1-BED APT AT SURIN  
BEACH

15,000 baht per month only, plus electricity. 50 sqm. Fully furnished, satellite TV, intern, pool. Great restaurant. Tel: 083-280 9100 (English), 086-746 4012 (Thai). Email: johanhultner@me.com For further details, please see our website at www.suringate.com

QUIET 2-BEDROOM  
HOUSE

Located on walled-in 1,500sqm garden on Soi Kok Yang, 150m from Da Vinci restaurant. Price: 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-474 8726, 087-986 0165. Email: markandjinda@hotmail.com

Accommodation  
WantedWANTED: HOUSE FOR  
6 WEEKS

Fully furnished, kitchen. Short term contract: 1.5 month lease. Start date: end of December. Rent: less than 20,000 baht per month. Email: retal9650@gmail.com

PROPERTY WANTED  
FOR PURCHASE

House wanted in Nai Harn area, for 500,000 baht or less. Contact Shaun. Email: leprechaun27@hotmail.co.uk

VILLA IN PHUKET  
AUGUST

Looking for accommodation in Phuket for 2 weeks from around 9 August (4 adults and 3 children - 4 bedrooms). Ideally a villa with pool. Send with information, photos and prices. Email: lallenthai@yahoo.co.uk

NEED HOUSE  
WITH POOL

We are looking to rent a house for one year starting June 15. If you have a house that is not available until July or August, we would still consider. Please email pics and details. Email: wj7891@gmail.com

SOUTH PHUKET  
HOUSE FOR 1 YEAR

I'm looking to rent a house for a year. Chalong area, though interested in anything in the south of Phuket. Minimum 2 bedrooms. 10,000 baht per month is my budget, though I can pay 6 months in advance. Tel: 076-384577, 082-283 5842 (English). Email: james.3dsolve@gmail.com

Holiday  
Homes & Villa  
Rentals1 & 2-BED POOL  
PENTHOUSES

Superb sea views in Kata, private rooftop pool and deck, BBQ. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

SUPERB 1 & 2-BED  
APARTMENTS

Penthouses with rooftop plunge pools, a terrace and kitchen also available for short or long term rent. Email: info@katagardens.net

STUNNING 5  
BEDROOM VILLA

Beautiful villa built to the highest standard for rent or sale. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 087-882 3486 (English & Thai). Email: paahlman@gmail.com

Household  
ItemsCHARITY SEEKS  
HOUSE ITEMS

Volunteers' flat needs a wardrobe, bedding, anything and everything for the kitchen, and a mattress for 153cm x 182cm bed. Tel: 076-278146, 080-693 4965. Email: hina@phukethasbeen.org

KING + QUEEN +  
SINGLE BEDS

3 beds with mattresses (king, queen and single) for sale at 10,000 baht. I also have the following items:

– Washing machine, only a year and a half old: 1,500 baht  
– Fridge: 1,000 baht  
– BBQ: 500 baht  
– Wood shelves for bedroom: 500 baht.  
Tel: 084-527 2172. Email: johann@dive-and-cruise.com

## HOME ITEMS IN SALE

I am selling:

– Sofa  
– Fridge  
– Table and 6 chairs  
All only 2 months old. It's worth 50,000 baht. Will sell for 20,000. Please email to: bigdario73@yahoo.co.uk

NEW HOUSE ITEMS  
FOR SALE

New sofa, new fridge, new TV LG (not flat screen), new table, 6 chairs. All worth 50,000 baht. Sell for 20,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Email: bigdario73@yahoo.co.uk

## ICE CREAM MAKER

Trisa of Switzerland, Gelateria. New price: 14,000 baht. Barely been used. 7,500 baht. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 087-892 2335. Email: moritz111@hotmail.com

Household  
ServicesPHUKET HOME  
MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction workers. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-1935 124. Email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

## DWF HOME SERVICES

Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc.  
Contact: K. Noi. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: DWF\_home\_services@hotmail.com

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## INDIGO PEARL Phuket

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

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

### CANDIDATE PROFILE

#### Training Manager

- Experienced in developing and delivering training programs in any service or hospitality environment
- Thai National with 3 to 5 years experience in a similar position at 5-star hotels
- Energetic, dynamic, and open minded
- Outgoing personality and passionate in developing people
- Possesses leadership and organization skills

#### English Teacher

- Thai National with 3 to 5 years experience in a similar position at 5-star hotels
- Energetic, dynamic, and open minded
- Outgoing personality and passionate in developing people with organization skills

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photograph to the address below

**Indigo Pearl:** Nai Yang Beach & National Park, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0)76 327 006, (0)76 327 015 Fax: +66 (0)76 327 338-9  
E-mail: [recruitment@indigo-pearl.com](mailto:recruitment@indigo-pearl.com)  
**www.indigo-pearl.com**

### LOOKING FOR NANNY

Thai family is seeking a nanny who can speak Chinese to our kids. Full or part time. Live out. Good salary. Tel: 089-1593239.

### NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female Caucasian to teach class of 10,12 and 3-5 years old children in Chalong. Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: [buds.span@yahoo.com](mailto:buds.span@yahoo.com)

### VIDEO PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Travel video production assistants wanted by Internet Travel TV station based on Phuket. Open training opportunities for beginners with knowledge of Photoshop or basic video cutting software. Flexible working hours and a good learning attitude is important for the internet multimedia work. Tel: 082-323 9315 (English), 082-784 7271 (Thai). Email: [andre@web62.com](mailto:andre@web62.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.web62.com](http://www.web62.com)

### TEACHER AT PSU IN HAAD YAI

Prince of Songkhla University, International College, Hat Yai Campus is looking to filled English-speaking lecturer position in social science. Please email cover letter and resume to [mark.v@psu.ac.th](mailto:mark.v@psu.ac.th)

### STAFF NEEDED

One maid for cleaning and one motorbike mechanic/repairman. Experience needed. Tel: 083-634 5772 (English & Thai). Email: [info@husiphuket.se](mailto:info@husiphuket.se)

### MAID AND GARDENER (THAI)

Wanted, with hotel experience for farang-owned house in Rawai. Tel: 081-797 7898.

