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Hero cop recovers

Traffic officer shot three times in Kata street shootout

By Janpen Upatising

TWO of Phuket's most-wanted criminals are off the streets forever following the heroic actions of a Chalong Police traffic cop now recovering in hospital from multiple bullet wounds.

From his bed at Phuket International Hospital, Sgt Maj Hatthaporn Thongkhawbua recounted his gunfight with 21-year-old Somkid Kongtin and Adisorn Thongyon, 18.

The pair were well known to police, who even nicknamed them "fat and skinny" based on the noticeable differences in build. Adisorn, aka "Skinny", had already been arrested once on a handgun violation.

Somkid had been under police scrutiny since leading a public protest against Cherng Talay Police following the accidental shooting death of a 12-year-old boy at a Cherng Talay internet cafe in 2009.

Having already escaped capture by Cherng Talay police, the pair were wanted in connection with numerous reports of motorbike theft around the island.

Last Sunday Sgt Maj Hatthaporn was on routine duty on Saiyuan Road when he received a report that the notorious "fat and skinny" were heading his way aboard a white-and-yellow Yamaha Fino.

"I parked my car, called for backup and waited in front of the Alpina Nalina Resort on Khet Kwan Road," he said from his hospital bed.

"About 15 meters from where I was standing, they stopped their motorcycle. The fat man riding pillion suddenly pulled out a gun hidden inside his shirt and shot me twice in the left leg," he said.

Falling to the ground, Sgt Maj Hatthaporn drew his gun and began returning fire.

"I can't remember how many



Chalong Police traffic officer Sgt Maj Hatthaporn recovering at Phuket International Hospital. Photo: Janpen Upatising

times I pulled the trigger. I was in shock. All I could think about was survival. Later, I just noticed that I had also been shot in the right leg," he said.

"After that the pair rode past me and headed to the hotel exit to flee the scene. As they passed, I shot at them many times without thinking. All I thought was 'I must stop them'," he told the *Gazette*.

Despite the barrage of bullets, the duo continued on. Sgt Maj

Hatthaporn was left at the scene, sitting up but unable to move, he added.

"A few minutes later, police reinforcements arrived and followed them. I was put into an ambulance and sent to Patong Hospital. On the way, I was told that my fellow officers were able to arrest them and that both had been hit several times by shots from my gun," he said.

Adisorn was declared dead at

the scene, a nearby building site.

Somkid was rushed to Patong Hospital and then transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town. He died on Tuesday night from his injuries.

Despite sustaining three gunshot wounds, Sgt Maj Hatthaporn's condition was not critical.

"No bullets penetrated bones or important body parts. I was hit twice in the left thigh. One bullet

Continued on page 2

Airport gets first woman director

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET International Airport marked history on Wednesday when Duangchai Condee arrived to take up the post of general manager of the facility.

Ms Duangchai, a senior executive at Airports of Thailand, was previously Deputy Director (Commercial) at Suvarnabhumi Airport, became the first woman to hold the top position at Phuket Airport.

"The first thing to do is to improve the condition of the facilities in the airport, such

as the escalators, elevators, chairs, platforms, check-in counters and toilets. This must be done before the high season starts," she said.

Ms Duangchai added that she will also boost security at the airport by installing 53 more CCTV cameras, in addition to the 56 cameras already in operation at the facility.



Duangchai Condee

"I think it is a challenge to take up this position because former directors [also called 'general managers'] were all male. But with my experience as deputy director of Suvarnabhumi Airport, I am sure I will be able to cope with the stress and manage things well here," she said.

Ms Duangchai, who has received the Thai chivalric title of Companion (fourth class) of the Order of the White Elephant, replaced Acting Flying Officer Passakorn Surapipith, who took charge after Prathuang Sornkham was summarily transferred on January 20.

Run Paradise



A full report of all the agony and ecstasy that was the 2011 Laguna Phuket International Marathon. See page 42

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This Week

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Superdogs



Dogs that save in water, disaster zones and help autistic kids. **Page 20**

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Go bananas and grow some bananas! Tips and tricks. **Page 28**

Sport



FC Phuket hammer Hornbills 4-1 at home last Saturday. **Page 41**

Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Patong unites against vote buying and selling

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET's top cop held a rally in Patong last Friday urging the 1,000 or so people in attendance to vote in the July 3 election and to avoid vote buying and selling.

Participants included Patong government officials, police officers, tuk-tuk drivers, local residents, school children and ladyboys.

"I have heard a lot of talk about vote buying and selling in Phuket – it can become quite competitive," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong said during his address to the crowd.

"The Royal Thai Police headquarters has ordered us to take action against this sort of activity and we are campaigning to inform people that they must respect their voting rights," Maj Gen Pekad warned from the stage.

"Not only will vote buyers be arrested as happened in the past, but sellers as well," he added.



Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong explains to the press that the rally was being held to urge people to vote in the July 3 general election. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

The crowd paraded from Soi Bangla on to Thaweewong Road carrying banners with anti-vote-buying slogans and ended at

Patong Sports field. Another such rally was scheduled to be held at the Heroines' Monument on June 16, Maj Gen Pekad said.

Bullets fly in Kata street shootout

From page 1

pierced muscle tissue and was removed, while the other is still in my leg. The doctor said the bullet is not dangerous to surrounding tissue and can be removed at a later date," he said.

A third bullet entered and exited through his right leg, doctors said. "The doctor said I was fortunate. Because no bullets hit bone, the wounds should heal in about two weeks," he said.

Sgt Maj Hattaporn's efforts have not gone unnoticed by top police brass.

"Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong visited me and told me to rest for a month or longer, until I am well enough to return to duty," he added.

Supit Boonjun, human resources manager of Club Med Phuket Resort in Kata, paid the fallen officer a visit on Wednesday and presented him with a flower basket.

"I do not know Sgt Maj Hattaporn personally, but all the



Rescue workers rush Somkid 'fat' Kongtin to hospital. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

staff at Club Med know that he has been working hard for a long time to protect people of Karon.

"All our staff are impressed with his bravery and thought we should pay a visit. So, I am here as a representative of the Club Med staff," she said.

Despite widespread praise, Sgt Maj Hattaporn still feels some unease at the loss of life.

"I feel proud that I was able to perform my duty as a police officer, but I also feel sorry for the two dead. Even if they were thieves, they were still people," he said.

Sgt Maj Hattaporn's said she was shocked to hear about her husband's injuries, but also proud of his actions in stopping the two thieves.

Police manhunt continues for Karon karaoke gunman

POLICE are still searching for Surachai "Bang Chai" Thongkong-mai, who is wanted for the shooting of a karaoke bar owner in Karon after an all-night drinking session on June 6.

Somwong "Lui" Saemin, 42, was allegedly beaten then shot in the shoulder and abdomen at his Kon Lar Fun Karaoke and Restaurant on Patak Rd at about 7am.

Surachai was identified as the gunman by Anusak "Darid" Kungthong, 19; Surasak "Sak" Hankiew, 21; and Weerasak "Dam" Longrak, 20. All three were arrested by police on the day of the shooting.

Police are also seeking Wirat Sawatdee and a man so far identi-

fied only as "Bang Pu". Both men allegedly witnessed the shooting but have yet to be questioned by police.

Although police initially believed the shooting was related to drugs, Chalong Police Duty Officer Chianchai Duangsuwan said a warrant for Surachai's arrest had been issued as the cause of the shooting had yet to be confirmed.

"We still do not why he was shot. We have to question the victim, who is now being treated at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"His condition is improving, but he still cannot talk much," Lt Chianchai said.

– Janpen Upatising



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HOLIDAY INN PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH RESORT

Asian JV proposes 'Bangkok skytrain' for Phuket

THE latest firm to present itself as a contender for building Phuket's light rail system proposed building a skytrain – like the one in Bangkok – as the island's mass transit system instead.

Tophon Kraianupongsa, managing director of Gold Phoenix Construction Consulting (Thailand) Co Ltd, pitched the idea to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha last Saturday.

Mr Tophon explained that his company is a Thai affiliate of a Hong Kong and South Korea joint venture company, Zhi Shan Yan Construction.

"The concept will be similar to the Airport Link in Bangkok, but slightly lower in height... We will take care of loan arrangements for the project, no matter how much,

with no interest and no concession [agreement]," he added.

Mr Tophon said he had already gained tacit approval from the Thai Cabinet before Parliament was dissolved to make way for the July 3 general election.

"Phuket Province would be able to pay us back under a 30 or 50-year [plan], depending on the MoU [Memorandum of Understanding] signed," he said.

"We are not concerned about making money from the interest and we will not be involved in any role after construction is completed... We just want to show our work," he added.

Mr Tophon said his company was ready to move quickly on starting construction.

"Within 30 days of signing a MoU, our own engineers will be ready to take care of

the entire construction of the project," he said.

Governor Tri stressed the need for the mass-transit system to connect Phuket International Airport to the International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) in Mai Khao.

"The plan for the ICEC is already done. We will call for bids in August and construction will begin by September. The ICEC should be completed by the end of 2012," he said.

"I would like to see both projects, the ICEC and the mass-transit system, developed simultaneously. But regardless, the [mass-transit] project will start in 2012," Gov Tri said.

If all goes well, a successful candidate for the mass-transit system may be announced as early as September or October this year, the governor added.

– Chutharat Plerin



Tophon Kraianupongsa says a skytrain is ideal for Phuket.



Suppachai Jongkonpued being questioned by police.

Patong hotel handyman arrested for raping guest

A HOTEL handyman has been arrested for the alleged rape of a 32-year-old British woman at a Patong hotel last weekend.

The victim reported the case to Patong Police at about 1:30pm last Saturday.

The woman told police that she traded punches with her assailant and managed to fend him off, but not before he ejaculated onto her bedsheets.

An immediate investigation led by Maj Thammasak Boonsong led to the same-day arrest of Suppachai Jongkonpued, a 27-year-old native of Nakhon Sri Thammarat, employed by the hotel as a repairman.

The woman, whose name was withheld to protect her privacy, had been living and working in Patong for about six months, Maj Thammasak said.

Martin Carpenter MBE, British Honorary Consul for Phuket, said the British diplomatic mission was aware of the case and was assisting the victim.

'Vote No' hits the streets

By Atchaa Khamlo

ABOUT 30 protesters took to the streets of Phuket Town last Saturday afternoon to support their call for people to "vote no" in Thailand's upcoming July 3 general election.

Starting from Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Road in the heart of Old Phuket Town, the protesters made their way past the Clock Tower Circle in front of The Metropole hotel to the Robinson department store, where they boarded vehicles to take them to their rally site at Saphan Hin.

Accompanying the protesters were sound trucks plastered with the controversial signs depicting politicians as animals of "distaste".

The trucks also played messages calling for voters to choose "None of the above" on the July 3 ballots.

During the march, protesters handed out pamphlets explaining their reasons for urging Phuket people to "vote no".

Khamnueng Khamwiset, a 63-year-old Phuket native, told the *Gazette*, "Governments have caused a lot of damage to our country – and that must stop. No parties running in the upcoming election are good enough.

"They do not have any policies that will help the country. They should at least have a policy for resolving the problem with Preah Vihear Temple [on the Cambodian border]," he added.

Leading the protest was fellow Phuket native Saman Kohlek, 50.

"The current state of politics in Thailand is rubbish. We cannot trust anybody. Sixty years of having elections has done little to improve our country," he said.



The sign says: 'People of Phuket: Vote No.' Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

"We want political reform – and politicians do not need to be a member of any party in order to be able to stand for election," he added.

However, not all onlookers welcomed the protest.

As the protesters moved on from the food market beside Robinson's, one young motorbike taxi driver shouted out from a safe distance behind them, "Who will run the country if we all vote no? It's such nonsense!"

Controversial election bills to stay – for now

PHUKET Election Commission Director Kitipong Thiengkunakrit on Wednesday confirmed that the controversial billboards depicting politicians as "ugly animals" will stay until he receives an official order to remove them.

The Election Commission of Thailand last week ruled that similar billboards in Bangkok were in breach of election law and were to be pulled down immediately.

However, Dr Kitipong said that, "I do not have the authority by myself to determine whether or not the posters contradict election law. I must wait until I receive an official order from the Election Commission of Thailand before proceeding with any action."

Don Limnuthaphisit, one of the leaders of the "Phuket Vote No" group, told the *Gazette* that to avoid the problem the posters will be erected in "private areas" only.

"The posters are not allowed to be in public areas, so right now we are posting them in private areas only instead," he said.



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.

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Killer pooch to stay with family

THE family of Mana Thessarit, a 51-year-old Chon Buri man who recently died after being viciously attacked by his golden retriever "Peter", says there's no question of getting rid of the killer pooch.

Mr Mana's daughter Wassana said the family will continue to look after the dog at the family home, in Sattahip district on the eastern seaboard.

Peter attacked Mr Mana in the yard of the house on the morning of June 11, when no one else was at home.

When neighbors saw what was happening, they intervened and restrained the dog – but not before it had covered Mr Mana in deep bite wounds.

Rescue workers rushed Mr Mana to Somdej Phra Nang Jao Sirikit Hospital, where he received 10 stitches and later discharged.

But later the same day, Mr Mana walked into his bathroom and fell unconscious.

He was then taken back to the hospital, but died of shock.

QUEER
news

After it emerged that Mr Mana had abused the dog since it was about seven months old, kicking it regularly, there was little sympathy for the dead man in the local press.

The *Daily News* even reported that the dog had waited until the pair were alone before attacking Mr Mana.

Mrs Wassana, who posed with the panting dog for media photos, said there was no question of giving Peter away or having him put to sleep.

The family were very fond of the dog, she said.

Before he died, Mr Mana told the family not to give the dog away, saying he felt sorry for it, she added.

– Khao Sod

'Flying fox' escape from Patong hospital

By Janpen Upatising

OVER 200 staff and patients evacuated Patong Hospital last Friday as part of an annual fire drill.

Among those taking part in the exercise were Patong Municipality Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division and Patong Police.

Maternity Ward director Hathairat Rangsanarit said the hospital uses different scenarios each year in order to train for a variety of emergency situations.

The latest involved a theoretical blaze breaking out in the maternity ward, on the second floor of the main building.

"Designated hospital staff take care of the patients, while some male staffers assist in firefighting. We have to take care of the situation until real firefighters arrive," said Wanitchaya Thongnaab, head of the general management division.

Banlue Yokyong, a trainer at Patong Municipality's disaster prevention division, said this year's drill



GERONIMO: A 'patient' is helped out of the flying fox device after zip-lining from the third floor of Patong Hospital.

included a situation where 20 people were stuck on the second and third floors. Using a "flying fox" cable apparatus, those "trapped" were able to slide to safety.

After a recent night-time scare following the smell of smoke coming from the computer room, it has

been decided to hold next year's drill at night, Mrs Wanitchaya said.

We were lucky nothing happened, but a real fire could still happen at night so we have to practice and prepare for every possible scenario and keep learning from our mistakes," Ms Hathairat said.

Nun forced out of Kata Temple

SCANDALS involving monks are fairly common in Thailand, but the most recent clerical debacle involved the banishment of an elderly temple nun after a public outcry over her behavior at a well-known Phuket temple.

About 50 local residents gathered at Wat Kitti Sangkaram (Kata Temple) early on June 8 demanding the immediate dismissal of 74-year-old Mae Chee Euam (Nun Euam), who has been at the temple since the dawn of the tourism era 24 years ago.

A group of 15 community leaders in Kata gathered on the temple grounds last week for a 30-minute discussion with temple abbot Phra Khru Wisoot Kittiyaporn.

Charging Mae Shee Euam's behavior as intolerable, they demanded her immediate dismissal.

Among the community leaders was Meechai Navin, who said after the meeting that the decision to banish the 74-year-old nun was almost unanimous.

"The abbot agreed to order the nun from the temple after 15 of 17 people present voted against her," he said.

The other two votes, those of the abbot and his personal consultant, were abstentions, he said.

"We could no longer accept Mae Shee Euam's behavior. She absconded items donated to the temple and brought them back to her home in Phattalung province.