### TEACHER WANTED

Charlempriakitsomdet-prasinakarin School Phuket is looking for a native English speaker to teach computer and English classes. Please email a cover letter and CV to [swpk\\_mlp@yahoo.com](mailto:swpk_mlp@yahoo.com) Contact Clarke for more details at tel: 084-446 3049.

### WEB DESIGNER

Experienced web designer required in Ao Nang, Krabi. Thai national only. Tel: 081-077 5698. Please send email to: [rbysouth@hotmail.com](mailto:rbysouth@hotmail.com)

### SCPLAW ASSISTANCE

Paralegal services. Qualifications:  
- Fluent in English, both written and spoken  
- Excellent English communication skills  
- Good attitude and works well under pressure  
Tel: 081-893 3212, 081-968 0230. Email: [Rodriguez.I@scplawassistance.com](mailto:Rodriguez.I@scplawassistance.com)

### MAID/NANNY WANTED

Required for live in-job near Boat Lagoon. Great salary. Please contact for more info. Tel: 080-208 7454.

### RECEPTIONIST/ FRONT DESK

Salary 9,000 baht per month. Thai female, English speaking, hotel experience. Tel: 076-344701, 085-523 1772 (English). Fax: 076-344488. Email: [info@patongsubinn.com](mailto:info@patongsubinn.com)

### MARKETING JOB

Looking to recruit English speaking Thais for our marketing company in Chiang Mai. For more info. Tel: 053-282079 or 085-473 4207 (English). Email: [sastravelmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:sastravelmarketing@gmail.com)

### SWEDISH STAFF

Part-time work for Swedish-speaking female 20-30 years old. Send your CV in English to [rainforestjob@gmail.com](mailto:rainforestjob@gmail.com)

### TEACHER WANTED

QSI Phuket has a vacancy for the position of teacher. For children 5-6 years old. Requirements: native English speaker with BA in education, proper certification and experience. This is not an ESL position. Write to [alan-siporin@qsi.org](mailto:alan-siporin@qsi.org) and [lbhaber@aol.com](mailto:lbhaber@aol.com)

### SALES REPS REQUIRED

Great employment opportunities with limited vacancies. We need enthusiastic motivated individuals to join our successful team. Full training, great commissions and start-up packages are available. Email [jengore@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jengore@inspire.net.nz)

### LEE MARINE CO LTD

Bookkeeper for the Service Department. Needs to have a high vocational certificate, Bachelor's degree in accounting, experience with QuickBooks, experience with MS Office software, good command of English, systematic thinker & team player, enthusiastic & hard-working. Tel: 076-225544. E-mail: [accounting@oicasia.com](mailto:accounting@oicasia.com)

### MANAGER FOR SPA/ MASSAGE

Our busy shop needs a mature manager. Fluent in Thai and English. Requirements: good communication skills, strong organizational skills, team leader. Hours: 2pm-12am 6 days a week. Call Kathy. Tel: 084-714 7179. Email: [bh2@balihaaimassage.com](mailto:bh2@balihaaimassage.com)



Asia's Leading Yacht Dealership and Brokerage since 1984

## Sales Executive – Luxury Boats

Simpson Marine is the leading boat brokerage company in Asia, based in Hong Kong. Currently operating in 6 countries, the business has experienced significant growth over the past 2-3 years, and now has 60+ staff throughout Asia.

Our Phuket office is looking for a Sales Executive to boost the sales team. Selling both new and used, power and sailing boats, you will work within a small sales team. We require someone who is highly motivated, customer oriented and results driven. You will have either previous marine sales experience, or strong sales results from another industry – perhaps even selling luxury products.

**You will be based in Phuket and will be paid a base salary, uncapped commission, as well as paid annual leave and medical insurance.**

#### Candidate Requirements

- An interest in, or current strong knowledge, of the marine industry.
- More than 3 years of direct sales experience, with the ability to close sales.
- Good negotiator.
- Computer literate.
- Very well organized, able to work in a fast pace environment and multi task.
- Ability to work without supervision or guidance.

Interested candidates should email their resume (English) in MSWord format/PDF to [hr@simpsonmarine.com](mailto:hr@simpsonmarine.com).

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Applicants not invited for an interview within 2 weeks, should consider their applications unsuccessful.

All information received will be kept in strictly confidential and only for employment-related purposes.

### 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)

### COOK / CHEF WANTED

Cook wanted for a private house in Surin. Must have good spoken English and a driving license. Good salary and benefits. Please contact Chitchamon. Tel: 086-282 9449 (English & Thai). Send email: [ct.trakarn@gmail.com](mailto:ct.trakarn@gmail.com)

### PHP PROGRAMMER

Wanted for full-time position in Chalong. Good salary. Tel: 084-628 2629. Send resume to [gianni@ictned.eu](mailto:gianni@ictned.eu)

### OFFICE SECRETARY

Real estate agency requires an office secretary. Experience is a plus. Tel: 076-384664, 087-898 8647 (English). Email: [mundo@ayudhya.net](mailto:mundo@ayudhya.net)

### 50,000 BAHT PER MONTH

For low season' we need English-speaking marketing personnel. Work permit and visas provided. Tel: 081-607 3434. Email for more information: [marcjunker\\_69@hotmail.com](mailto:marcjunker_69@hotmail.com)

### ADMIN + LITTLE ACCOUNTS

Young Thai female, good at English. Must be able to do with-holding fax forms and use Microsoft Office. Three-month trial period. Salary 12,000 baht per month. Email CV and photo to [joinourcompany@gmail.com](mailto:joinourcompany@gmail.com)



### Mövenpick Hotel & Resort

**Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket**  
**Mövenpick Residences Laguna Beach Phuket**

**Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts**, an international hotel chain of Swiss origin, is expanding its portfolio in Asia. With the constant growth, we created a demand for professional, creative and proactive employees and are looking for you to grow with our dedicated and progressive team.

**Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket**, centrally located on Karon Beach, features 359 rooms and villas.

**Mövenpick Residences Laguna Beach Phuket**, located on Bangtao beach, with 39 exclusive suites and penthouses, is the perfect place for families and friends to enjoy a holiday.

#### Spa Manager (Karon based)

- Holding a spa management certificate.
- At least 3 years experience in similar position in a 5 star hotel.
- Excellent English communication skills.
- Thai national, aged between 30 – 45.

#### Executive Chef (Bangtao based)

- At least 3 years experience in a 5 star hotel in same capacity.
- Creative, innovative and can deliver high quality product.
- Good command of English.

#### Executive Housekeeper (Bangtao based)

- At least 3 years experience in 5 star hotel properties in same capacity.
- Good command of English communication skills.
- Thai national, aged 35-45.

#### Restaurant Manager / Assistant F&B Manager (Bangtao based)

- At least 3 years experience in a 5 star hotel in same capacity
- Excellent command of English.

Effectively manage the restaurants by ensuring the following:

- Proactive and self-starter.
- Takes leadership.
- Communicates effectively and is able to coach others.
- Reliable and delivers on promises made.

#### Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

509 Patak Road, Karon BeachPhuket 83100, Thailand  
Tel: 076-396-139 Fax: 076-396-122  
E-mail: [kasama.nindaeng@moevenpick.com](mailto:kasama.nindaeng@moevenpick.com)  
Website: [www.moevenpick-phuket.com](http://www.moevenpick-phuket.com)

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# Phuket Gazette

As part of its continued expansion, the Phuket Gazette seeks two advertising sales representatives.

## Advertising Sales

- ▶ Thai, age at least 26, with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- ▶ Experience in sales and marketing
- ▶ Good command of spoken and written English
- ▶ Must have own transportation and driver's license
- ▶ Alert, self motivated and goal driven

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [Anna@phuketgazette.net](mailto:Anna@phuketgazette.net)

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

## MAID

Maid to work mainly in Kamala, need own motorbike. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: [info@husiphuket.se](mailto:info@husiphuket.se)

## TEACHERS NEEDED

Earth Language Training Centre requires native English speakers with teaching experience. Tel: 076-232398. Email: [siripanyaschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siripanyaschool@yahoo.co.uk)

## STAFF NEEDED

Thai staff needed for a smaller hotel (20 rooms) in Patong for work in Reception and Bar. Good salary. Tel: 076-349655, 085-691 7196 (English), 088-444 7840 (English & Thai). Email: [kim\\_partanen@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_partanen@hotmail.com)

## MAID AND GARDENER (THAI)

Wanted, with hotel experience also can look after the pool. For farang-owned house in Rawai. Tel: 081-797 7898.

## ARCHITECT DEVELOPMENT

Company, seeks employee who can write and speak English. An exciting opportunity for site planning and multi architectural building designs: retail, hotel and entertainment. Phuket Theme Park. Tel: 081-693 9372.

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Thai National Office Administrator required. Excellent written and spoken English, smart appearance, good organizational skills are essential. Tel: 082-277 9490.

## LOOKING FOR LAWYER

Paralegal and accountant work. Requirements: fluent in English, both written and spoken; good attitude; ability to work well under pressure. Tel: 081-893 3212, 081-968 0230. Email: [Rodriguez.l@scp-lawassistance.com](mailto:Rodriguez.l@scp-lawassistance.com)

## HOUSE MAID RAWAI

To look after pool villas. For more details. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: [Rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com](mailto:Rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com)

## WANTED FEMALE HEADCHEF

New restaurant looking for chef experienced in cooking Thai food, grill-bbq and pasta. Tel: 089-045 7847 (English). Email: [jonathan@urbanfood.biz](mailto:jonathan@urbanfood.biz)

## SALES CONSULTANTS REQUIRED

Club Asia Fitness requires Sales Consultants. Thai national - English speaking an advantage. Earn 20,000 baht ++. Tel: 076-354027, 087-275 3614 (English). Email: [info@clubasiaphuket.com](mailto:info@clubasiaphuket.com) Website: [www.clubasia.phuket.com](http://www.clubasia.phuket.com)

## PROJECT SALE EXECUTIVE

Responsibilities:

- Presenting and selling our products, preparing a variety of status reports, closings, follow-up and adherence to goals.
- Developing and implementing special sales activities in order to increase sales volume. Report directly to managing director.

Qualifications:

- Male, aged over 25 years old.
- At least 3 years experience in Sales and Marketing.
- Successful track record of selling high-end or luxury products.
- Very good presentation, negotiation and communication skills.
- Highly motivated and able to work under pressure.
- Excellent command of English language.
- Have driving license and own a car.
- Able to go upcountry.

Send your complete resume, expected salary and a recent photo to: [a.pueng@gmail.com](mailto:a.pueng@gmail.com)



Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is looking for a personal assistant to the Honorary Consul.

The qualifications are as follows:

- female
- university degree
- representative, independent, enthusiastic and discrete personality
- good knowledge of English (speaking and writing)
- computer experience (windows, Excel)
- eager to learn
- driving license preferred

Monthly salary around 15,000 - 20,000 baht, depending on work experience. No previous consular experience needed. The successful applicant will be trained on the job. A job description is available upon request.

If you are interested please send your resumé, including photo, to:

**Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**  
14/18 Dara Hotel Chao-fa road, Vichit, Muang Phuket  
Tel: 076-304 096-7  
Email: [dutchhpc@gmail.com](mailto:dutchhpc@gmail.com)

## Career Opportunity



VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

## Text & Layout Editor

### Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Work with text-editing program
- Art or imagination in design
- Team work and cooperating with related departments

### Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai National Only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

### Salary & Welfare:

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

Interested applicants apply at:

**VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)**  
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130  
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605 Email: [info@vsdma.com](mailto:info@vsdma.com)

## Project Manager (Phuket)

### Responsibilities:

- Manage and coordinate ongoing projects, estimate construction costs and prepare budget, quality control management

### Required Qualifications:

- Male, not over 45 years old. Southerner is preferred
- 7 years experience in construction management, or project management
- Strong planning and leadership skills, systematic thinking, and interpersonal skills

## Senior Property Consultant / Property Consultant (Phuket)

### Responsibilities:

- Responsible for property resale and leasing and other work assigned from the supervisor.

### Required Qualifications:

- 1-5 years experience in property resale or leasing.

### All position required:

- Thai Nationality
- Fluent in English
- Own car and driving license will be an advantage.
- Able to work 6 days a week.