"That is unacceptable. Also, she did not permit visiting monks

to stay in the new *kuti* (monk's quarters), but her relatives who are not even members of the clergy were allowed to stay in there.

"These are the reasons local residents have come here today to drive her from the grounds of Kata Temple," he said.

The move was a long time coming, he explained.

"Some local residents had not stepped foot on the grounds of Kata Temple for years because of her," he added.

With the woman, who effectively served as the temple's chief administrator, now on the way out, a new council would be established to oversee the temple's financial affairs.

Membership would include leaders of various community groups in Kata. The new council would lead to a new era of transparency for the temple's finances, Mr Meechai said.

The only person who seemed saddened by the imminent departure of the nun of 24 years was Prapan Sa-Nguanporn, consultant to Phra Kru Wisoot.

"It was all a misunderstanding. The nun's relatives just stayed at the temple for few days," he said.

Phra Khru Wisoot accepted the community's decision quietly.

"I will tell the nun to leave the temple and stay with relatives in another province," he said, before turning and slowly walking away.

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Tsunami buoys back online

By Pimwara Choksakulpan
and Stephen Fein

PHUKET's shoreline is now better prepared for another tsunami now that three direct detection buoys have been deployed at sea and are fully operational, the head of the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) has affirmed.

NDWC Director Somsak Khaosuwan told the *Gazette* on Monday that the damaged buoy that went adrift last June was successfully redeployed in its old location 600 nautical miles northwest of Phuket on May 27.

The delay was largely related to the need to replace a 4,500-meter length of high-tension cable needed to tether the buoy to the seabed some 3,000 meters below.

The cable needed to be manufactured abroad and imported to Thailand.

The original cable snapped when an unknown vessel tried to tie up to the buoy, the NDWC believes.

The redeployment mission left the Phuket Marine Biological Center Pier at Cape Panwa aboard MV



A utility vessel pulls the buoy into position in unusually calm seas 600 nautical miles off Phuket on May 27.

Seafdec on May 25.

Before this, the buoy was trucked to Phuket from its storage location at the Tab Lamu Naval Base in Phang Nga. Prior to the mission it passed inspection by two experts from its manufacturer Science Application International Corporation (SAIC).

MV *Seafdec* sailed from Laem Panwa with four NDWC officers, the two SAIC specialists and four representatives of Raydant International Co Ltd, which built Thailand's tsunami early warning system and is now responsible for its upkeep and maintenance under a contract with the NDWC.

The ship arrived at the loca-

tion at 5am on May 27 and the operation was completed just before 2am the same day.

The ship returned to Phuket at 9am on May 29.

The successful mission raised the number of operational direct detection units which feed data to the NDWC to three. For most of the latter half of 2011, the agency had no direct detection capability until two other units built by an Italian firm were deployed much closer to the Andaman coastline last November.

Dr Somsak said people can once again check data for the re-launched buoy in real time at the US government's National Data Buoy Center website (<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/obs.shtml>).

Despite some concerns locally that some of the 19 tsunami warning towers are not functioning properly, Dr Somsak reassured the public that the system is operational and effective.

He added that the NDWC is now working to set up a website where real-time data from all three Thai detection units would be publicly available.



ANCHOR AWEIGH: Crewmen lower a massive anchor that was sunk to tether the buoy to the seabed 3,000 meters below. Photo: PMBC



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A burning solution to Koh Yao rubbish

KOH YAO Noi officials this week took a small step towards addressing the residential uproar over rubbish piling up on the island, touted as an eco-tourism destination.

Residents last month complained to Koh Yao Noi Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) Mayor, Somphol Roengsamut, about the closure of the islands two landfills which were filled to capacity, and proposed building an incinerator as the best solution. However, villagers did not want an incinerator near their homes (*Gazette online*, Rubbish piling up on Phuket's sister eco-island, May 26).

On Monday, Mayor Somphol presented a small-scale incinerator to locals.

"It cost about 30,000 baht and its capacity isn't very high," he said of the single-barrel unit, which is capable of burning a maximum of 30kg of waste per day.

The small unit is being used to introduce locals to the option of burning waste in hopes of convincing them that living next to an incinerator may not be as bad as



The new incinerator at work.

they imagine, Mayor Somphol said.

If villagers can be convinced to allow the building of an incinerator, Mayor Somphol hopes that plans for a large-scale facility can go forward.

As this paper goes to print, Mayor Somphol said that bidding would be opened on June 16 for people who would like to sell their land to the *OrBorTor* for the incinerator project.

Four candidates have already submitted their properties for bidding, he said.

Korean Ambassador lauds Phuket support

By Chutharat Plerin

SOUTH Korean Ambassador to Thailand Chung Hae-moon told Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha during a June 14 meeting that he was "grateful" for the positive support the Korean community in Phuket had received from local authorities.

"We have been co-operating and co-ordinating very well between Honorary Consul Tosaporn Tephabuttra, the law enforcement authorities and the Korean community," Ambassador Chung said.

"We have not yet faced any serious problems. Overall, I'm very positive about all the support and cooperation," he said.

The ambassador said he would like to see the Korean community continue to grow in Phuket.

"Many Koreans live in Phuket and many Korean tourists come here to see the natural attractions and to experience the hospitality of Thai people.

"We also have very strong busi-



The South Korean Ambassador poses with Gov. Tri. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

ness relations between Thais and Koreans here. I am quite optimistic that the future of Korea and Phuket will be brighter than ever," he added.

Governor Tri invited the ambassador to the upcoming Seafood Fiesta, to be held in August.

Smiling, Ambassador Chung answered: "I have to schedule a flight

back for the cheaper seafood."

After the conference, Ambassador Chung declined to comment about Phuket's light rail project, which several Korean investors have expressed an interest in.

The deadline for formal applications to bid on the project was Thursday, June 16.

YOU CAN'T SWIM WITH THESE DOLPHINS.



STOP INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN TRAFFICKING.

THESE DOLPHINS DIDN'T MAKE IT TO dolphin shows or swim-with-dolphins attractions at fancy resorts around the world. Instead they ended up in a garbage dump in the Solomon Islands, victims of a growing worldwide trade in wild dolphins orchestrated by greedy wildlife traffickers.

The cruel and deadly market for wild dolphins is growing, fueled by the popularity of dolphin sideshows and swim-with attractions. With a going price of as much as \$200,000 per dolphin, unscrupulous operators are capturing and shipping dolphins wherever they can, and merely paying lip service to international laws whenever they have to. Many dolphins die in the process.

These dolphin hunts often occur in small villages like Taiji, Japan, or developing countries like the Solomon Islands, which lack the political will or resources to monitor and protect their wildlife.

It is time for all governments around the world to take responsibility and prohibit

the import of dolphins from these inhumane dolphin trafficking operations.

Right now, the dolphin traffickers operating in the Solomon Islands, who have already sent dozens of dolphins to Mexico and Dubai, are planning to airfreight more wild-caught dolphins to theme parks around the world — including Singapore, and possibly Panama and the Dominican Republic. You can help stop them.

Only a public outcry now will help put an end to this cruel dolphin trade, and keep more dead dolphins from landing in the dump.



ENDORSED BY: Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, Cetacean Society International, Earth Island Institute, Elsa Nature Conservancy of Japan, In Defense of Animals, Marine Connection, World Society for the Protection of Animals.



Produced by Public Media Center

HELP STOP THE DEADLY DOLPHIN TRADE.
GO TO HSI.ORG AND SAVEJAPANDOLPHINS.ORG.

Rental car theft not covered

THE owner of a small car rental outfit in Phuket is demanding insurance compensation for a car allegedly stolen by a Singaporean tourist, but the claims adjuster says none will be forthcoming.

Somjit Prayunsri, 50, went to Patong Police Station last week to check if there had been any progress in the investigation into a Honda Jazz that she reported stolen last November.

The black car, with Phuket license plate *Kor Tor* 4359, was rented out for one week to a Singaporean man who signed his name on the rental agreement as "Lim Yew Tze".

Ms Somjit believes she is entitled to 450,000 baht in compensation from Chartis Insurance Company (Thailand) Ltd, with which she had insured the vehicle.

"The company informed me



Rental cars are abundant on Patong's beach road.

that the claim was still pending because police have taken so long trying to track down Mr Lim through the passport number provided," she said.

Patong Police Duty Officer Jongserm Preecha told the *Gazette* an arrest warrant was issued

months ago for the Singaporean, who is still believed to be somewhere in Thailand.

Chartis Insurance claim assessor Pongpan Promjina told the *Gazette* that Ms Somjit's failure to copy Mr Lim's passport was part of the reason for the delay.

"Police finally provided us with the [passport] number and we were able to verify that it was correct, and we based our decision on that," he said.

The decision: no compensation.

"The company has already written an official letter informing Ms Somjit that she is not entitled to compensation... She should get it [the letter] on Monday," said Mr Pongpan.

"The policy clearly states that the company is not responsible for loss of a vehicle while it is on rent to a third party," he said.

PCs for kids a new Phuket initiative

THE organizers of a new technology-based initiative note that many children continue to grow up in Phuket without acquiring even the most basic computer skills, often because their parents cannot afford to buy them a PC or send them to places that can make one available without charge.

At the other end of the spectrum, the relentless pace of innovative computer marketing means that the more affluent segments of society are constantly discarding computers in favor of higher-spec models. And much of the discarded hardware is still serviceable with, or even without, repairs.

PCs4Kids seeks to exploit the gap in these two circumstances

in an imaginative enterprise. The people involved will collect the unwanted computers, parts and accessories; re-furbish them where necessary; and donate them to deserving children. Each child selected will have a mentor — a computer professional who will guide the student through the learning process.

The technical expertise will be supplied by Woody Leonhard, long serving *Phuket Gazette* columnist and the island's favorite guru for all digital technologies, products and services; and Dr Rattana Wetprasit, Associate Dean for Special Affairs at the Faculty of Technology and Environment, Prince of Songkhla University.

The Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation will be approached to liaise with local schools and identify children who have the natural aptitude to benefit from the project.

PCs4Kids will ask the Rotary Club of Patong Beach for assistance with some funding, though not much is likely to be needed.

Microsoft Thailand will be asked to donate software.

The *Phuket Gazette* and AWPR & Marketing will sponsor the initiative with media and promotional support.

Readers interested in helping PCs4Kids in any way should contact Ross James via email at rosspjames@hotmail.com or call to 087-418 3127.

PM letters prompt spat

AROUND THE nation

FRESH controversy has erupted over the forming of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's government in late 2008 after the leader of a key party said it was forced to join the governing coalition under "irrefutable outside pressure".

Chart Thai Pattana leader Chumpol Silpa-acha made the comments in response to an open letter by Mr Abhisit in which the PM allegedly implied that his coalition partners were "thieves" that he would not work with if he could avoid it.

The spat comes ahead of Thailand's hotly contested general elections on July 3.

There has been widespread speculation over whether the opposition Pheu Thai Party, which is edging the Democrats in a number of opinion polls, will be given first chance to form the government if it wins the most seats in the election.

The dispute erupted after Mr Abhisit published two open letters



Abhisit Vejjajiva posted the letters on his Facebook page. Photo: Nation

on his Facebook page.

In the first, Mr Abhisit denied that his government was formed with the help of the military. In the second, the premier admitted he had been unable to prevent all instances of corruption while in government.

Mr Abhisit said he realized from

the first Cabinet meeting that it was not easy to work in a coalition government "because negotiations always happen".

"But I drew a clear-cut line that projects that benefit the people and do not violate the law must proceed. We cannot halt the country's development just because of fear

of corruption," Mr Abhisit wrote.

The comments upset Mr Chumpol, who hit back by saying Chart Thai Pattana was forced into joining the coalition due to "irrefutable outside pressure", interpreted by many as meaning the Army.

Sanan Kachornprasart, chairman of Chart Thai Pattana's advisory board, urged all parties to reject outside intervention in government formation after the election.

He also warned the Army not to meddle in politics again, adding that they ought to have learned their lesson from the September 19, 2006 coup.

Both Mr Abhisit and the Pheu Thai Party, led by Yingluck Shinawatra, the younger sister of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, are predicting victory in the elections.

Mr Abhisit told a news conference at the World Economic Forum on East Asia in Jakarta that he was "very optimistic" about winning.

Meanwhile, Pheu Thai candidate Snoh Thienthong predicted a huge victory for his party, claiming he had convinced an ally to join a coalition if Pheu Thai could not secure a clear majority to form a single-party government.



A man holds a sign naming the seven fans who died in the crash. Photo: Nation

Thai football reeling after seven die in bus crash

THAI football fans are in shock after seven Chiang Rai FC fans were killed and 46 injured when a double-decker bus taking them to a match overturned in Lop Buri last weekend.

The bus was transporting 55 Chiang Rai FC supporters to Buri Ram PEA's new 24,000-capacity I-mobile stadium when the accident happened, about 8am last Saturday.

Initial police investigation found that the vehicle was travelling fast when the driver veered to avoid colliding with an oncoming six-wheel truck. The bus plunged into a ditch and overturned.

All but two of the passengers were injured in the accident. Rescue workers rushed victims to nearby hospitals.

The match on Saturday night between Chiang Rai FC and Buri Ram PEA went ahead as planned, with both teams observing one minute's silence to remember the dead before kickoff.

Buri Ram won the match 5-0.

Thailand's EC 'welcomes' EU observers

THE Election Commission (RC) has said it is ready to welcome election observers from the European Union (EU), just three weeks before Thailand's next general election.

"The Election Commission is ready to allow the international community, particularly the European Union, to come observe the election," chairman Apichart Sukhakanond said.

But observers questioned whether the invitation had come too late.

"These things have to be planned in advance," one European diplomat who asked to remain anonymous told DPA.

"The EU might be able to send some experts to monitor the polls at this stage, but this is not what we'd call an election observation mission."

The EC's decision also flies in the face of comments by Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, who in March dismissed sug-

gestions foreign observers were needed for the election.

It would be "inappropriate" to allow outside involvement in the poll, said Mr Suthep, according to AFP.

"I don't respect 'farang'. We do not have to surrender to them," he said.

Mr Suthep was responding to demands from red shirt protesters, who called for foreign observers to ensure the polls were clean.

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Fighting off nuances

Re: Gazette online, British woman fends off alleged rapist, June 13

It is sickening to think that it is looked upon as attempted rape. If not for the victim's self-defence it would have been a successful rape.

Phuket is a major city in Thailand, how much crime do you know has happened in the city where you come from? Every city has crime, it's just unfortunate that it also happens in paradise.

*Dan
Gazette forum*

Are we driving down the right path?

Re: Gazette online, Registration drive expected to legalize 30,000 Phuket workers, June 10

Good news for the workers. Could it be that there is a lot of new development plans in the pipeline? And is that such good news for Phuket?

*Michael Dawkes
Gazette forum*

'No' way they'd rally like this at home

Re: Gazette online, 'Vote No' rally takes to Phuket streets, June 11

I have great admiration for the bravery of the Thai people. Their political protests are admirable and true to their national anthem. They are not afraid to die for what they believe in. I wish that my fellow Americans would protest like this. In many ways, Thailand has a better future than the USA!

*Kevin
Gazette forum*

Rassada residents need reality U-turn

Phuket Gazette

AFTER 19 months of delay, it is high time to break the median strip in front of Phuket Provincial Bus Terminal 2 and finally get the buses rolling from there.

Despite its ill-advised location, the site is nevertheless an improvement over that of the current terminal in Phuket Town, an area which long ago lost any claim as a geographical hub.

The *Gazette* finds it hard to understand the resistance to the project from residents in Rassada Village 2. We appreciate their displeasure at not being called to public hearings, but the presence of the bus station there should not do much to harm the local landscape.

The roadway is already lined with numerous mechanical shops, not to mention other roadside scenery that includes an electrical power substation and the Super Cheap complex.

If, as some have claimed, the argument really is about increased traffic, residents should consider that all inter-provincial buses already have to travel the same section of Thepkasattri Road. Having them stationed there should not make much of a difference and could actually improve flow at other key junctions further south in Rassada.

As mentioned in this space before, a much better location for the new station would have been where the bypass road forks off from Thepkasattri Road.

This would have provided convenience to passengers transiting to west and south coast destinations, especially if the much-talked-about

light rail system ever becomes a reality.

Nevertheless, it always seems to be the residents of Phuket Town, not tourists, who reap the benefits from government projects. Phuket Town has a reliable public water supply, expansive parks, cheap and reliable public transport and an ongoing project to bury power cables.

Consider similar infrastructure in places such as Patong or Kata-Karon, and the contrast is stark indeed.

Moving the bus station to Rassada can be viewed as "more of the same". If and when it opens, Phuket Town residents will see their roads freed of the lumbering, behemoth tour buses while enjoying easy 10-baht access to the new station on the pink *Poh Thong* buses.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are tourists arriving from other provinces, who will of course be left to the demands of whatever transport syndicate first establishes itself at the new terminal.

Given the windfall profits history has shown are to be made therefrom, it is hard to believe locals are not chomping at the bit to have the station open so they can line up at the feeding trough.

After all, there has been no talk whatsoever of providing tourists with a shuttle bus from the new station to Patong.

Switched on

Re: Gazette online, Announcing PCs4Kids: Phuket's new initiative to unlock the potential of the gifted poor, June 12

Anyone can drop off old computers, as well as parts and accessories, even if they don't

work. Volunteer geeks will assemble working laptops and desktops. Anyone that wants the children to have the advantages we had can make a cash donation. Anyone can get on the list of willing volunteers. Anyone can help us spread the word.

*I'll give first. Who's next?
Gazette forum*

Gamer children going 'widescreen'

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Computer culture won't yield to Thai Ministry, June 12

Having lived in Thailand since January 1998 and used internet cafes in this country over the

years since then, I have noticed that – at least it appears to me – child gamers are getting fatter.

Smoking is hazardous with an age limit to purchase; perhaps a scale or BMI chart should be used to enforce a "no entry" policy?

*Michael M Arvin
Gazette forum*

Fine move by police: 'loitering with intent'

Re: Gazette online, Phuket police have 'vagabond ladyboys' in sight, June 9

This is terrible. I think we should have a *Phuket Gazette* readers poll: "Which is worse for tourism in Phuket: Ladyboys or tuk-tuk cartels?"

The number of police involved in the ladyboy "mob" is amazing. Loitering? Drug testing? Must be employed? Try some of those tactics on the tuk-tuks!

The loitering fines alone would clear the endless rows of parked tuk-tuks blocking the sidewalks! Come on, lets see that poll!

*James Bond
Gazette forum*

Checking in or simply cleaning up?

Re: Gazette online, Wanted: Automatic immigration clearance at airport, June 14

I wonder how the automatic passport check-in system works and how the passports get stamped?

And 9.5 million baht for one machine? Is that a joke?

Did they even think how many years you could pay an officer with this money?

*Frank Heise
Gazette forum*

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Issues & Answers...

Police enjoying, not enforcing

Who is responsible for ensuring bars adhere to noise regulations and closing hours outside of the entertainment zones in Patong?

A bar at the Phra Barami Road junction with Soi Laksila (near Wat Suwankeeree Wong School) has a live band blaring music until past 2am on most nights, right in the middle of a residential area.

The police were there past 2am on Friday night, but as customers, not to enforce closing hours, sadly. Who can enforce the current laws and stop this nuisance for all the residents in the area?

*Sleepless in Patong
Patong*

Arayapan Pukbuakao, Superintendent of Kathu Police, replies:

The bar is in a residential area and should close at 1am in accordance with the law.

Receiving this complaint is very helpful, I will enforce the law immediately.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Buckle up for school

My son attends Darasamuth School in Phuket Town. We drive him there in the morning and make sure he always wears a safety belt whenever he is in the car.

After school from 4pm to 5pm, he goes to his grandmother's home on the other side of town because my wife and I finish work around 7pm to 8pm. We have to arrange transport for him after school.

We don't want him riding on the back of a motorcycle, so our only other option for us is to hire a van driver who services the school (but is not employed by

the school) as a safer alternative.

Recently, I learned from my son that there are no safety belts in the van. So I went to the school to look for myself and saw that all the school vans lack safety belts on the back seats, only the front seat and driver's seat have them. This concerns me.

I remember the cited reason for nine deaths in the tragic Thammasat University van accident last year was that safety belts were not worn. After the accident, all the vans from Thammasat were required to have safety belts on every seat.

Before the accident, no one cared and I'm worried that the same will happen in Phuket. My questions are about the laws and regulation for vans in Phuket, especially school vans.

Are there any laws or regulations which require vans to install safety belts for all seats, not just the front seat?

Are school van drivers in Phuket required to get special certification, training or licenses to transport school children?

English-speaking laborers wanted

FIRST PERSON

AS BUSINESSES continue to grow in Phuket, there are not enough workers to fill all the positions available.

There is a shortage of workers in the hotel industry here because the influx of labor from other provinces has been much lower than the industry's growth rate.

To give you an idea, if an employee leaves our company today, they are likely to have a new job tomorrow.

Many hotel service jobs, like cooks or room maids, only require that applicants have vocational school certificates.

But nowadays, many vocational graduates decide to continue their education and go on to earn bachelor's degrees. When this happens, there are not as many vocational graduates entering the labor market.

As someone working in human resources, I can say that the competition to recruit employees is fierce, especially at the beginning of the "high season" in September and October.

I want the labor shortage issue to be put on the provincial government's or the national government's agenda. I would like to see the Ministry of Labor pay more attention to the problem and try to direct more labor to provinces in the Andaman region.

People from other provinces,



Wirot Pahonkan, 43, has been director of human resources at the Patong-based Pisona Group for six years. He graduated from Ramkhamhang University with a bachelor's degree in political science. Here he talks about the shortage of labor in the tourism industry and lack of English skills among workers in Phuket.

such as those from Isarn, have a perception of Phuket being an expensive place to live. This really influences their decisions on whether or not to work here.

I don't want people to worry about working in Phuket or to think that Phuket has a high cost of living. I believe everyone can save money if they live economically.

Hotel workers may not have to spend much money at all. They tend to get free uniforms, free transportation to and from work, and free meals when they are on the job.

Actually, the idea that living costs are high in Phuket is not all true. A person can eat a meal for about 35 baht at your average street vendor restaurant, which is quite acceptable.

Some people who move here to work are able to save up enough to buy cars or even houses in Phuket. Some don't even want to return to their hometowns because they have started to make a life here.

Employers prefer to hire people who can communicate in English,

but in some cases it's not necessary. But now companies are hiring just about anyone to keep their businesses moving.

Educational institutions need to pay more attention to foreign languages and Thai students need to be more active and hardworking in learning other languages, no matter which language it is.

Over the next four years [when the ASEAN free-trade agreement comes into effect], freer flows of labor will make it easier for foreigners to work in Thailand.

If our younger generation does not work harder toward speaking foreign languages, they may become employees working under Filipinos, Malaysians or even Burmese, as their English skills are quite good.

It's just that the doors of opportunity have not opened to foreign labor – yet.

But on the day they do open, our younger generation will have to do something more than just sitting still like they are now.

Ready to foot the Big Bill?

Island View

By Astrid Svensson

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



SURPRISE: Big billionaire Bill Gates.
Photo: World Economic Forum

THIS morning, the BBC reported that Bill Gates is going to vaccinate all the children in the world against the five deadliest diseases by donating US\$1 billion to the cause.

Although this is uplifting news, I couldn't help but pick up on some of the subtexts that presented themselves in his speech: assumption and hypocrisy.

He declared that people can place value on a car or a house but what really matters, and what is of real value, is giving back to society, particularly the needy.

Thanks Bill, I already knew that, and I don't happen to be sitting on about US\$38bn (*Forbes*, March 2010).

And this is rich, coming from a man, who states on his own website that his 24-bathroom, 17-parking-spot, 6,131-square-meter house is already kitted out with the most frivolous add-ons.

I guess if you've already forked out for a heated driveway and small electronic devices that track your position in the house and alter the room temperature and lighting when you move around, you may as well give some to dying kids as well.

Assuming Bill is still worth US\$38bn – his net worth increases by at least US\$13bn every year according to *Forbes* – one billion is about 2.6 per cent of his enormous wealth.

Say the average Thai salary is 7,000 baht a month, 2.6 per cent of that is about 180 baht.

Since I have lived here there have been floods, landslides,

droughts, political-protest-cum-riot and myriad other disasters throughout which the Thais have shown enormous generosity.

Clothes, supplies and financial aid – which I am sure in many cases outweighed 180 baht per head – has been immediately gathered and sent to those affected, along with sincere empathy and a sense of duty.

These people didn't need it broadcast, they just did it. They probably don't have a car and a massive house, and they still did it. That's altruism on a proportionately greater scale than Bill's vaccine donation.

The Big Bill does help a lot of people, but when you have that much money it is almost implied that you should "pay it forward". So he needs to dismount his – most likely custom made and electronically heated – high horse.

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

How can I be sure my child is safe in a school van?

Concerned Parent
Phuket Town

Teerayout Prasertphol, chief of the Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office, replies:

There are no laws or ministerial regulations requiring the installation of safety belts in all seats of a passenger van.

For now, we can only suggest and ask for the co-operation of van operators to install safety belts.

For a passenger van driving license, the capacity of the vehicle being driven determines what type of license is required. A special license is needed if the van has more than 11 seats, which also requires more training.

Phuket Land Transport Office has an upcoming project to provide information to drivers, parents and teachers on safe transportation of children to their schools.

The project will begin around the end of June. Our officers will visit Darasamuth Phuket School,



SAFE, SAFER, SAFEST? Is it safer to send your children to school in a van, an old yellow bus or a songtaew?

Phuket Wittayalai School, Satrie Phuket, Anubanphuket School, Pluk Panya Municipal School, Srinagarindra The Princess Mother School Phuket, Daorung Wittaya School and Muslim Wittaya Phuket School.

Pickup trucks are also used as school vehicles. There should be a person sitting with the children in the back at all times to ensure they don't play or do something

that may result in them falling off.

Preschoolers and primary students are a particular concern. They are young and unaware of the dangers involved in riding a pickup. There should be someone to supervise them.

Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office needs to give permission before a vehicle may be used for the transportation of students.

Each permit lasts one academic semester. Operators must also provide the names of students using their service when applying for a permit.

Orange signs must be placed on the front and back of vehicles with writing indicating that students are on board. Flashing lights must also be installed on four sides.

Before issuing a permit, we

take the condition of vehicles and drivers into consideration. They must be in good shape to pass.

We would like to advise schools, teachers and parents to check that student transport vehicles have the proper permits.

A teacher at Darasamuth Phuket School replies:

The vans do not belong to the school. It is an agreement between parents and private vehicle operators to send their children to and from school.

These vehicles are not only servicing Darasamuth Phuket School. After they drop our students off, they send students to other schools as well.

Some vehicles drop students off inside the school and some drop them off outside. We cannot stop parents from hiring drivers. We can only suggest that the drivers drive safely.

Some parents have said that it is their decision to hire a driver to transport their children.

Parents with questions can visit the school or call 076-212392.

Phuket at helm of superyacht boom

By Michael DesPortes

ASIA-Pacific Superyachts (APS), who provide comprehensive assistance to superyacht owners throughout the region, are heralding a surge in business, with Phuket to play a key role in Asia becoming the new world home destination for superyachts.

Phuket was the first and foremost location and led the effort of bringing in outstanding and seasoned directors to guide APS in all regions," said Linda Cartlidge, PR and Communications Director at APS.

The company has offices in the Andaman Islands, Borneo, and in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Phuket and Koh Samui. Regional directors and staff in each region provide support in everything from government formalities to charters, she explained.

It is a unique company in that each respective regional director or GM is responsible for the Asia Pacific Superyachts agency of their region and has their own team. Many of the directors are highly experienced and knowledgeable superyacht captains," Ms Cartlidge said.

APS chairman Gordon Fernandes ex-

plained that Phuket became important shortly after their first offices were opened on the island in 1997.

"[Phuket] was an ideal cruising ground for yachts. Since about 2000, the owners of these kinds of yachts have been looking for a new area to cruise rather than traditional seas. Owners started to build bigger yachts with better fuel range and they began to think about the Far East, Australia and Indonesia," Mr Fernandes told the *Gazette*.

While Somali pirates were limiting the number of yachts travelling to the region, the strong economies of India and China meant that more Asian buyers were emerging, he explained.

"The baht's strength should help increase the number of Thai owners as well," he added.

"There is a bigger trend in yachts being based here. If you looked at Yacht Haven's berths for yachts between 30 and 60 meters eight years ago, there might have been one boat here for the low season. I was up there last Friday and eight were there at the time.

"These are either locally owned or people are basing them here for when they return in the high season. This has been an increasing trend over the past five years," Mr Fernandes explained.



SUPERYACHT HAVEN: Asia Pacific Superyachts is at the vanguard of establishing Asia as the new world home destination for luxury yachts.

APS was instrumental in forming the Asia-Pacific Superyacht Association (APSA) a separate, nonprofit association launched in Hong Kong on May 6

The association aims to provide knowledge and direction to the region's yachting scene.

"We have close to 100 industry

people interested in joining APSA the first year of operation," said APSA Marketing and Membership Director Tamsin Edenbrow.

More members are expected as awareness increases with planned promotion and events," she added.

Thailand slips on the world stage

IN ITS 2011 World Competitiveness rankings, the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) placed Thailand 27th, one place below its 2010 position.

A total of 59 countries were included in this year's findings.

Data compiled by Thailand Management indicated that higher commodity prices, labor shortages in the manufacturing sector, insufficient infrastructure investment and political division were among the numerous challenges Thailand faces in 2011.

Thailand's highest placing was second in labor market competitiveness, while its weakest

position was 54th in the health and environment category. It also fared badly in the areas of education (51st) and technology infrastructure (52nd).

The United States returned to first in the overall rankings this year following the recovery of its financial markets, sharing the top spot with Hong Kong.

Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Canada, Qatar, Australia and Germany completed the top 10.

A total of 331 criteria were used to determine the rankings, which were grouped into four main factors: economic performance, government efficiency, business

efficiency and infrastructure.

Professor Stephane Garelli, director of IMD's World Competitiveness Centre, explained the new approach to rankings.

"The world of competitiveness becomes more national. 'World Competitiveness 2.0' is thus characterized by a greater self-reliance of countries," he said.

"It increasingly emphasizes re-industrialization, exports, and a more critical look at delocalization. This trend is triggered by the rise in commodity and transport prices and higher labor costs in emerging economies," he added.

— *The Nation*

Clear skies ahead for Heli-tourism

THERE'S a business in Phuket that has been cashing in on the Tourism Council of Thailand's (TCT) drive to push Phuket as a high-end and high quality tourism destination.

Advanced Aviation have been on the island two-and-a-half years, providing private chartered helicopter services for this niche sector of tourists.

Since the TCT laid out their eight-point strategy to promote Phuket as a high-end destination in September last year, the company has reaped the benefits.

This high season, they had on average 10 chartered flights scheduled a week.

And the going rates are not

cheap. They range from a 30 minute tour of the island, which costs 42,135 baht, to a 75 minute jaunt to Koh Phangan and back for 210,700 baht.

The most popular route is the Phang Nga Bay tour and the main client le are high-rolling tourists, Flight Co-ordinator Lalada Laitrakul said.

Advanced Aviation flies the tours in their European-made single-engine turbine EC-130 which carries six and piloted by Captain Somkiat Kraithip. In his 39-year career, Capt Somkiet has flown Sir Roger Moore, Tiger Woods and the King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf among others.

— *Alexandra Andersson*

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'Streets of Phuket' directing sales

By Stephen Fein

SALES of Phuket's first-ever street directory, Streets of Phuket have been trending upward since its release in September last year. Publisher Image Asia expects its considerable investment in the project to see solid returns over the next few years.

Image Asia Managing Director Grenville Fordham said it was virtually impossible to say how much the publishing house invested in creating the atlas, which includes 188 pages of detailed street maps, landmarks and local information, all with comprehensive indexing.