**Plus Property Company Limited.**  
Please send resume to [nattha@sansiri.com](mailto:nattha@sansiri.com), [chuthamas@sansiri.com](mailto:chuthamas@sansiri.com)

For more information please contact 0 2201 3173, 0 2201 3072

## LIMITLESS DISCOVERY AWAITS

Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort, part of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, invites candidates for the following positions:

- Executive Chef
- Assistant Laundry Manager
- Chef de Partie (European Cuisine)
- Sous Chef (Cold Kitchen)
- Guest Relations Manager (Thai)
- English Teacher (Thai)

An exciting career awaits creative professionals along with a competitive benefit package.

Send resume with recent photo to: [hr.phuketbeach@lemeridien.com](mailto:hr.phuketbeach@lemeridien.com)

Le MERIDIEN

LE MERIDIEN  
PHUKET BEACH RESORT  
29 Soi Karon Nui, Karon, Muang Phuket 83100, Thailand  
T +66 76 370 100 F +66 76 340 479  
[lemeridien.com/phuketbeachresort](http://lemeridien.com/phuketbeachresort)

CHIC

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DISCOVERY

## Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.

Ultimate luxury villas developer in Phuket is seeking

## Accountant 1 Position

### Duties and responsibilities

- Responsible for the accurate and timely preparation and reporting of financial results
- Manage the day-to-day accounting bookkeeping
- Manage intercompany transactions, fund transfers and, monthly intercompany confirmation
- Provide ongoing support to the Chief Accountant
- Maintain fixed assets register
- Journal entries: recurring/reversing types for depreciations, prepaid expenses, fixed or variable accruals, miscellaneous corrections, transfers and mirror accounting
- Closings: Prepare trial balances/ general ledgers/cost center analysis. Reconciliation of all balance sheet accounts - Check for relevance of account details
- System period closing: Monthly, yearly and related postings
- Timely reconciliation of accounts
- Responsible for all Taxes, VAT, withholding tax submissions to the Revenue Department
- Consolidate financial statement

## Office Messenger 1 Position

### Duties and responsibilities

- Coordinate with local authorities and contract 3rd party couriers for augmented messengerial service
- Perform deposits of physical money into authorized banks
- Perform courier services of documents to addressees
- Deliver corporate gifts to clients and business partners during specific holidays
- Provide clerical tasks as may be requested by the supervisor or General Manager

### Skills and specifications

- Has adequate comprehension skills to understand directions
- Has a thorough knowledge of the ins and outs of Phuket Province to find the way to companies and the location with whom the company deals with
- Is highly trustworthy in handling fiduciary matters for bank deposits

**Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.**

222 Moo 7, Paklock Sub-district, Talang District, Phuket Province 83110 Thailand  
Email: [annie@campbellkane.com](mailto:annie@campbellkane.com), Mobile: 081-4190450-3, F: 076-529673

campbell kane

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## Articles For Sale

### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Stainless steel water filter, 35 liters. Nano 750-liter water tank. Samsung security system with 4 cameras. 22-inch monitor, 24-inch Sanyo TV, 3.1 clinch fridge and many other items. Tel: 086-281 8883.

### PEPPER SPRAY

Large (60g) 600 baht. Lipstick size 400 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

### MOVING! ITEMS FOR SALE

- Electrolux Coffee Machine, auto-drip coffee (includes filters): 500 baht

- Hanabashi Electric Stovetop Cooker: 500 baht

- Royal Phuket Marina Health Club one month membership: 6,000 baht value, open to any offers!

Tel: 082-804 5506. Email: brettssouth@gmail.com

### FEEL FREE TRI-YAK

3-person sit-on-top kayak. Includes 3 padded nylon seats and 2 paddles. Red, white and blue. Good condition. Price: 20,000 baht. Tel: 076-326867, 087-275 3614 (English). Fax: 076-326867. Email: tradexpat@hotmail.com

### JACUZZI FOR SALE

Mobile spa in good condition, used only for 1 year. Price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-667 1637 (English & Thai).

### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE 2

30 glass shelves, brackets, scrub, bed, cashier table, nail table, 2 massage chairs, auto machine, electric paraffin machine, many other items for massage and beauty parlor. Tel: 086-281 8883.

### FAX/COPIER/ ANSWERING MACH

Panasonic KX-FC971CX fax/copier/digital answering system with two phone handsets (one cordless). Caller ID. Speakerphone. Intercom. Records Conversations. Can take up to six handsets. Polyphonic ring tones. Used very little. 1,200 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600 (English). Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

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Tomex TM-951 cake mixer with dough hooks. Converts to hand held for mixing sauces or drinks. Two high-quality cake pans (heart shaped). 1,950 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

### WASHING 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

### IPAD1 WIFI 32GB

Good condition. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@gmail.com

## Bar & Restaurant Equipment

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### ABSOLUTE BARGAIN

Absolute bargain: Bangla beer bar for sale for 1.25 million baht firm price. Located in a popular soi off Bangla Road, the bar comes with all fixtures and fittings and a 3-year, 2-month lease already paid. The monthly rent is low. This bar has made me so much money over the past 3 years I have owned it, and has also been a lot of fun. I am only selling it now as I am getting married and moving permanently abroad. Serious inquiries only please. Contact Bell. Tel: 084-843 2667. (Thai & English). Email: patty.bamert@gmx.net

## Bulletins

### 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@phuketiwc.com

## 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  
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)  
Tel: 086-8440460 Sae, 085-4647450 Sae

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

## Business Opportunities

### NEW MOTORBIKE SHOP FOR SALE

Great location on Surin Beach main road. Low rent: 7,500 baht per month. Ten motorbikes. All included for just 600,000 baht. Tel: 085-793 3811 (English & Thai). Email: niphaphon.phetsut@gmail.com

### BAR FOR SALE

Patong OTOP, very cheap, fully furnished, TV, fridge, good location. Only 990,000 baht. Tel: 086-278 5759 (English & Thai), 084-342 6704. Fax: 076-349751. Email: sukhontip@hotmail.com

### BAR BANGLA ROAD

Soi Tiger. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 082-810 9670.

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6 beds, 3 chairs. In Kata. Available for viewing. Tel: 082-646 1698.