"Everything was done by our in-house team over a period of a few years, a lot of it at weekends. There is no doubt that the opportunity cost, what we might have earned if we'd spent the time doing other things, could be counted in the millions of baht. But we are confident that we'll see a solid return over the next couple of years," he said.

The company plans future print runs on a regular basis, but it has not yet been decided what the interval will be or when the second edition will come out.

"Although we launched in September last year with 10,000 copies printed, it took quite a while to get through the administrative maze of retail outlets such as Asia Books, B2S and so on. We decided not to push copy sales too hard initially because the last thing we wanted was people not being able to find the book," he said.

"We are finally satisfied with our distribution spread and have seen copy sales trend upwards over the last two or three months. We are now into phase two with initiatives such as the partnership with *Phuket Gazette*, inclusion of a Streets of Phuket map reference



MAPPING PHUKET: Peter Smith (left) displays the chart plotter he used while driving around Phuket, while computer whiz Vorapan "Yam" Yaemlamai shows off the finished product.

icon on advertising artwork available to advertisers in any Phuket publication and "buy here" stickers in stockists shop doorways," he added.

The increasingly brisk sales of the atlas, which retails for 399 baht, are due to its accuracy and ease of use.

"We are 100 per cent confident that there is nothing for Phuket as accurate as our maps and that includes Google Maps. However, given the size of the undertaking and the speed with which Phuket is developing, there will surely be errors and omissions. Readers are invited to send us feedback on anything we've got wrong or missed out. All feedback will be incorporated in the next edition," he said.

The main drivers behind the project were Image Asia Director of Sales & Marketing Peter Smith, who has a passion for maps, and

the dogged perseverance and skills of Design Supervisor Vorapan "Yam" Yaemlamai.

Mr Smith recounts the years of reconnoitering the effort entailed: "I can't quite say that I could now

drive anywhere in Phuket with my eyes closed, but I gained a lot of insight into rural and urban Phuket researching Streets of Phuket and my car definitely knows it has a reverse gear! Without the contri-

bution of my Thai staff, translating signs and writing down innumerable details while I drove, it would have been impossible. Then there was the Herculean task of producing the huge index that makes it all work, a real team effort."

Mr Vorapan said growing up on the island and knowing it well made the mapping fun.

"The most challenging aspect was getting to grips with the many features available in graphics software to create a multi-layered design of enormous complexity. Taking the details from chart plotter, hand-written notes and verbal explanations to create a map with GPS accuracy was time consuming, but very rewarding. And it was fascinating to use both satellite imagery to check our work and old illustrations of Phuket to see how the tambon organization had developed," he said.

Under a special agreement with the *Phuket Gazette*, our readers will now enjoy these maps embedded in news stories as well as in our weekly print publication and supplements. For more information or feedback contact: streets@image-asia.com

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Map: The map shows the school's location in Chalong Bay, near Chalong Pier. It includes directions to Central/Airport, Kata/Karon, Phuket Town, Chalong Pier, Patak Road, Sai Yuan, Viseit Road, Nai Harn, Rawai Hardware, Soi Salika, Rawai Sea Front, and the Phuket Seashell Museum. A traffic light is also marked near Chalong Pier.

True 3G dongles all the way

I DROPPED by the True office in Phuket Town last week and discovered a number of changes. If you want “3G” HSPA service in Phuket, here’s what you need to know.

In Phuket, 3G service (more accurately, HSPA service) is only available from True. True is in the process of extending 3G service on the island. In spite of what you may have read, or what a sales clerk may have told you, most of Phuket can’t get 3G signals.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

If you own a 3G

iPhone, iPad, Android phone, or USB dongle, there’s a specific set of steps you have to go through in order to get 3G. No, it isn’t enough to buy a phone with “3G” printed on it.

To get 3G, take your computer, phone or pad to the True office that’s in front of Robinson’s department store in downtown Phuket Town. You can set up 3G at True offices elsewhere, including Big C, but I’ve heard complaints that the staff at the other locations may not know what they’re talking about. The people at the main office in Phuket Town know their stuff.

In order to get 3G, you have to get a telephone number. In order to get a telephone number you must have either (1) a valid Thai id card, or (2) a valid work permit. If you’re a foreigner and don’t have a work permit, take a Thai national with you. They’ll have to sign up for the phone number, and they’ll be on the hook to pay your bill.

Tell the folks at the True office that you want 3G, and hand them your PC, phone or pad. They’ll have you fill out a form, sign a bunch of papers, including a copy of your passport. You get to choose a telephone number from the list provided.

If you’re putting 3G in a phone or tablet, the staff at True will set it all up for you. Note that some devices – notably iPads and iPhones – require special half-height “mini” SIM cards. The folks at True can set that up for you, too.

If you’re putting 3G on your laptop, True will sell you a USB dongle that’s guaran-

teed to work with their 3G system. Note that not all USB dongles – in particular, ones you buy in Singapore or Europe –

will work with True’s HSPA system. The dongle will set you back about 2,000 baht.

True’s 3G service costs 699 baht per month, plus VAT, but there’s a catch. True limits your account to a maximum of 3 GB of data (up and down) per month. If you go over 3 GB (3 billion characters) of data, True automatically drops you off the 3G network for the rest of the month, and you’ll be stuck running at old-fashioned EDGE mobile phone speeds. 3 GB is plenty for email and normal web surfing, but if you download big files or use torrents, you won’t get very far.

True doesn’t have a map of its service area in Phuket, but the service extends along the west coast of the island, from Kata-Karon all the way up to Mai Khao. Recently – just last week – True got a tower working on top of Bangkok Phuket Hospital, so if you’re in line of sight of BPH, you should be able to get a signal.

I’ve also heard that an HSPA “3G” signal is available in Koh Kaew, near the British International School. I’m not sure where the tower for that signal is located, but it could be the new one at BPH, or the signal



DANGLING DONGLE: True’s USB dongle looks a lot like a simple USB drive.

could be leaking over the hill from a tower on the coast.

True has plans to get more towers going later this year. I’ll keep you posted as I hear about them. If you want to know what kinds of download speeds people are seeing with their 3G lines, go to phuketinternetspeed.com.

JUNE 19. GEEKFEST FOUR

We’ll be celebrating the fourth anniversary of the Computer Clinics at Geekfest 4 on Sunday morning, June 19, 10am to mid-day at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Help us devour a Geekcake. Explore your inner geekiness. Meet people who can bully a recalcitrant PC into submission by their mere presence and uttered incantations. You

know “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”? Meet the people whose mantra runs, “Reboot, Reformat, Reinstall.”

If you own a computer, if you use a computer, if you swear at a computer, if you’re thinking about throwing your Windows out the window, if you bend circuit boards with your powers of concentration, drop by Geekfest 4. Phuket is home to an amazing array of tech savvy folks, some of whom rarely venture out in public. Here’s your chance to meet them.

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.

The rich get richer, the poor get the picture

THE rich get richer and the poor get poorer, or so the saying goes. When it comes to investing, one of the reasons for this is that the average Joe can’t afford the same quality of fund managers as the “rich”.

Many of the most consistent funds that churn out returns year after year, in bull and bear markets alike, have minimum investment levels of US\$1 million or more. How can one find a man-

ager who will achieve results without the capital to even get through that manager’s door?

Many funds that invest in other funds – so-called “funds of funds” – will allow investors to diversify across these high-quality funds with relatively small amounts of money, especially if the fund of funds is accessed through an offshore portfolio bond.

Using such a strategy can al-

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

low access to a high-quality fund with a US\$1mn minimum entry requirement for as little as \$25,000 – and still leave the investor with this fund being something like 7 per cent of his or her portfolio.

That’s less money than one needs to become an “accredited investor” in the onshore world, a distinction that allows the rich to make money off stock market crashes while the rest of the public loses money in long-term only mutual funds.

Not all funds of funds are equal, and in many instances the underlying funds can be dangerous. If the underlying funds invest in illiquid markets such as real estate investment trusts or credit default swaps, a fund can go down in flames, just like many did during the recent financial crisis.

It is very important that the fund of funds has an investment philosophy of short redemption periods and liquid underlying assets as a screen for the funds which they invest in. A fund should be diverse in its strategies and aim to invest in funds run by different managers who ideally perform well in different market conditions.

Even in doing this, it is not always possible to ensure consistent year in, year out returns, but this strategy for investing provides much more consistent returns than any mutual fund I have ever looked at.

One fund I am personally involved in has just experienced an 18-month period of being flat to slightly down despite having some of the best managers in the business on board. The fund has suffered no big hits along the way, either.

Unfortunately, when market conditions get tough enough even diversification goes only so far, but it helps preserve capital so that when the next upswing comes, one’s wealth is intact to take advantage of it.

This basically boils down to the most important aspect of wealth management, which is to avoid losing money. This way, there is always another day to make your gains.

This is a topic best dealt with in a separate article, but investing via funds of funds is one of the best ways to achieve this if you don’t have millions to hand over to the stars of Wall Street.

David Mayes MBA is a resident of Phuket, Thailand, and provides wealth management services to expatriates throughout the region of South East Asia. He can be reached via email at david.m@faramond.com

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Tycoon Trump a comic hero – now that's a super move



HERO OR VILLAIN: It's comic sense.

BUSINESS tycoon Donald Trump will soon bulldoze his way into a new business venture – comic books.

The floppy-haired 64-year-old American will be the subject of a new graphic biography due out in October.

It is not yet known if he will be cast as supervillain or superhero, either way; his super hair will no doubt hold him in good stead.

Even though his super attempt to run as a Republican presidential candidate has gone super-sideways, Trump will be immortalized – and maybe adored – in *Political Power: Donald Trump*.

Publisher Bluewater Productions has also brought us the thought-provoking comic-book biographies of Republican hockey-mom-presidential-candidate Sarah Palin and FOX News presenter Glenn Beck.

The Trump comic book will follow the rise and rise – and occasional lull – of a high-profile businessman, presidential aspirant and media-savvy TV personality.

– Blair Christopher

Return of Rosse, the keen-eyed chronicler

STEVE Rosse once wrote a weekly column for the *Phuket Gazette* and *The Nation*. Rosse left for the United States about 15 years ago but has returned with new e-book *She Kept the Bar Between Them* (Bangkok Books, Bangkok, 2011, 123pp). It's a collection of 18 stories, old and new, funny and sad.

Books

By James Eckardt

The first story, "Rain", is a classic. A Burmese construction laborer in Phuket takes shelter from the rain in a Chinese grocery shop. The old Chinese shop owner abuses him for being an illegal Burmese laborer and the worker abuses him right back, sending him to bed in a fright.

"Pilgrimage" is a prose poem about a dying American returning to Bangkok for the first time in two decades and savoring all the visual delights of Soi Nana. "Sleepless in Seattle" is a warm story of a little half-Thai boy named Danny waiting at his Phuket home for the arrival of his long-lost American father. His dreams are centered around a big photo that his father had given him of the Cascades Mountains. When the father arrives, "Danny didn't understand a word his father said, but it didn't matter, because in his heart a million tons of snow thundered down a mountainside, and his ears were filled with the sound of it."

"His Gal Friday" is a clever gimmick story. What we think is a man trying to seduce a friend's Thai wife is really a different gambit.

"An Old Man with No Stories to Tell", at 16 pages, is one of the longer stories. As with the others in this collection, this is a meditation on mortality. An invalid in a nursing home compulsively tells the story of

his youth as an American soldier in Bangkok in 1946 and a night of splendid passion with the city's star bargirl. The ending is a heart-breaker.

The reader is delivered a bit of low comedy in "The Scarlet Claw". An American tourist in

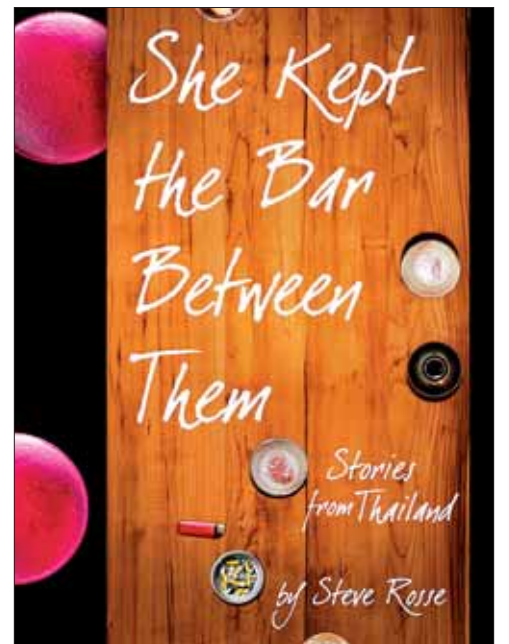
Phuket picks up his rented bargirl and throws her into the ocean despite her screams about "jerry fitch". She gets her revenge.

The longest story is "Necessary Things", a 24-page meditation on the nature of Bangkok bar life and changes seen over 20 years by an obsessive-compulsive travel writer. Love letters, for example, used to be cherished, but now; "The letter became a prop in an opera of uncountable acts, a thing of weight and substance. Now the messages arrive on their phones in fractions of seconds, and they are erased with the other junk when the inbox gets full. Today's love letters are written in teenaged text-speak, a noxious illiterate code full of anagrams and emoticons, completely lacking grammar, syntax, punctuation or style."

"The Artist" is a weak sketch about an American painter tricked by his Thai girlfriend to return to the US. "The Days of Wine and Roses" is a cute romance that happens between an upscale Thai couple at a wine-tasting in Bangkok.

We're back to intimations of mortality in "Going Back to Find Bob," where a dying man in a hospital ward talks about returning to find the heroic young Bob whom he'd met in Phuket many years ago. The real Bob is a surprise.

"The Crooked Houses" is a foray into science fiction. Patong is underwater and



THAI VIGNETTES: Some familiar scenes.

the natives now dive for such treasures as broken mirrors. "Author! Author!" is an hysterical parody. Writers infest "hack bars" where they turn bargirl tricks for a steely-eyed female editor. "A Clit-mat Carol" has a lonely curmudgeon in Phuket turn human at the last moment.

And the final tale ends on a similarly hopeful note. Rundle Falke writes "The Night Stalker" column, and just as Bernard Trink once wrote in "The Night Owl", he is "famous, powerful and bored". His stint on Soi Cowboy usually ends with the sight of a transvestite hustling a drunk tourist into a cab. But something amazing happens instead and a smiling Rundle Falke has a new subject to write about.

The Spy on course with advice for life

DO YOU want to find out someone's real character before hiring them? Simply invite them to play a round of golf with you, or even just one hole such as the

ninth at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club for example.

If they furtively kick their ball away from a tree, secretly improve their lie or fudge their score,



The Spy

By Sai Lap

they are obviously a dangerous felon. Avoid them at all cost. If they speak when you are about to hit a shot or walk when you are putting, they are an insufferable bore. Shun them forever.

But let's say you are playing with Joe at Laguna who hasn't done any of these things right up to the eighth hole on which he missed a short putt for a heart-breaking bogey.

As you walk to the ninth hole past the beautiful casuarinas and the pond across the second fairway, he is perfectly calm, even happily pointing to a pair of purple swan hens.

Eagerly looking forward to playing the ninth hole, he exclaims: "Tuesday is my lucky day." As he views the sharp dog-leg 342-yard par four in front of him, he knows he must place his tee shot precisely to enable him to go for the island green with the second.

Both of you have good drives. It's your shot and your choice is to either shoot for the green

or play safe by laying the ball near the water. You go for it, but unfortunately the ball drops straight into the water surrounding the green.

Joe is undeterred by your misfortune and recalls what Tim Haddon, the Club's Director of Golf had once said: "The choice of laying-up or going for it is what sorts the men from the boys on this hole."

Joe smiles and after carefully considering his choice and his ability to reach the green, he hits a perfect shot. As he watches the ball drop four feet away from the hole, everybody breaks into loud applause.

Joe's actions clearly reveal that he is good at controlling his mood and rising above frustration. He is a risk-taker but is good at weighing his ability to handle it. He is not influenced by other people's failures and uses superstition to his advantage.

Most importantly, he is lucky which can often be a decisive factor in golf as well as in business. Hire him!

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Barrie Buck

BARRIE Buck is the General Manager of Siam Guardian Services (SGS) which provides home and institutional security for schools, marinas, resorts and a variety of other businesses around Phuket.

"We have over 220 security officers. We believe in investing in their future with extensive English language training, team building exercises and professional guidelines that will give them a sense of pride in their work."

Barrie had an impressive career in the Royal Air Force and the British Army before retiring to Bangkok in 2006. Shortly after, he decided to get back to work and started SGS.

"I had first come to Thailand in 1994 while training with the army. I found the culture had everything I liked. I visited Thailand seven times before deciding to retire here."

Barrie was born in Tangmere, Sussex, where his father was in the military. The family moved constantly for assignments. Barrie counts 17 different schools while growing up in Libya, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Germany.

"Moving around so much as a child can make or break a person. Fortunately, I developed an international outlook which has made living so far from England quite enjoyable."

After school, he lived in Greece and supported himself as a water skiing instructor and by working in restaurants. He then went to Clarendon College where he completed a two year night school course

EXPAT

gallery

By Bruce Stanley

to become a qualified chef. But the naturally athletic young Buck loved sports so he took a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) certification and joined the Air Force in 1982.

His talent in training recruits was recognized and in 1993 he was seconded from the Air Force to the Army, which began a 13 year stint as a parachute jumping instructor. He trained soldiers for the Falklands, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan wars. During these years, he also worked for NATO on reconnaissance missions under the Dutch-Belgian border.

"I had great years organizing R&R, team building and leadership camps where I would lead mountaineering, skiing and hill walking events. We'd explore the high mountains in Europe, canoe down rivers in Germany, or climb the Rockies of Canada."

Barrie spent eight years of his army career based in Southern California where he taught soldiers to pack their own parachutes and jump into the Pacific Ocean or onto barren deserts.

"It took me about 50 jumps before I got comfortable myself with jumping out of airplanes. I made well

over 5,000 jumps in my career, with only six malfunctions, three of which were in tandem jumps with other recruits. On one occasion, a fellow jumper landed on my back, an injury that follows me to this day."

Barrie's highest jump was from 37,500 feet, which took him one hour and 21 minutes to land. In South Africa, he became an expert at high altitude free fall, where he would open his chute at very low altitudes. He has ruptured his Achilles tendon numerous times from landings on hardened drop zones.

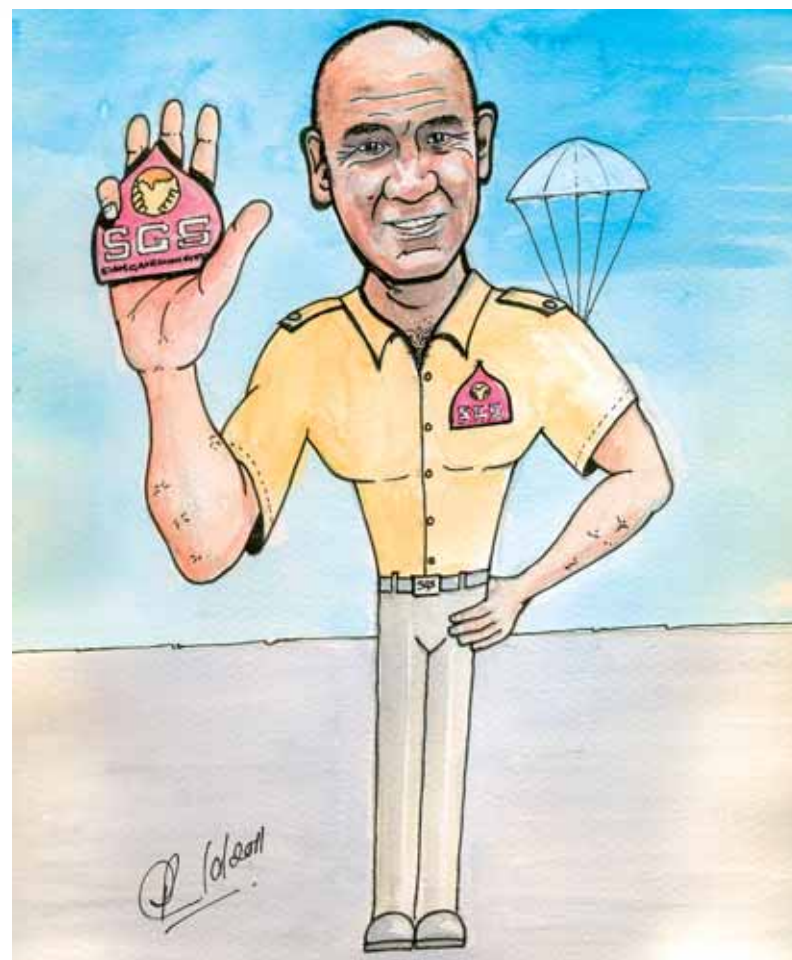
After he retired to Bangkok he did some private security work looking after high-level individuals in and around SE Asia. One day he was called to a meeting in Phuket to look at setting up a private security company; the rest, as they say, is history.

His main contract is the new Thanyapura and its related properties.

"I like the philosophy of Thanyapura and accepted the challenge. When I researched security services on Phuket, I felt there was a need to provide better training and better communication, so the security officers are proud of their work and can do a better job."

Currently, SGS has 24 clients and their customer list continues to grow.

When not working, Barrie and his SGS team assist the community by cleaning beaches and helping local charities. And Barrie enjoys golf, gym training and scuba diving.



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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We Fly Smiles

Beyond food at Bistro 104

Find great French food in the heart of Phuket Old Town – and maybe serendipity too

By Sam Wilko

EVERY once in a while, the elusive butterfly of serendipity arouses from her slumber, dusts herself down, outstretches her wings and flutters majestically through the evening air, only to collide – splat – with the face of a fortunate restaurant reviewer.

Serendipity assumed the shape of Bistro 104 in Phuket Town the other night and it has to be said that without an invitation from Celine Masson – of Siam Indigo fame, I would never have tried out this typical Old Town eatery at first glance.

Bistro 104 is located on Yaowarat Road, some 200 meters north of Timber Hut nightclub. In other words, it's in the fashionable quarter of Phuket Old Town and fits right in with the new vision of a chic, understated and affordable Phuket – as far removed from Patong's brashness and sleaze as possible without buying a plane ticket out of here.

The bistro has been open only one month and fronts Casa 104, a compact guesthouse converted from a Chinese shophouse. Raspberry-red walls, floors and even ceiling fans dominate the ground-floor restaurant section, counter-pointed by a dark-wood bar, tables and fittings. Large, wine-glass-shaped flower vases provide a lighter relief.

Bistro 104's ebullient chef David Layfield from York, England, explains: "My philosophy is a French bistro with organic vegetables and fruits."

David has worked with celebrity chef Raymond Blanc and he sources from the best food suppliers in Phuket. This proves to be more expensive, but he feels the gamble pays off.

On the night we visited his left arm was in a sling "Had a wee accident last night," he explains – a factor that makes what follows all the more incredible.

We settle in at a table with Celine and the



TOP TALENT: Chef David and owner Lek



Duck terrine with apricot and parma ham

bistro's owner, Lek, who says, "I wanted a place where people can come casually dressed but be impressed by the food."

It seems he's hit the nail on the head: A rillette of duck terrine served with apricot, parma ham and wild rocket salad (350 baht) along with American crab scallops (310 baht) are both electrifying starters but the roasted *foie gras brioche* with caramelized apple (450 baht) sends us into sensory overdrive.

Each detail: texture, taste, presentation and execution complement each other in a style that belies, not only a solid base in classical culinary education, but great imagination and creativity. This is *New York Times* food review territory: fantastic *m* *l* *a* *n* *g* *e* *s* and *m* *l* *e* *s*



OLD TOWN: Bistro 104 is on Phuket Town's trendy Yaowarat Road. Photos: Stephan Audiger

of simple but highly synchronized dishes but at decidedly non-New York prices.

Members of the prestigious French *Cha ne des R tisseurs* club ate in the bistro's upstairs dining room on the Friday before our visit. David was given a warning as they filed past, "We eat like pigs and drink like fish." They left suitably satiated. What more do you need as proof that this unpretentious bistro delivers the goods?

Still, all praise aside, who wouldn't be suspicious of a typical French set up in Phuket a "*ros-bif*" chef? "I tell people I have a British chef and they laugh," Lek comments, "but not after tasting his dishes".

The wine list is surprisingly short. Just

two Chilean and Australian red-and-white selections, but the Australian red – complements David's cuisine well.

For mains, lamb shank with baby carrots in saffron garlic (650 baht) is impeccable and a real filler but after insistence on Celine and Lek's part, we sample some of the desserts. Unsurprisingly, they turn out to be on par with the starters and main courses.

This reviewer would go so far as to say that David Layfield's arrival on the Phuket culinary scene will result in a lot of changes and anyone who tries the menu at Bistro 104 will most likely agree. Let's hope he can handle the ensuing stampede.

A wave of seafood delights to sample this Green Season

IN A bid to get tourists and locals down to the beach during Green Season (low season), the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket is organizing a Phuket Seafood Fiesta 2011 on beaches around the island in August.

Over 40 seafood restaurants will participate, delivering delicious seafood at discounted prices right on the sand.

There will be a wide selection of choices to suit every pescatarian pallet: lobster menus, Western menus and regular restaurant dishes from some of Phuket's best chefs.

There will also be bartender contests and prizes for the best international menu.

The first leg of the seafood fiesta will be a barbecue seafood feast at Patong Beach in the first week of

August. This will be followed with events in Phuket Town and fresh-fish grilling on Rawai Beach.

"The event is intended to make Phuket's famous beaches into a food haven for tourists," Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, the Head of the TAT Phuket, said.

"The goal of hosting Phuket Seafood Fiesta 2011 is to make tourists aware of Phuket's seafood scene and provide positive business development opportunities for Phuket and neighboring provinces," she said.

Mrs Bangornrat said she hopes tourists will be impressed not only by Phuket's outstanding seafood, but also by the range of activities on offer at the beach during Green Season.

– Chutharat Plerin

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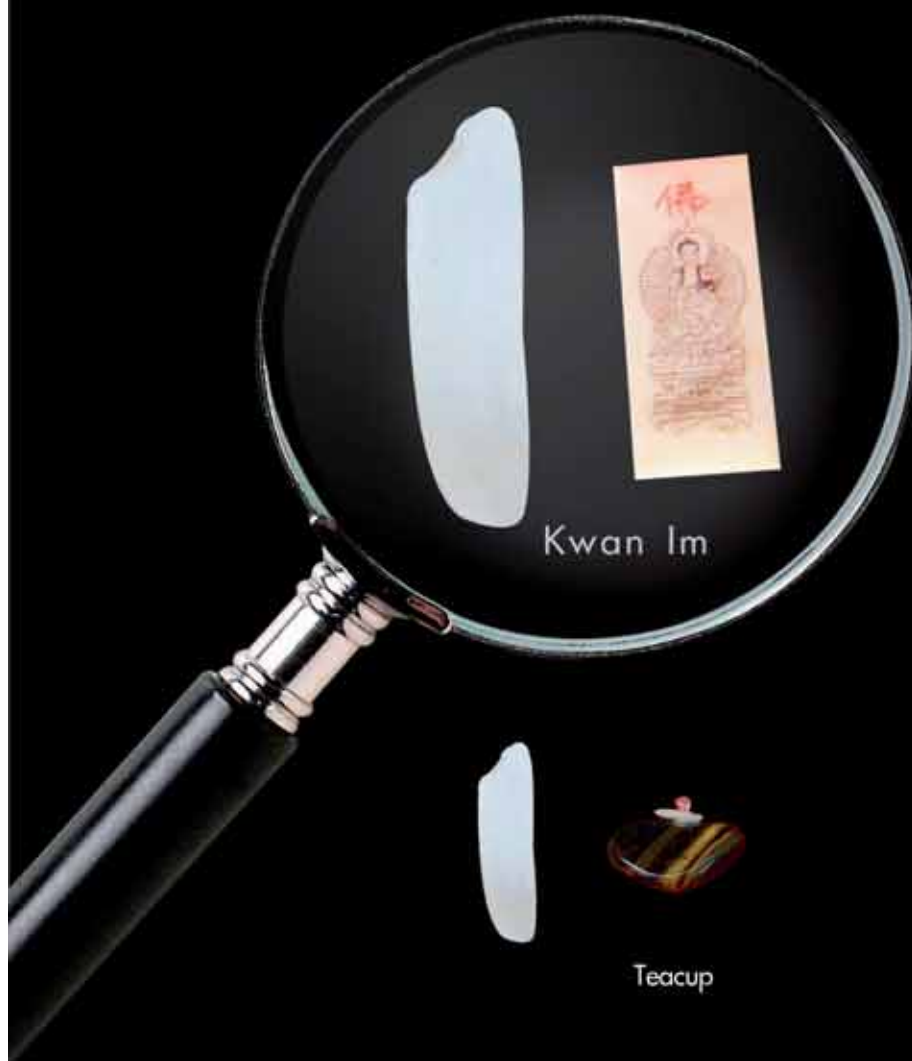
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Boundaries of Buddhism

By Steven Layne

EARLIER this month, media across the globe were quick to report the Thai Ministry of Culture's impending crackdown on "inappropriate" religious tattoos.

Thailand's official guardian of culture, art and religion, the Culture Ministry was once again the target of criticism over its perceived encroachment into human rights and personal freedom of expression.

While Culture Ministry officials saw their actions as simply carrying out duties, negative reactions from around the world suggested that Thailand was under some form of tyrannical cultural control: hardly the *mai pen rai* image many foreigners hold of this Land of Smiles.

So few are the countries that have a Ministry of Culture that the very words conjure up Orwellian images among many Phuket residents. Understanding its genesis requires a look back through history to a time when the Thai nation was hardly as unified as the country we know today.

Sparked by increasing globalization after WWII, the antecedent of the ministry was formally established in 1952 by dictatorial Prime Minister Field Marshall Phibul Songkhram, who wanted to unify the widespread people of Siam into a homogeneous, modern Thai state.

Not surprisingly, the school system was seen as the bulwark of this effort, so what was eventually to become the Culture Ministry was initially established as a division of the Ministry of Education.

There it stayed until 2002,



THAILAND INK: A man poses with the type of tattoo the Ministry of Culture would like to see Thai artists stop offering tourists. Photo: AFP/ Boris Roessler

when the government of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, also known for its social engineering efforts, established it as a full-fledged ministry with a seat in Cabinet.

In times past, cultural issues were largely assumed to fall under the purview of all government officials, from Prime Minister down through to village headmen.

The establishment of the Culture Ministry changed this less-formal arrangement with its

official mandate: "to protect, sustain, enhance, disseminate, and promote the religious, art and cultural affairs of the nation, and thus contribute to maintaining the ultimate symbols of Thai social values: the nation, religion and monarchy."

The reproduction of Buddhist iconography is hardly a new phenomenon, nor is such trend really at the core of the latest controversy. After all, the proliferation of Buddha images over the last

two millennium has marked the spread of Buddhism. A new trend over the past few decades, however, has been the mass commercialization of eastern religious symbols, especially those of Buddhism and Taoism. In this age of rapid globalization guided by capitalist, bottom-line goals, entrepreneurs are quick to exploit new trends. While people of many different faiths yearn to emancipate themselves from self-limiting and fear-fueled institutions, Buddhism – embodying such concepts as rebirth and enlightenment through a deeper form of awareness – could never have been more profitable.

In a rush to cash in on the impulsive quantum leap from West to East, cultural sensitivity – in respect to the unspoken-yet-fundamental boundaries instilled through generations of practice – has been overlooked, if not entirely ignored. Such commercial exploitation has caused dismay in predominantly Buddhist countries like Thailand. A handful of well-publicized cases over the past 12 years set the stage to the latest cultural appropriation controversy.