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### ROOFTOP RESTAURANT FOR RENT

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### BAR POOL HOTEL/ RAWAI BEACH



5-year lease: 3 million baht (\$100,000) or 800,000 baht yearly rent. No key money. Bar, pool, hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, WiFi, cable TV. 60 meters from the beach. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE WITH LIFT

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- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
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- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
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### 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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- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

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#### SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

#### Crossword puzzle:

1	S	2	A	3	R	4	A	5	H		6	S	7	N	8	A	9	P		10	M	11	A	12	R	13	E
14	E	L	O	P	E					15	A	C	R	E						16	I	G	O	R			
17	C	A	M	E	L	O	P	A	R	D									19	S	O	D	A				
20	T	R	E			21	I	L	I	A			22	I	23	M	A	G	E	S							
				24	A	C	E	D				25	G	M	A	N											
26	S	27	T	28	A	R	E	S			29	T	R	E	S	T		30		31		32					
33	T	I	M	E	D					34	K	W	A	N			35	H	E	A	T						
36	I	T	O	O						37	A	N	E	N	T			38	R	A	T	A					
39	N	A	R	C						40	N	E	R	D			41	E	O	S	I	N					
42	K	N	E	E		43	D	E	E	P					44	I	M	P	E	N	D						
					45	N	O	U	S				46	E	S	P	Y										
47	M	48	A	49	S	T	E	R			50	E	C	T	O			51	M	52	S	53	N				
54	A	P	E	R						55	Y	E	L	L	O	57	W	C	A	K	E						
58	L	I	L	I						59	S	O	S	A			60	E	R	N	I	E					
61	T	A	L	C						62	M	E	E	T			63	R	I	A	N	T					

#### Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. Waltzing Matilda, 2. Hiccups, 3. Canadian,
4. Florence, 5. Polynesia, 6. Lapland, 7. Ordinary people (no magic), 8. Michael Jackson, 9. Ultra Heat Treatment, 10. Fantastic Four, 11. Heroin,
12. Sergeant Peppers, 13. College of Cardinals, 14. Great Expectations

## Aircraft For Sale

### CESSNA 172 (IN USA)

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For more information at  
Email: pauls@import  
solution.net

### TECNAM P-92

-Price: 1.5 Million baht  
-Registration: U-B08  
-Year of Manufacturing: 2002  
-Equipment: Full standard equipment  
-Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Aircraft is based at  
Klong 15  
Contacts: Tharee  
Tel: 081-840 8418  
Email  
kainui911@hotmail.com

### 1995 PIPER MALIBU JETPROP DLX

S/N: 4636005. HS-RGR. SNEW Airframe 1,410hrs. Engine 501hrs. Engine trend monitoring, Garmin MX20 moving map, 6 seats. Price: 35 million baht. Contact Dana Whorton, Minor Corporation Public Company Limited.

Tel: 081-937 1443.  
Please contact for more information at  
Email  
dana\_wt@minornet.com

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### TRIKE - FLASH 1

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## Aircraft Sharing

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Contact Nathan  
Tel: 081-917 8743  
Email: nchristoff@litehouseasia.com

### DIAMOND DA-20 KATANA

Registration: HS-AXL. Year: 1995. Equipment: IFR, Dual Nav/Com, ADF. Engine: Rotax 912F3 (700hrs SMOH). Propeller: Hoffman V352F (10hrs SMOH). TTAf: 4,660hrs. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Price: 2.25 million baht (half share also available). Aircraft currently based at Nok Airfield in Chiang Mai.

For more info and pics  
Contact Jon Malnick  
Tel: 084-222 3945  
Email:  
jonm66@me.com

### DIAMOND DA-20 KATANA (1/3 SHARE)

1/3rd share for sale at price to be negotiated. Registration: HS-JON. Built 1995. Full standard equipment. Engine is Rotax 912A3 with 638 hrs. Aircraft has recently undergone full 600hrs check and has hardly flown since due to waiting for new registration papers. Propeller: Hoffman V352F. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Aircraft is based at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra, Chonburi.

Contact Edwin Wouters  
Tel: +62 819 0842 4618  
Email:  
eawouters@yahoo.com



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N479GE - USA  
I-ECCE - Italy  
G-BVNL - UK



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Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
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Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
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## Sport

# Phuket gets first bite of the cherry

By Neil Quail

PHUKET has been given the honor of hosting the very first Prime Minister's Football Legends Charity Cup match.

Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) will open its gates at 3pm on Sunday, October 2 for the eagerly anticipated match between the Legends of Liverpool and the Legends of Thailand, with kick-off at 6pm.

"The date change is worthwhile as it allows us to invite even more famous former Liverpool football stars to Thailand to play in the matches," said Cris Rosenbergs, Director of North Scoreboard, owner and creator of the Football Legends concept.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for people in Thailand to see these stars up close and watch them in action," he added.

Supachalasai Stadium in Bangkok will host the decisive return leg and will kick off at 7pm on Wednesday, October 5. Gates at the stadium will open at 3pm for spectators.

The Liverpool Legends squad is expected to include Anfield heroes such as John Barnes, Ian Rush, Vladimir Smicer as well as Patrick Berger and Steve McManaman.



## The Football Legends Tour schedule:



<b>September 30:</b>	Meet and greet Phuket fans. Venue to be confirmed (6pm-9:30pm)
<b>October 1:</b>	Community Football Clinics at TSLC for children aged eight to 15 years old (11am - 4pm)
<b>October 2:</b>	Legends of Liverpool v Legends of Thailand at TSLC; gates open 3pm
<b>October 4:</b>	Community Football Clinics in Bangkok for children aged eight to 15 years old; meet and greet Bangkok fans (11am - 4pm)
<b>October 5:</b>	Liverpool v Legends of Thailand at Supachalasai Stadium; gates open at 3pm.

The *Phuket Gazette* is also a media sponsor for the event and will keep readers updated with any information as it is released. Gazette readers will also have the opportunity to win VIP tickets for the matches over the following months. For more information visit [FootballLegendsTour.com](http://FootballLegendsTour.com), visit their Facebook page or follow them on Twitter.