DEFINING BOUNDARIES

January 1999: An ad for Jacques brand chocolate posted around Brussels, Belgium featured a Buddhist monk, adjourned in saffron robes, seated in meditative position while a dark-skinned woman clasped him from behind; enraging Lao and Thai Buddhists there, the advert showed a large chocolate bar in front with the slogan

"*Een wereld vol smaak*," ("a world of taste"). Mounting pressure from the Thai and Lao embassies eventually resulted in the ad being recalled and a formal apology from the company.

February 2003: Via diplomatic channels, the German airline Lufthansa issued a similar apology to the Thai Government for a picture in their flight magazine's February edition that featured a woman sitting on a Buddha image. After the Thai embassy in Germany made a formal complaint, the airline apologized and promised to seal the page containing the image so that it could not be viewed.

April 2004: The summer catalog for Victoria's Secret featured a two-piece "Baby Buddha Bikini", which had images of both a seated Buddha and the Bodhisattva Guanyin on breast pieces. Enraged protests by US Buddhists led to front page headlines in Vietnam and Thailand. It was the lobbying of the Thai embassy in Washington, DC that led to the lingerie manufacturer to withdraw the garment from its product line and issue a formal apology.

May 2004: "Ecobuddha" brand shoes produced in Australia featured as its logo on the back side of the heel a seated Buddha. The Thai Culture Ministry immediately warned of an import ban. No official report is available as to whether the products were ever recalled or if an apology was issued, but as of today the company's website has been taken over by an unrelated Korean company. The import ban, with the threat of fines, still stands, however.

September 2004: Making

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in contemporary business



BANGKOK: A man walks past a tattoo shop. Parlors like this one face renewed pressure from the Ministry of Culture over tattoos featuring Buddhist imagery. Photo: AFP/Pornchai Kittwongsakul

'Our intention is not to stop or prohibit people. People should use their own considered judgment about the use of Buddhist symbols in a commercial product or setting. It ultimately depends on intention, whether the purpose is to harm or disrespect Buddhism.'

— Prayoon Noosuk, Chief of Phuket Culture Office

world headlines, the Thai Parliament was outraged by a promo poster for the film *Hollywood Buddha* that depicted the film's main character sitting on the head of a Buddha image. Following the controversy, the filmmaker replaced the original poster, cropping out the offensive image, and issued an apology to Buddhists. In his statement, he claimed ignorance and begged for forgiveness.

April 2007: The Thai film *Saeng Sattawat* ("Syndromes and a Century") was banned from screening in Thailand by the Thai censorship board after director Apichatpong Weerasethakul refused to cut out four offensive scenes, two of which inappropriately depicted monks: one playing a guitar and another operating a remote-controlled aircraft.

May 2007: California-based Internet gift shop CafePress.com crossed the line with a product line of underwear, G-strings, doggy shirts and beer mugs featuring Eastern deities, including Buddha head images. Although initially agreeing to recall the offending products, they are still available today. Though CafePress.com is blocked in Thailand, the company still openly offers the "Made in the USA" products via their UK website.

2007: Throughout the year, there was a public outcry in Thailand about the degrading state of Buddhism. Complaints ranged from the placement of Buddhist souvenirs on sidewalks to the increasingly profitable sale of amulets and talismans at temples. The highlight of the year came when the controversial painting *Bhikku Sandan Ka* ("Crow-

natured Monks") by Anupong Chantorn won the Gold Medal at the 53rd Nation Exhibition of Art. Despite protests from the Buddhist clergy, the prize was not rescinded by the Culture Ministry.

October 2008: Complaints about inappropriately placed Buddha images in restaurants and bars in Bangkok led to a new guideline requiring them to be put upon elevated shrines, with the recommendation they be removed altogether from entertainment venues serving alcohol, slaughterhouses as well as casinos, which in any case are illegal in Thailand.

March 2010: After two years on the shelf, film director Pawat Pawangkasiri was surprised when his film *Nak Prok*, depicting criminals imitating gun-touting monks, passed the censorship board without a single cut. The given explanation for the apparent loosening of standards between 2007 and 2010 was that the new

movie ratings system introduced in 2009 would provide advance warning.

July 2010: The *Phuket Gazette* reported the case of a foreigner restaurant owner who modified the head of a Buddha head, replacing the "enlightenment apex" with a sprinkler nozzle for a garden ornament. After Cultural officials intervened, the statue was removed. After claiming ignorance and offering an apology, the foreigner was not charged.

June 2011: Two controversial films were screened in Thailand: an erotic film from Hong Kong and the second installment of Hollywood comedy *The Hangover*. Prior to local screening, the film board required the first to cut one scene depicting the seduction of a monk; the latter, featuring a few scenes depicting violent and party-going monks, was allowed to screen in Thai theaters in its entirety.

REGULATION AND LAW

While the Culture Ministry has made it clear that it intends to leave responsibility to individual judgment, there are laws and punishments in place for those who deliberately and knowingly cross the cultural-religious line of social acceptability with ill intent.

According to Article 206 of the Criminal Law (1956), "Anyone who conducts any act or activities insulting respected places and objects of any religion will be imprisoned from one to seven years, fined from 2,000 to 14,000 baht, or both".

Article 208 states: "Anyone who illegally dresses or uses any

symbols of a monk or a priest of any religion will face one-year imprisonment, or a maximum 2,000 baht fine, or both."

As a society, Thailand has traditionally relied on implicitly assumed rules of social conduct. The need to explicitly define these rules in writing is fairly new. As yet there are no laws specifically defining "appropriateness" in respect to the commercial use of Buddhist images, which thus leaves room for interpretation. The lessons learned over the last 12 years resulted in the Culture Ministry's publishing of "guidelines", which were distributed to tattoo parlor operators earlier this month.

The manual lists six Buddhist symbols prohibited for commercial use. These include: the Buddha in any of his attitudes and poses; the proverbs and sayings of the Buddha or senior Buddhist prophets, monks or nuns; photographs, paintings or any invention/creation resembling a monk; a monk's possessions, such as garments or alms bowl; dressing up as or otherwise impersonating a monk; acting in the role of a monk in an inappropriate film; any element of a Buddhist temple, such as the ordination hall, Buddha Hall and chedi; Buddhist symbols such as the Wheel of Dharma.

The guidelines also include places where the above-listed Buddhist symbols are especially prohibited for commercial purposes. These include: alcohol production facilities and retail, restaurants, cinemas, theaters, entertainment venues, abattoirs, gambling dens of any kind, toilets and washrooms. Moreover, commercial products which are prohibited from using said symbols include: alcoholic beverages and other intoxicants, poisons, weapons, shirts, pants, underwear, shoes, sanitary ware, toiletries, chairs, beds and any print or electronic media production deemed inappropriate.

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The rescue dogs who save our skin

Hound heroes

IN THE last column we examined the power of a canine's senses. We touched on the extraordinary skills a guide dog possesses to help blind people and delved into the vital role a police dog serves in sniffing out drugs or explosives at airports. But what other profession is man's best friend qualified to do? Here are a few lesser-known day jobs our dog-eared friends perform.

EMERGENCY DOGS

In the aftermath of natural disasters such as tsunamis or earthquakes, it's a race against time to reach injured or trapped survivors and get them to safety. Survivors are often buried deep under rubble, are immobile or unconscious, and need to be found fast.

A St Bernard bounding deep into perilous terrain with only a miniature keg of brandy around his neck to rescue stranded skiers is an image synonymous with rescue dogs, but it is only recently that dogs have become an essential member of international rescue teams.

Many rescue dogs are able to cover vast areas of inhospitable terrain in a fraction of the time it would take a human. In addition, their incredible sense of smell helps them pick up scents that we – even with hand-held computers – could easily miss. They can even



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

smell a trapped human from as far as half a mile away.

Great rescue dogs often come from particular breeds that exhibit superior olfactory powers: German Shepherds, Border Collies, Labradors and little Jack Russells.

LIFEGUARD DOGS

In Phuket we are blessed with great beaches and warm waters. We can swim, sail, windsurf, wakeboard, hire a jet ski and enjoy a number of water-based activities.

But tourists and locals often get into trouble in the water, and as any sailor will tell you, the weather and the seas can turn on you.

With their incredible strength, power and stamina, water rescue dogs are becoming more prevalent in worldwide coastguard teams. Some of these dogs can swim for two kilometers, jump out of a helicopter from a height of

five meters and pull small boats to shore with their teeth.

Water rescue dogs undergo a grueling three-year training program involving intensive swimming, distance training and more specific exercises. Dogs have to be able to swim and drag a human for up to an hour in rough waters, or support a victim while their handlers perform first-aid procedures. Once the dogs are proficient in the water, they are then trained how to jump out of the helicopter.

Newfoundlands are well known "water dogs" and their immense size and strength make them ideal for the task. They also swim in more of a breast-stroke-like manner, rather than doggy paddle. Their webbed feet enable a strong thrust and their thick coat protects against cold.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE

Immense strength and superhuman senses are simple attributes dogs' possess. But as well as rescuing earthquake victims or pulling a boat to safety, some dogs are being used in a service that



LEAP OF FAITH: Water rescue dogs work with coastguard teams.



HEROIC HOUND: Dogs are used to find survivors of natural disasters.

requires a calmer approach.

The MIRA Foundation is the only accredited center for training guide and service dogs in Quebec. It's also the place where a different kind of dog is being bred to work with autistic children. The results are astounding.

Autism is a developmental disability characterized by difficulties in social interactions and communication, as well as unusual interests and behaviors. Sufferers are prone to lash out when they become confused or feel uncomfortable which makes forming friendships difficult. Dogs working with autistic children need to be very patient and calm.

A cross between the exceptionally loyal and intelligent breeds Labrador and Bernese Mountain

Dog has already proved an excellent assistance dog for the blind and deaf, but the "Labernese" as it is called, is also demonstrating the perfect character traits for helping children with autism.

Research from MIRA indicates that the presence of these dogs dramatically lowers the levels of stress hormone cortisol in the 42 children who took part in the study. The findings suggest that with a fully-trained assistance dog by their side, autistic children would be able to interact more and venture into unfamiliar situations that would otherwise cause them panic or confusion.

For more information contact the Thailand Canine Academy at 089-588 4050 or email tca@tk9a.com

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

June 15-21. Central Festival Grand Sale

From 10.30am to 10pm, Central Festival Phuket and the TAT are presenting a promotion with discounts of up to 70 per cent on many brands. Don't miss it.

June 16-22. Canon Professional Photography Fair at Central

From 10.30am to 10pm, on the 1st floor, the 1st Canon Professional Fair presents a photo-shooting course by professional photographer Theerapong Leowrakwong called Fashion on the Beach. There will also be a meet and greet with famous actress Apitchaya "Ice" Kraekongka.

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

From 10.30 to 10pm, on 1st floor at Central. There will be a roadshow entitled Thai Gems and Jewelry – The World's Finest from The Gem and Jewelry Business Development Committee of Thailand.

June 17-22. Southern Thailand's Best Beauty Center – Central

From 10.30am to 10pm, on the 4th floor. All beauty clinics in Thailand will showcase their products, therapies and promotions in booths where they will also be offering tips and demonstrations sure to be of interest to all who care about their appearance.

June 18. F Club Fino'n Fiore Club Party – Central

From 4 to 9pm at Lan Lom. Exclusive party for "F Club members" includes a Fashion Show on

June 23. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club



Phuket Punchline Comedy Club's next show will be at the Holiday Inn Resort Patong Phuket from 8 to 11pm. What a fantastic show it is going to be. Award-winning compere **Stephen Grant** returns to warm up the audience with his own brand of clever humor before inviting two of England's finest young comedians to the stage. **Jimmy McGhie** went from the "one to watch" to "see him now while you can get a ticket", and **Michael Fabbri** was described by the BBC as "hilarious, clever, sick and completely unrepeatable". This is genuinely a not-to-be-missed show! Contact Boom at T:089-6469278 E:info@phuketcomedy.com or visit W:phuketcomedy.com.

the F Club Chic Runway, and a concert, featuring Thai superstars Chin Chinawut, Slot Machine and Paradox.

June 23-29. Central Festival Phuket Wine and Food Festival

From 10.30am to 10pm, at the Inter Fastfood Zone on the 1st floor. Exclusive purveyors of wine and fine dining will be at this event – a must for food and wine lovers. Participants will be promoting an array of top-class cuisines and wines, vouchers, discount coupons and special offers for all who attend. Don't miss it! For all Central Festival Phuket events contact Siromanee at

T:076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com.

June 17-19. Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket 9th Annual Tennis Double

From 8am to 6.30pm, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket will hold the 9th Charitable Tennis Doubles Tournament at the resort. This fundraising event will go toward purchasing essential items, sports equipment and stationery for students affected by the recent flooding in neighboring Krabi province. Held at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket's on-site tennis courts, the three-day event is open to male and female players of all ages. Phuket-based tennis instructors and hotel staff are traditionally invited to participate, and entrants are categorized in one of two leagues: hoteliers or open. Registration Fee is 1,050 baht per team, includes lunch and refreshments. Contact Somneuk Krutkham at T:076-362999 E:somnuek.kk@dusit.com or visit W:dusitthanalagunaphuket.dusit.com.

June 17-23. RPM Indian Feast Indian Nights at RPM. Due to the overwhelming success of our "Indian Feast" at Les Angeles, you will now be able to enjoy this

unique event every Friday night. Enjoy Authentic Indian Cuisine from 7 to 10pm. This authentic homemade Indian buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef Padum Kahtri. Only 495++ baht per person. Contact Murat at T:081-7973364 E:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

June 18. FREE Facebook Seminar in Thai

Able Wanamakok "Introduction to Facebook" seminar, entirely in Thai. Able will take you through setting up a Facebook account, getting a "Fan" page started, methods for connecting with people, and business/organization promotion strategies. It's similar to Able's popular Facebook 101 course, in Thai lan-

guage. No previous Facebook experience necessary: Seminar will cover everything you need to get started from 10am to 12pm. Sign up by going to Facebook.com/SandwichShopee and submitting the application form. Contact Woody Leohard at T:076-290468 E:woody@khunwoody.com or visit W:KhunWoody.com.

June 18-24. AustCham Phuket Sundowners

Business and social networking event being sponsored by IndoChine and Strategic Airlines from 6 to 9pm. Members: 400 baht and Non-members: 600 baht. All drinks and finger foods included. Contact Harry Usher at T:081-2731740 E:harry@ladypie.com or visit W:austchamthailand.com.

June 18. Wine Tasting at Wine Lovers Phuket

3rd Wine Tasting, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at Fisherman Way near Tesco Rawai. Only 499 baht. Contact Gumrai at T:076-384663 E:info@wineloversphuket.com or visit W:wineloversphuket.com.

June 18 and 25. Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata

From noon to 3pm, only 395 baht.

June 22. Tex-Mex Wednesday

At Two Chefs Karon, from 6pm to 2am, only 495 baht.

June 24. Midsummer Celebrations at Two Chefs

From 6pm to 2am. There will be a big buffet with a lot of food. There is going to be pickled herring, pork tenderloin, red snapper, Swedish cinnamon rolls and a lot more. Of course we haven't forgot the Swedish schnaps. Come and enjoy all of this for only 495 baht, and children just 250baht. Contact Two Chefs Kata at T:076-330065 and Two Chefs Karon at T:076-286479 or visit W:twochefs.com.

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Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradach left the Baba wedding ceremony in a rickshaw.



Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradach and his wife Nalinee (center) with other happy couples on the day.

Love is all around as Governor weds again

PHUKET Governor Tri Augkaradacha and his wife Nalinee renewed their wedding vows on Saturday at a ceremony in Old Phuket Town as part of a two-day wedding festival to honor Baba Pernankan ("Straits Chinese") traditions. Gov Tri and Mrs Nalinee were one of four guest couples invited to renew their vows at Hongsyok House on Thepkasattri Road.

With them were five couples being married for the "first time", with two of the couples traveling from Taiwan for the occasion.

"We want to support tourism from Taiwan to Phuket. We have similarities in culture and demographics," said Suwanchai Ritthirak, Adviser to Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Suraphol Sawetseranee.

"Taiwanese couples married during the Baba wedding ceremony in Phuket will return after they have children, and they will tell their children about where they were married," he added.

After the ceremony, recently remarried Gov Tri and Mrs Nalinee joined a parade from the Hongsyok family home to the Phuket Thaihua Museum on Krabi Road in Old Phuket Town for a photo session.

"I am impressed. There is no Baba wedding ceremony like this in Taiwan. It is unique and interesting," said Chang Chin Hao, one of the Taiwanese grooms. It was his first trip to Phuket, he added.

— Janpen Upatising

Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem and Janpen Upatising



BABA COUPLES: Newlyweds in traditional Baba dress on the day.



Newlyweds from Taiwan, Huang Qui-Hui (bride) and Chen Wang-Chih (groom).



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Teatime rocks at Le Meridien

By Bruce Stanley

THE DILMAH Tea Company of Sri Lanka is giving the age old tradition of drinking tea a whole new spin. Recently, Dilmah's reps sponsored an evening of delicious cocktails and a gourmet dinner prepared by Le Meridien Phuket's resident Executive Chef, Philippe Gaudal. Each of Chef Philippe's courses was made with fragrant, tasty tea leaves from different parts of the world.

The result was a revelation in how the leaves from tea plants can enhance and invigorate both food and beverages.

The evening began with a cocktail reception presided over by Robert Schinkel, a tea sommelier, mixologist and taste trendwatcher. Robert constantly travels around the world presenting his signature cocktails, many made with no alcohol. His Pearl Mocktail Grey combines Dilmah's Earl Grey tea with pear juice and a splash of lavender syrup. Most of his cocktail menu combines fragrant teas with berries, fruits, extract of flowers, and if the guest insists, their favorite distilled alcohol.

Chef Philippe was up to the challenge using aromatic teas with his upscale cuisine. He used a jasmine green tea flavor in his *beurre blanc* foam with French white asparagus joined with succulent seared imported sea scallops. There was also the hot-smoked Moroccan-mint green tea that flavored the wild Canadian salmon course, and he layered Earl Grey tea cream into chocolate brownies served with a white chocolate mousse.

The dinner menu was a show of beauty and creativity that excited guests with new flavors emerging from recipes of Western classical cuisine.

Dilmah has taken tea to the tables of the best restaurants in the world through a clever combination of marketing initiatives and culinary innovations.

The distinctive blends of tea were developed by Merrill J Fernando who was born in 1930 in the village of Pallansena in Southwestern Sri Lanka. He wished to become a tea taster in the domain of British expatriates who guarded the profession keenly.

Merrill was fortunate to be selected to join the first batch of local Ceylonese (Sri Lanka was then called Ceylon) to be trained in tea at what was then the "mecca" of tea – Mincing Lane, London.



TEA PARTY: The Dilmah Tea team of Sri Lanka hosted a tea-making demonstration on Phuket last week.



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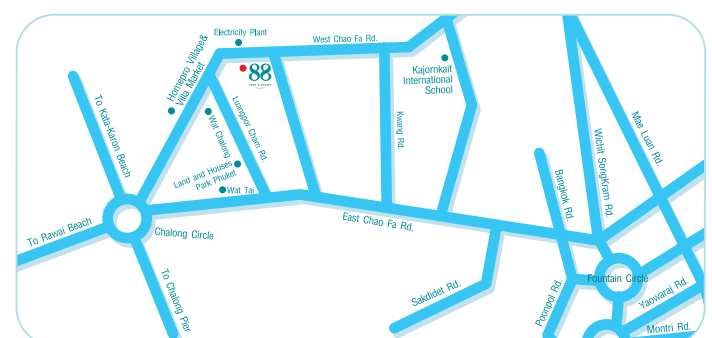
Photo of actual house with simulated environment

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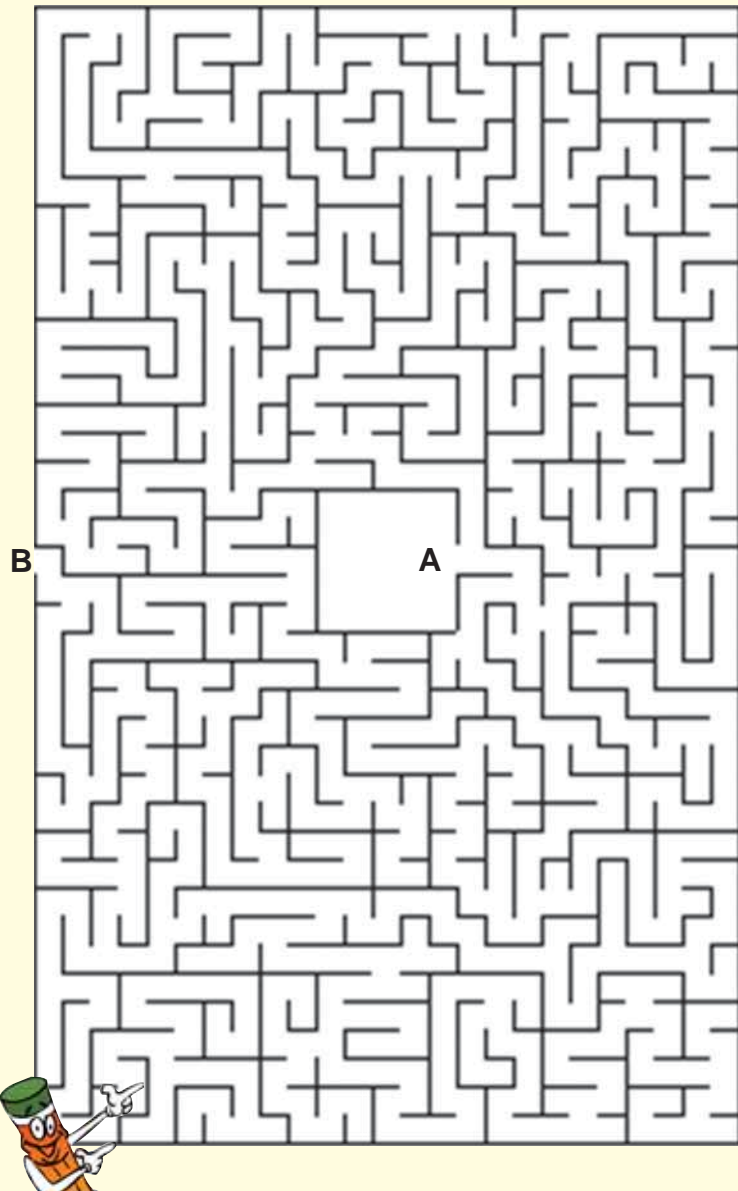
TROPICAL SERENITY



Project Owner : L.H.Muang Mai Co.,Ltd. Managing Director : Khun Pitaya Tantipiriyakij Registered Capital : 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid) 88 Land and Houses Phuket, Location : West Chao fa Rd. Chalong sub-district, Ampher Muang. Phuket, Title Deed No : 3901 Project Area 14 Rai, Financial Institution : Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start : January 2010 Expected Completion : 2013. Operation License No.19/2010 dated 2 December 2010. After full payment is completed transference is made within 7 days.



A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 20 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

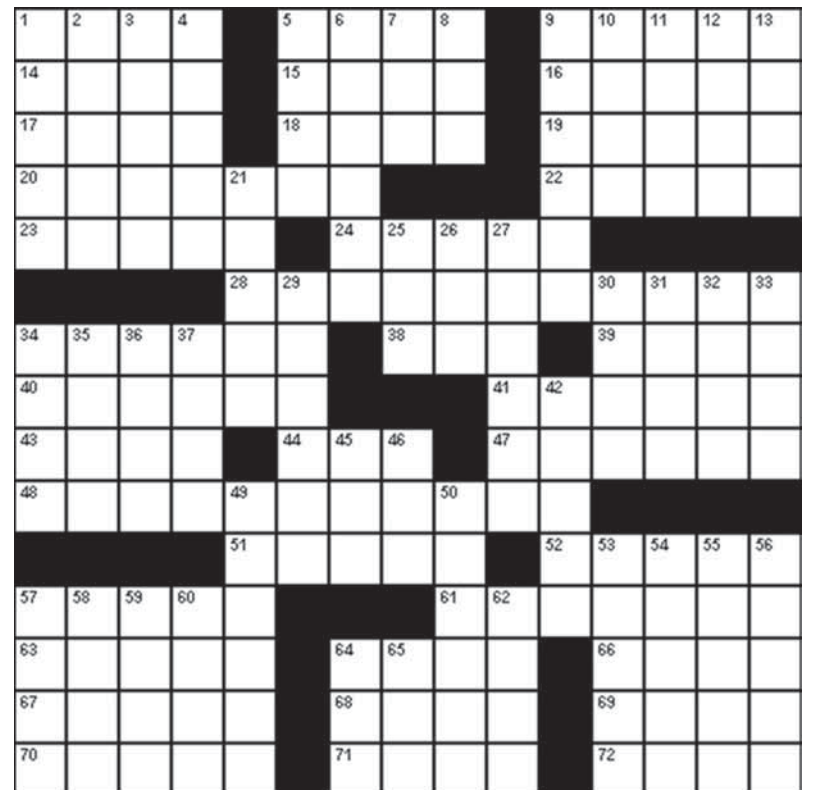


Across

1. King of comedy
5. Playthings
9. Cavalry sword
14. Vamp Theda
15. Langston Hughes poem
16. Muse of lyric poetry
17. Mine entrance
18. Compassionate
19. Outer coat of a seed
20. Rundown theater
22. Golden Horde member
23. Inventor Nikola
24. Angry
28. Mix the formerly separated
34. Lebanese tree
38. Battery size
39. Exclamation to express sorrow
40. Young roarer
41. Bring in from a foreign country
43. Organization to promote theater
44. Call -- day
47. Tried out
48. Farthest west
51. Costume
52. Nicholas Gage book
57. Chucked weapon
61. Hormone of the pancreas
63. Prolonged attack
64. Game of chance
66. Shaving mishap
67. Belief
68. Bread spread
69. 1975 Wimbledon winner
70. Eye sores
71. Flat circular plate
72. Hollow grass

Down

1. Behind
2. Big dipper
3. Sign of spring
4. Birth-related
5. Polynesian carved image
6. Inflammation of the ear
7. Hither's partner
8. Turf
9. Small sofa
10. Calculus calculation
11. Jute or ramie



12. Bluesy James
13. Crowd sound
21. Military chaplain
25. Actor Stephen
26. Turkish title
27. Characteristics
29. Complete
30. Openings
31. Bunches
32. Shipping deduction
33. Cornerstone abbr.
34. Cat's nail
35. -- kleine Nachtmusik
36. Specks

37. Med school subject
42. Doles (out)
45. Big bang cause
46. -- Darya (Asian river)
49. Wading birds
50. Shares viewpoints
53. Pertaining to the moon
54. Beethoven dedicatee
55. Recess in a wall
56. Signed
57. Fast fliers
58. Artist Mondrian
59. Start of a counting rhyme
60. Pulitzer winner James
62. Breakfast area
64. Down for the count
65. Actor Wallach

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 39

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Where others proceed with caution, Geminis are more likely to dive in at the deep end. The stars advise you to be more cautious during the remainder of June, particularly where business is concerned. Mistakes made through recklessness are highlighted early next week. Those with a birthday during the week ahead should enjoy more peace in their love lives in the coming year.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



It could be difficult to understand what others want from you during the coming days. Cancerians who are confused by the behavior of colleagues or friends are advised to take it all with a pinch of salt. The second half of June is an ideal time to put your own needs first. Indulge in a visit to the spa this weekend to help you make a refreshed start to the week.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



Your dedication to a work project is admirable, but some Leos could start to see that promised support is less than forthcoming. An earth sign is motivated, but an air sign could let you down at the last moment. Tuesday is the most

auspicious day to schedule meetings about this problem for. Those who have been torn in two regarding a romantic question should find resolution this week.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



Virgoans who are seeking different employment are advised to start balls rolling this week. The stars suggest that sitting back and waiting for offers to come your way won't work. Monday and Tuesday are auspicious days to be proactive. Where family and friends are concerned, you should aim to set a good example for those who could use some guidance. Romance with air signs is well-starred, but misunderstandings are highlighted with water signs.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



A creative approach to problem solving will be needed this week. Answers are forecast to come if you try stepping away from your usual routine and keeping an open mind. Some Librans may have to settle for second best, but this will relieve stress that has been accumulating. Those who have recently embarked on a new romance could be in danger of leaving their friends by the wayside.



SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



An air sign friend will appreciate your organizational skills during the week ahead. Scorpios who have time on their hands can put this to good use by helping others. During the second half of June creative arts are forecast to bring satisfaction for those who have been seeking a new hobby. Where romance is concerned, a heated exchange can clear the air, but harboring resentment could spoil the relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



Sagittarians should guard against going overboard this week. The stars suggest that you could overdo things either in the world of work, or where romance is concerned. You should find a tactful way to express criticism on Monday or Tuesday as an earth sign is likely to be over-sensitive. This is not an auspicious week to take chances with finances and there

are signs that friends could be forgetful about repaying debts.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



The stars advise Capricorns to turn a blind eye to situations that they don't approve of. Your sense of integrity could be offended this week, but interference is forecast to reflect negatively on you. Progress at work will be slow, but steady; another earth sign can hold the key to better opportunities. The second half of June is an auspicious time to learn new skills.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



The stars suggest that you are probably feeling too carefree to settle down to serious matters this week. But there are also signs that certain problems need to be faced head on, rather than continuing to bury your head in the sand. Wednesday is the most favorable day to tackle money related issues. In the realm of romance, many Aquarians are forecast to become starry-eyed about a fire sign this week.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Pisceans who have begun to suspect that something fishy is go-

ing on in the world of work should receive proof of this. Even if the situation doesn't directly involve you, there are signs that a period of uncertainty will commence. A fire sign is about to play a useful role in your life, which could lead to a new employment situation this summer.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Your talent for communication comes in handy this week -- some Arians could be called upon to mediate in an argument between friends. The second half of June is an auspicious time to make plans and these could include a trip to a faraway place you have never been to before. Long distance romance is highlighted to be a factor in this.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



An air sign's words could act as a red flag to many Taureans this weekend and your tendency towards stubbornness may make matters worse. Where romance is concerned, the stars forecast that singletons will feel good vibrations when meeting a water sign. The astral atmosphere will support your efforts to leave bad memories behind and focus on positive developments in your love life.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Out with the old at the Boathouse

Phuket developers shine at Residential Property awards

PHUKET-based developers have won top honors in the Asia Pacific division of the International Residential Property Awards.

Since the inaugural awards in 1995, the competition has established itself as one of the premiere programs recognizing excellence in property development.

The judging panel includes over 50 experts, chaired by Lord Bates of Langbaurgh, who select outstanding performances in development, architecture, interior design and property agency.

A new participation record of 21 countries was set at the awards in Shanghai on May 31.

Prism Estates won five awards for Istana Phuket. They received top honors in the Architecture Multiple Residence and Development categories.

The development also

received three Thailand-wide awards in Development Marketing, Development of Multiple Units and Architecture Multiple Residence.

Kata Rocks Club Penthouse by Kata Rocks Ltd claimed the Regional Winner's spot in the Apartment category and were given a five-star award in Development. Kata Rocks Ltd also took the Regional Winner award for their website.

Richard Cohen, Istana sales director, said he was pleased that the judges recognized the development's cutting-edge architecture, environmental sensitivity, and ultra-high specifications with their decision.

Regional winners from the Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Arabia will compete to determine the "World's Best" in December.

— *Phuket Gazette*

THE BOATHOUSE hotel, which has been operating in Kata since 1989, has announced major renovations to its existing property and the adjacent Oasis restaurants. The entire property, including the Boathouse Wine & Grill, will be closed between June 1 and October 1.

Narong Pattamasaeve, owner of Trisara Residences and executive chairman of its operator, Three Dolphins Co Ltd, recently acquired the Boathouse and aims to maintain the aspects that have made the hotel popular since its opening.

"I am dedicated to continuing in the same tradition that has made the Boathouse famous. The Boathouse has grown to become more than just a hotel and fine dining destination on the beach to the many returning guests and Phuket locals alike. I appreciate their loyal support over the years and am certain the revamped Boathouse will be liked as much, hopefully even more," Mr Narong said.