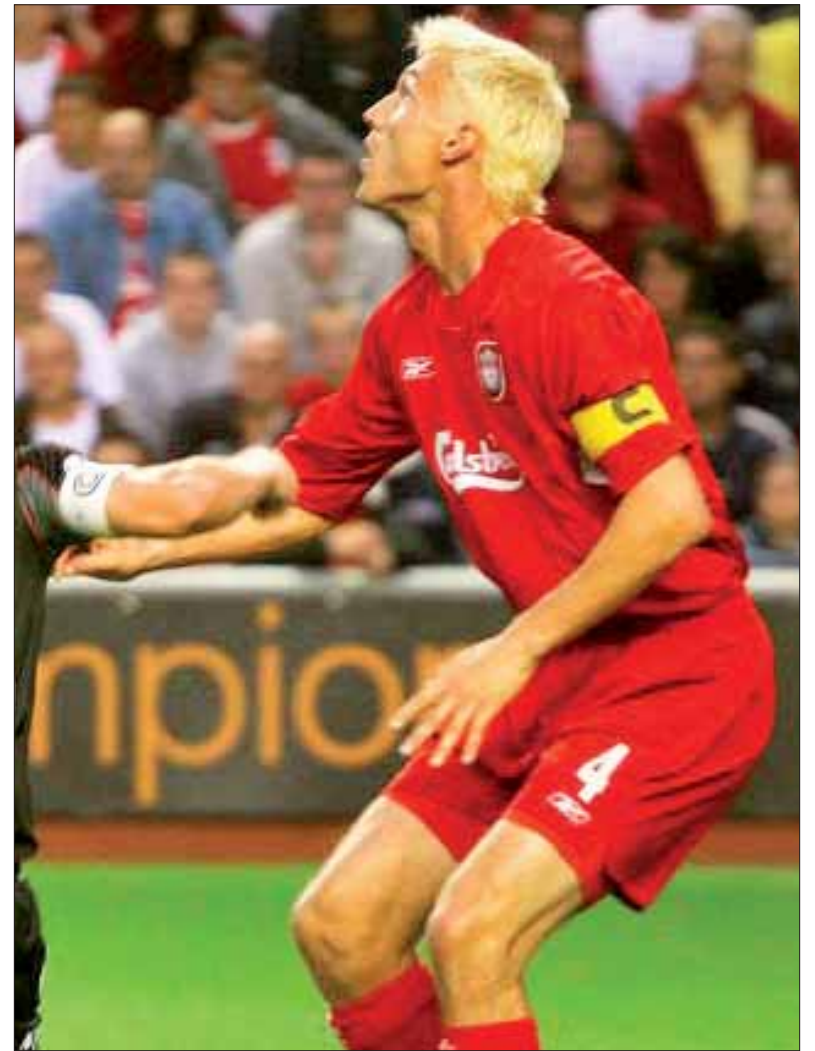
Robbie Fowler and Sami Hyypia are also in the line-up, both only recently having hung up their professional boots.

Two-time European Cup winner Alan Kennedy has taken the role of Tour Manager and will spend the next few months preparing his team and promoting the week-long event.

"The Football Legends Tour is

a great concept and I know the former Liverpool players are excited about coming to Thailand to play," he said.

"I'm sure the two friendlies will be great spectator events and that we are able to support the local community and the Phuket Youth Football Home Foundation through this event is fantastic," he added.



HEADS UP: Sami Hyypia will join the Liverpool Legends in Phuket. Photo: Aliih

Thailand's formidable challengers will be managed by the legendary Piyapong Pue-on and coached by Kiatisak Senamuang, also known as "Zico" – two of the most famous footballers ever to play for the Thailand's "War Elephants".

"This is a great opportunity to help a worthy cause and enjoy some great football," Piyapong told the *Phuket Gazette*.

The eight-day tour includes a series of events, public appearances and football clinics in Phuket and Bangkok, (see table) with the tour raising funds for the Phuket Youth Football Home Foundation.

Both games will be aired live on TrueVisions' TrueSport 2 channel as the media broadcasting partner for the tour.

# Plaudits poured on FOBISSEA games



BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM: Girls football at FOBISSEA Primary Games.

HEAVY downpours could not dampen spirits at the Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia (FOBISSEA) Primary Games, held at the British International School (BIS), Phuket last weekend.

Organizers, participants and visitors hailed the event as an overwhelming success. Activities ran over three days from Thursday to Saturday with schools representing Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand in attendance.

Headmaster of BIS, Professor George Hickman voiced admiration for his pupils' achievements.

"What an outstanding success

it was. Not only did our students perform well in the competitions, but as usual, they were exemplars of conduct and behavior of which we can be justly proud," he said.

Organizer and head of Physical Education at BIS Phuket, Kate Newns, said before the event that what she wanted all the students, parents and coaches to go home happy.

"FOBISSEA 2011 has been a huge success as a result of all those students, staff and parents who gave up their time to make it happen."

Swimming was first on Thursday's card, and BIS proved its worth as a hatchery for aquatic talent with 11 gold medals being achieved.

Track and Field followed after lunch and BIS were again represented well on the podium with another seven well deserved golds.

T-ball set up Friday morning and the children of BIS were just pipped to home-base for gold.

Football consumed all of Saturday, and a fine display of skills from the mud-caked boys and girls entertained the large crowds. BIS teams emerged with three bronze

medals at the tournament's end.

Interest in the event stretched as far away as Japan. BIS Phuket has very strong relationships with the country through its Japanese student community.

Parents of BIS students have regularly hosted fund-raisers for victims of the natural disaster that struck Japan's coast in March.

The importance of FOBISSEA to the Japanese community was highlighted by the attendance of an accredited FIFA photographer, Motoko Akashi, who recorded

the event for Japanese media.

Professor Hickman closed out the event with some final congratulatory words.

"I wish to highly commend and sincerely thank every single person for going above and beyond the call of duty to make this another memorable event at BIS Phuket," he said.

– Neil Quail

For a full list of results contact: Christophe Espouy E: [cespouy@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:cespouy@bisphuket.ac.th)



BATTER UP: BIS on their way to a T-ball silver medal last Friday.









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# FC Phuket scrape a point

By Neil Quail and  
Michael DesPortes

FC PHUKET'S dismal away record continued last Sunday with a lucky draw against Air Force United of Bangkok.

The 1-1 result keeps FC Phuket ninth in the Thai Premier League (TPL) division one and extends their winless away streak to eight.

Undeterred by missing out on two points, FC Phuket's new coach Sompong Wattana is still finding his feet, but is hopeful his team's form will improve.

"This draw is a satisfactory result for me as I have only been coach of this team for five days and we are still focusing on the tactics that suit our players best," he said.

The match was full of urgent passing and spirited challenges with both teams aware that wins are now crucial.

Early scoring opportunities were created by AF Utd with Yao Herman directing his header wide from a well-directed Yutana Jongnok free-kick just after three minutes.

Minutes later, FC Phuket's debutant goalkeeper Leuchar Juntuang settled his nerves with a solid save from Ratchapark Duangfah.

FC Phuket were dominant in possession and began hitting the target midway through the first half.

Sarach Yooyen's low rasping drive on 19 minutes was bound for the back of the net, but AF Utd goalkeeper Daewara Korrid got down quickly to deny the FC Phuket player.

During the latter stages of the half, FC Phuket's Watcharapong Junngam almost scored against his

## Other Division One results last weekend:

### Saturday

Samut Prakan 1-4 Bangkok Utd  
Saraburi 5-2 RBAC  
Chainat 1-1 Suphan Buri  
Chantaburi 0-0 JW Rangsit

### Sunday

Chiang Mai 0-2 Rajapracha  
Bangkok FC 1-2 PTT Rayong  
Thai Honda 1-3 Songkhla FC  
Buriram FC 3-0 BBCU

Team	P	Pts
Buriram	16	39
BBCU	16	39
BUFC	16	31
Chainat	16	30
Songkhla	15	29
Saraburi	16	25
PTT Rayong	15	24
Rajapracha	16	24
Phuket	14	20
J.W. Rangsit	15	19

former club, but he too was denied by in-form Korrid.

Ratchapark Duangfah almost put AF Utd ahead going into the break only to see his header on target cleared by the head of FC Phuket's Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre.

Two minutes into the second half, FC Phuket's Nithirot Sokuma

was shown a yellow card for hauling back an AF Utd player by his shirt. His professional foul was punished further when Chakri Kaednadin patiently prepared the AF Utd set-piece from 30 meters out on Phuket's left touchline.

Kaednadin weighted his delivery towards FC Phuket's near post as AF Utd's Taiwan, already moving to the ball, edged in front of FC Phuket's bewildered defense to direct his header into the top right corner, billowing the net on exactly 48 minutes.

Niran Puntong responded well for FC Phuket by crushing a 25m free-kick, but Korrid again denied the visitors.

After 61 minutes FC Phuket's

Leuchar decided to get in on the dazzling goalkeeping display by brilliantly parrying a thundering shot from Taiwan to give FC Phuket a chance to counter-attack.

A low cross from the left 30 seconds later found the outstretched boot of Watcharapong, who directed the ball into the net at Korrid's near post.

How Abdoul Coulibaly was not flagged for being ahead of AF Utd's last man by a good meter is a mystery, but neither a question or demonstration was raised.

The last 30 minutes were fraught with clumsy tackles and pot-shots at goal. Four of the seven yellow cards awarded came in the last 15 minutes, three of those shown in extra time.

It was, however, a night for the net-minders. Koorid and Leuchar both knowing their efforts earned a point for their beleaguered teams.

FC Phuket coach, Sompong Wattana offered a "glass half-full" comment to sum up the outcome.

"Taking a goal away from this match means that we have not come away empty-handed. From here we just need to focus on finding the right direction for the team as a whole and hope that we



Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre is hoping for a change in FC Phuket's fortunes.

can make a comeback," he said.

Korean import, Choi Jaewon is reported to have terminated his contract with FC Phuket last Friday, stating family concerns as his reason for leaving the club.

Buriram FC, who defeated FC Phuket at Surakul Stadium last week, exchanged positions at the top of the league with Big Bang Chulalongkorn FC (BBC FC) after a 3-0 home win.

Equal on 39 points, Buriram are now ahead of BBC FC on goal difference, +10 and +6 respectively.

FC Phuket's next game is at home against Chainat FC (Hornbills) on Saturday, June 11. Kickoff is at 6pm.

Chainat gained promotion to league division one with FC Phuket last year, but are enjoying a less turbulent campaign in fourth place.

On Wednesday June 15, FC Phuket take on division two side Bangkok Christian College FC in the 2011 Toyota League Cup.

Kickoff is scheduled for 6pm. Any changes will be informed through the *Gazette online*.

## Ali thieved by Sea Kirins

FORMER FC Phuket player Diarra Ali will once again call Surakul Stadium home.

The star striker was a key player in FC Phuket's promotion to the Football Association of Thailand Division 1 last December.

FC Phuket Secretary Sorranan Sanae said, "Diarra will play his last game for Muangthong United at the end of June. He will then be available to play from July 10 onwards for FC Phuket."

Diarra, from Ivory Coast, scored his first goal for FC Phuket when they defeated Pattani 3-0 in a Division 2 match in March of last year.

Soon after, injury put Diarra out of action for several games.

His comeback the following July was far from sensational.



KEY PLAYER: Ivorian Diarra Ali

After Diarra missed a penalty, his team went down 2-0 to Yala FC.

A Diarra goal in August helped his beloved FC Phuket claim a 2-1 victory over Satun and the following week he scored again when FC Phuket beat Hatyai FC.

Diarra's tally increased during the Toyota Cup campaign when he scored both goals in their 5-2 aggregate loss to Osotsapa Saraburi.

After the cup campaign and their victory over Phang Nga, FC Phuket downed Rayong FC 2-0 in the December promotion play-offs to Division 1.

Both goals came from the boot of Diarra – the first a penalty, the second a long-range strike.

Diarra announced his move to Thai Premier League side Muangthong United in January.

But after just five months, and with the reason for his sudden return still unknown, Diarra is getting ready to don the green jersey of FC Phuket once more.

FC Phuket fans will no doubt welcome the news at a time when their team's on-pitch performances are sorely lacking in substance.

– Neil Quail

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# Lomas game for UK tour

By Neil Quail

TEN YOUNG rugby players are preparing to leave Phuket next week for the trip of a lifetime.

On June 18, pupils from Baan Sai Nam Yen School in association with the Asia Center Foundation and the Phuket Lomas rugby team will fly to the UK to play in the Manchester Touraid Rugby Festival.

An eight-team tournament will be played, and include the Phuket Lomas from Thailand and other teams from India, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago. Four teams from the UK will also compete.

The Lomas selection will also have the privilege of meeting English Premiership rugby side Sale Sharks during their visit.

In addition the boys will be welcomed by the second highest try scorer for Wales, Gareth Thomas and South African Rugby World Cup winner, Chester Williams.

Touraid corporate sponsorships allow for children from around the world to travel

and participate in activities with their hosts while staying with families involved with the host schools or clubs.

The hope is that the children will form a healthy bond with their hosts and continue the relationship as they grow older.

On arrival in Manchester the Phuket rugby team will be met by a Touraid liaison officer. They will also be met by a representative from the Wright Robinson Sports College (WRSC), host school for the Lomas. From there they will then be introduced to their host families.

## The week's schedule

**Monday:** (AM) Activities day at WRSC. (PM) Mini-sports day.  
**Tuesday:** Trip to Manchester United's Stadium  
**Wednesday:** Rugby training at Broughton Park RFC  
**Thursday:** Touraid Rugby tournament at Broughton Park RFC  
**Friday:** Trip to Manchester City's Stadium  
**Saturday:** Farewell dinner at Midland Hotel



TEN OF THE BEST: Phuket Lomas rugby team is ready for international tournament.

Saturday is set aside for the host families and their guests before attending a farewell dinner at the Midland Hotel. Each of the visiting teams will present a cultural performance to the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councilor Harry Lyons.

Touraid have provided for the flights, visas and accommodation and some funds were raised at the recent Rugby 10s. The Aussie Bar and Island Furniture have also helped to pay for traveling kit and formal wear for the boys. Spikee sports from

Bangkok have donated playing kit.

The Phuket Lomas traveling ten are: Banthoon (Pluem) Homruen, Siwakorn (Meeh) Settha, Apichai (Hut) RutsoFah, Narongchai (Mad) PhoblarpAr, Nanthawat (Bank) Sittichai, Songwoot (Night) Intanon, Sirirat (Fai) Tipjarune, Kritsada (Ball) Kanthiphan, Napat (Book) Supreechawutti-pong and Sombat (Nick) Phoenhiran.

Accompanying the group are Panom Prom-MaPanom, Somchai Sriwichai, and ACF Director Roelien Muller.

## RSA scholarship program

# Rugby cock-a-hoop

SOUTH African rugby club Kriel Roosters strengthened existing ties with Phuket last week by inking a deal to develop a scholarship program for promising youth players.

The Kriel Roosters, based in Pretoria, have been regular participants at the Phuket International Rugby 10s tournament, winning in 2010 and reaching the finals of this years competition.

Many teams remarked on the increase in quantity and quality of Thai players during the recent event. Several individuals must take credit for this, including Pat Cotter, Mike Whippy, Richard Folds, Panom Prom-MaPanom and Somchai Sriwichai.

Organizer of the 10s, Pat Cotter recalls speaking to Rudi Koekemoer and Gerhard De Wet, Kriel RFC committee members, about the difficulties in taking the sport further.

"I mentioned the lack of opportunities here in Phuket for our kids with talent to get the quality coaching and game-time required for them to progress. Ideas formed and we agreed a scholarship would be fantastic, whereby we could send talented kids abroad to develop their skills," said Pat.

Procrastination is a trait not associated with South African's, and by the tournaments last night, Rudi and Gerhard had discussed options with other committee members and approached Pat with an offer.

Kriel RFC proposed taking two promising players to work and train in South Africa for three months. If Kriel coaches and players see potential during the trial



ROOSTERS WANT YOU: Pat Cotter.

period then the club will extend their stay and continue their development, Pat said.

The hopeful talents will receive a 90 day visa for South Africa and earn their keep with Gerhard on one of his many farms. Accommodation, meals and a wage will be provided. The boys will train with the club three times a week and will eventually get an opportunity to play second team rugby.

This will be an ongoing program which will give younger players something real and exciting to aim for.

Airfare costs must be raised for the two rugby hopefuls. Companies or individuals interested in becoming involved should contact Pat Cotter. E:phuketrugby@gmail.com

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# Discover Hong Kong, like never before

It's been quite awhile since my last group trip. We haven't seen each other in almost a year, each busy with their own lives in Phuket. That was why we made sure that this trip was to be a trip to remember. Deciding was easy, because it was a place all of us wanted to go - and that was, Hong Kong.

## Our first night

The moment we touched down in Hong Kong was already 8.35pm, but since Hong Kong is famous for its attractions after sundown we headed straight to

**Lan Kwai Fong.** This amazing hot spot has been featured all over the place - TV shows, books, magazines, you name it.

It was plain to see why, as the endless variety of bars, clubs, restaurants as well as plenty of lifestyle stores littered the area.



## The first day begins

After that amazing night out we still managed to wake early to head to the new **Hong Kong Wetland Park** and started the day quietly connecting with nature. By lunch time we were already back in town and bargaining through the lanes of **Yau Ma Tei** and **Mongkok**.

what I can assure you of is once you head in you will never leave empty handed. Even I walked out carrying to arms full of shopping bags. We managed to head to **The Peak** as the sun was setting, from an elevated view of the sun setting on Hong Kong was simply breathtaking.

And the perfect end to the day came when we reached the top and had exquisite cuisine as the city lighted up like Christmas lights beneath us.

## Day two was amazing

This was the day we headed to **Lantau Island** to meet the **Giant Buddha** that's resting atop **Ngong Ping** within the vicinity of Po Lin Monastery. We ferry and cable car ride up Ngong Ping was well worth it as the serenity and view you experience by the Giant Buddha is ethereal. There is also the **Wisdom Path** that runs along the monastery which is a replica of the Heart Sutra. This outdoor sutra can be found on wooden pillars that are arranged in an infinity symbol that represents life. We spent the rest of the day on Ngong Ping and did a little shopping in the nearby villages.

## Our last goodbye

The little kids in us was screaming happily as all of us bundled into the bus as we headed straight to **Hong Kong Disneyland**. We spent the whole day there just going on rides, adventures, meeting Mickey and the gang. No matter what age you are, Disneyland is still a magical land. Right after it was time to make our way to the airport and back to Phuket after this wondrous journey. Thanks to AirAsia's daily flights we left Hong Kong on the 9.10pm flight and landed safely in Phuket at 11.40pm. Hong Kong, you'll definitely see us again.

Lots of love from Phuket,

Denise



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