Mom Tri's Boathouse was conceived by Mom Luang Tridhoyuth Devakul and its restaurant won Wine Spectator magazine's award of excellence in 1995 and has been the only establishment in Thailand



REFURBISHMENT: The Boathouse will reveal its new look in October.

to win their Best of Award of Excellence in Thailand since 2006.

Mom Tri, as he is known, recently decided to sell the Boathouse to Three Dolphins and focus on his Three Generation Community project in Chiang Mai, a development in which Mr Narong acts as a board member. The two men share a long business and philanthropic history.

Mr Narong chose architect Fredo Taffin to lead the renovations. Mr Taffin's past projects include Ku De Ta in Bali and the interior designs of many villas within Trisara Residences. Six family suites and a

two-bedroom beachfront Penthouse Suite will be built.

Changes will also be made to the Boathouse's entire ground floor, lobby, rooms on the first and second floor as well as the Boathouse Wine & Grill, which will feature an open show kitchen as recommended by Boathouse executive chef Jean-No 1 Lumineau.

An all-new holistic spa, beachfront bar and Sunset Lounge will be added to the second floor. The two Oasis restaurant properties next door will be converted into an exclusive lifestyle club.

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PROPERTY

In the beginning...

God created real estate

PARADISE NOT LOST: Adam and Eve lived in a real estate market not unlike that of modern-day Phuket. Photo: Alessandro Musicorio

FOR those who have ever read that popular publication The Bible, it's common knowledge that God pioneered the six-day work week.

Knackered and weary after nearly a week of creationfest, no one begrudged taking a little personal time on the seventh day to recharge his – or her – batteries.

Please note this was way before the advent of energy drinks, such as those potent little cans of Red Bull, or those handy 7-Elevens to drop in on in the middle of the night.

Of course what is often overlooked in all the earthly debate over evolution versus divine creation is God's startup role in the real estate business.

You see there was this sweet little piece of property, which has since become known as the Garden of Eden.

With kilometers of beachfront land, swept-back tropical palms and lush rainforest teaming with all manner of natural springs, this garden



Property Watch By Bill Barnett

defined the term prime real estate.

Add-ons included unlimited fruit and vegetables free for the picking and, of course, no noisy neighbors or messy vendors on the beach. You could say it was paradise on earth.

After some protracted negotiations, God was able to seal a deal for the entire property to newlyweds Adam and Eve. However, they had ambitions beyond just a single home, perhaps thinking of like-minded individuals to follow who may also want a tropical house. They could even develop a small residential project.

Rather than breaking into their own piggy bank, the couple hatched a plan to sell these dream homes off-plan. With all the naivete one might expect from the first man

and woman to call Earth home, they quickly launched a marketing plan with a few billboards and a nice glossy brochure.

Little did the innocent pair know that God had also recently entered into agreement for an adjoining property to an entrepreneur named Satan. It was not until the bulldozers started rumbling did they start to comprehend the nature of epic conflict that lay before them.

First came a buyout offer at virtually vulture pricing, as Adam and Eve's property simply had better views than those offered by envious Satan.

Next came a snake problem, and while they couldn't prove it, suspicions pointed to their devious neighbor. The only explanation was an apple tree that apparently attracted the reptilian menace.

A few off-plan deals collapsed and the only solution was to enlist the aid of only two real estate agents in the market: Cain and Able. Well aware of the inbred sibling rivalry, the young developers had to choose one. While the agents were indeed brothers by blood, they had become mortal enemies.

More tension arose over right-

of-way issues to paradise from the nearby estates of heaven and hell, and those broker brothers simply came to blows whenever they came within sight of each other.

Eventually Adam strayed from the relationship, after being offered the temptation of forbidden fruit. Eve filed for divorce and the dream development never got off the ground.

Years later, God brought his son Jesus in to calm down the never-ending feuds and counterclaims over land use and other rights' issues, but the competition never abated, with upstart Satan throwing his two cents' worth in whenever he got the chance.

So there you have it, a languid tale of greed, naked ambition, lust and criminal activity all wrapped up neatly into one parcel. If it sounds familiar, then yes, that's how things go in paradise.

In the upside-down world of property, for all the successes there are also failures. But of course a little beachfront land is where the dream begins.

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

In brief...

Freedom Beach land selling at B43mn per rai

ONE of Phuket's premium west coast hotel and upscale land parcels, the 65 rai oceanfront Freedom Beach plot, is on the market at 43 million baht per rai.

If the property moves at the total price – 2.8 billion baht – it would be one of the highest recorded land transactions in Phuket.

Located at the south end of Patong the site is near the luxury Hong Kong New World development and Gaysorn's Cape Paradise.

Industry players are curiously watching the property, and whether the asking price will attract interested parties.

Kirimaya's breath of fresh air

A NEW phase of villas at the Kirimaya destination development in Khao Yai is offering innovative cedar and tented-roof residences.

These two new villa types are called "Leelas" and "Rati".

Khao Yai remains one of Thailand's surging domestic property markets, and is driven by domestic demand and its location within a short distance from Phuket.

Kirimaya has continued to evolve with its resort, lifestyle and residential offering.

Villazzo targeting ultra rich

A FEW years back, former Dot.com entrepreneur and multimillionaire Christian Jagodzinski was looking for his next inspiration after selling his Internet company.

He quickly realized that global wealth was seeing a boom in ultra villas and, more importantly, that hotels were not embracing it.

This was compounded by the fact that traditional property estate companies were not equipped to deal with upscale hotel-like services.

Along came Villazzo which now operates top end properties in destinations such as Miami Beach, Capri, Saint-Tropez and Aspen.

Two private brands operate under the umbrella with V Villas and VillaHotels and they have created a stir among the jet-set crowd.

Watermark Patisserie opens at Laguna

THE dining and drinking strip leading into Laguna Phuket has a new bakery with the soft opening of the Watermark Patisserie.

Located at Tinlay Place, the artistry of Peter Webber is on offer from 8am to 6pm daily.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net

LAGUNA PROPERTY RESALE

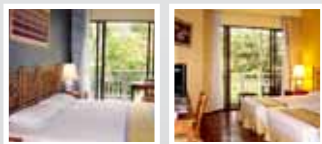
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2 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.9 M



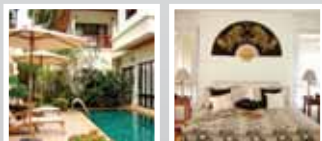
- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- golf view • golf membership
- fully furnished • freehold

3 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.9 M



- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- golf view • golf membership
- fully furnished • leasehold

4 Laguna Fairway THB 19.5 M



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5 Sheraton Island Villa THB 19.9 M



- 2 beds 3 baths Villa
- lagoon view • golf membership
- fully furnished • leasehold

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LaSalle manage another Absolute

Jones Lang LaSalle will manage a second Absolute World Group property on Phuket

By Michael DesPortes

THE financial and professional services company, Jones Lang LaSalle, has been selected to manage the Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa in Phuket. It will be the second Absolute World Group property to be managed by the company after Absolute Bangla Suites opened last year.

This addition brings the amount of property and corporate facilities Jones Lang LaSalle's already manages in Thailand to four million square meters, Head of Estate Management for Jones Lang LaSalle Phuket Dexter Norville said.

To complete construction of the project Absolute World Group has brought back partners from their Absolute Nakalay 2010 project, A Plan Properties and Studio 906 to join with DCM Solutions, who are behind the Cape Yamu development. Jones Lang LaSalle will begin management of the property from January 1 next year.

"From start to finish, we select the best



A room at the new Absolute Twin Sands.

possible partners and contractors to work with, and assemble, the very best professional team to ensure our client offerings are in line with their expectations and that customers remain satisfied with their vacation experiences.

Jones Lang LaSalle Thailand are leaders in Estate Management and we are delighted to be working with them again," Bryan Lunt, Chairman of Absolute World Group, said.

The first of three construction phases



ABSOLUTE ALLIES: From left are Bryan Lunt, Absolute World Group Chairman & CEO; Darren Judges, Managing Director, A Plan Properties; Julian Olds, Managing Director, DCM Solutions; Bob Speed, Managing Director, Studio 906 Architects and Jarawan Na Nakorn, Assistant Surveyor, Property and Asset Management, Jones Lang LaSalle.

on the 114-unit resort is close to completion. The condominiums overlook Freedom Bay from Patong's southern coastline and adopt contemporary architecture in their studio, one-to-two-bedroom formats.

Facilities available to residents will include an outdoor pool, dining, gymnasium as well as spa and concierge services.

Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa units will be available in leasehold, freehold and fractional ownership. The first transfers to owners are expected in April next year.



A rendition of the completed buildings

Domestic buyers dominating the real estate market

MORE than 80 per cent of residential property buyers in Phuket are Thai, a survey by property consultancy Knight Frank has revealed.

The majority of those buyers work in the hotel, banking and health sectors.

"Thai buyers are price-conscious. They have a limited budget and prefer to buy residential units for non-speculative purposes," said Nattha Kahapana, the director of Knight Frank Phuket.

As of April this year, 91 residential developments, totalling 12,181 units, were being marketed on the island.

Townhouses accounted for

27 per cent of marketed supply, closely followed by single-detached houses at 26 per cent while condominiums made up 22 per cent.

About 8,265 units (67.9 per cent) were sold from the available supply, marking an increase from 2009. The trend has been attributed to income growth during last year as tourist arrivals increased and Thais have opted to buy rather than rent residences.

The most popular unit type among buyers was the townhouse, selling about 2,509. Single-detached houses and semi-detached houses sold 2,374 and 1,522 units respectively.

— The Nation

Sarasin Two will 'probably' be ready by next month

THE new bridge connecting Phuket to mainland Thailand will 'probably' open next month.

It is currently nicknamed "Sarasin Two", but is expected to be formally named the Sri Soonthorn Bridge.

Project engineer Dr Phattapong Thonsuk of the project contractor, Italian-Thai Development Co explained, "The new bridge has been post-

poned to open probably in July because we have to pave the road first."

"Also we have to improve some small damaged parts of the bridge."

"Meanwhile, we are trying to finish the old Sarasin Bridge which will be used as a [pedestrian] view point starting about mid-July."

— Atchaa Khamlo

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Going bananas

Bananas come in many shapes and sizes and grow readily in Phuket.



BANAN-O-RAMA: There is more to the humble banana than meets the eye, unique varieties and species abound in the tropics. Photos: Ban Clocek, Genista and Hanumann.

SOME readers may remember an old pop song that opens with the phrase "Yes! We have no bananas." This is however, not true of Thailand. The kingdom has many kinds of banana (botanical name *musa*).

Nobody knows for sure, but Southeast Asia may have been where the first wild bananas grew on the margins of the rain forest, and where cultivated varieties

were later developed.

What people sometimes fail to appreciate however, is that only a few cultivars produce the sweet, seedless bananas we have come to know and enjoy in cooler climates.

One of these, the *acuminata* or Cavendish banana, which is the most commercially known, is being wiped by a deadly disease in several Asian countries.

The banana is a very unusual



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

plant in many ways. Actually it is the world's largest herbaceous flowering plant. It looks like a tree, but isn't. In fact its trunk is not a conventional tree trunk at all, but a soft pseudo-stem.

Slice through it, as many people do on *Loy Kratong* Day, and you will find that it consists of layers of watery leaf sheaths.

Its uniquely-shaped fruits hang in huge, heavy clusters or tiers, between three and 20 in number, but the individual bananas do not grow downwards, but upwards.

Picked green for export, or early by local cooks, they have a wide range of culinary uses. Even the exotic-looking flowers that appear on a terminal spike, are considered a palate-cleansing delicacy. Steamed or raw, these are com-

monly served with *pad thai*.

The leaves, used to wrap food such as sticky rice and to serve as a natural foil when barbecuing fish, imparts a distinctive aroma to the dish. They are also the source of a very durable fiber.

In the horticultural scheme of

things, the banana grows so rapidly and in such a range of soils that it is extremely useful, both for gardeners and landscape designers.

Reaching a maximum height of six meters, the plant will swiftly fill up bare open spaces, or cover unsightly objects. But remember, while its huge

paddle-like leaves are beautiful, they are easily shredded by high winds and can be unattractive when old and yellow. These old leaves are best cut away.

Since it grows vigorously, your banana will need to be closely watched. It will tend to spread in a lateral direction, sending up any number of new shoots.

This is especially true if it is planted in rich, moist soil and protected from wind.

For the small garden, decorative cultivars are your best bet. Grown for their ornamental value, they are generally much smaller and more manageable. They may be cultivated either for their handsome foliage or their attractive flowers.

For example, *Sumatrana* has leaves that are maroon underneath and green above. More popular is *M. uranoscopus* which has its characteristic, tightly-sheathed, red flower at the end of an upright spike.

M. ornata has flowers that range in color from lavender to deep purple. And on *M. velutina* the bracts are pinkish and are succeeded by pink, velvety fruits – most unusual.

Bananas are relatively easy to propagate by dividing up the fleshy roots. In fact, the root systems are not as large as one might expect, which is another bonus.

If you need some ordinary banana plants, you can find them just about anywhere in Phuket. They are considered lucky in Thailand, and a neighbor will probably be prepared to give you a few roots.

If you want to obtain the ornamental varieties, you will need to visit a good plant nursery. These cultivars are becoming increasingly popular in Thailand, and rightly so.

So yes, we do have bananas, and oodles of them.

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

Tip of the week

Growing garlic

RECENTLY, these tips have offered advice on growing the most popular herbs and spices in Thailand.

Garlic is certainly in that category, but is not quite as easy to cultivate.

In part, this is because garlic or *cratiem* needs moist soil throughout the main growing period, but no additional water during the final few weeks.

While it can be propagated from seeds, this process is

slow, so it is best grown from bulbs. Cool the bulb for a few weeks, then split it apart into cloves, and plant the biggest ones in good quality soil. By the end of the growing season, you should have a fair-sized bulb.

The garlic tops should be removed once they have flowered.

There are hundreds of cultivars, but choose one of the purplish-skinned varieties if you can. They have the best flavor.



Some banana plants flower.

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Phuket Gazette
Phuket's top-rated Website*

*Source: Google

Properties For Sale

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

LAND FOR SALE

At Pasak Soi 8, Chermg Talay. Land plot is in front of villa project and hotel. 135sq wah with Chanote title. Price: 3.5 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028.

KATA SEAVIEW CONDO

Modern, fully furnished, 72sqm, 2-bedroom condo. Contact Peter for more information. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: notley.peter@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER FOR SALE

Modern, 1-bedroom 70sqm condo, refitted and furnished. Price: 4.95 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 9.7 million baht. Also available for rent. Tel: 086-2765117. For photos please email to jihshand@gmail.com

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

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

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

2 RAI OF FRUIT PLANTATION



Near Chalong Temple. Price: 7.5 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.

BRAND-NEW CONDO



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

THAI-STYLE VILLA IN CHALONG



Luxurious, lakeside, Thai-style villa in Chalong. Has 8 rooms and a swimming pool. Price: 38 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8740.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



In Heritage project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maid room. 234sq wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-892 0190 (Warit), 089-646 4823 (Rattana). Email: prayoon_jp@hotmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

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

POOL VILLA FOR SALE



In Land & Houses Park Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-606 2284.

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.

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

BIG HOUSE + 1 RAI

Large 3-bedroom house on 1 rai. 3 bathrooms, 1 en-suite. 5 mins to PIA in Thalung. Large garage and extra storage room. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 076-621200, 085-789 5092 (Thai), 080-141 8292 (English). Email: daves tacey16@hotmail.com

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

TOWNHOUSE IN PATONG



On Nanai Road. 2 stories, 112.5sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, built-in cabinets, kitchen, aircon and car park. 1km to Patong beach, near Bangla Road and Jungceylon. Price 5.5 million baht or nearest offer. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE



3-bedroom house (53sq wah) near the Heroines' Monument. 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, telephone & internet, curtains, kitchen and full landscaping. Price: 2.95 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

SURIN BEACH

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

2-STOREY HOUSE

At Dusitburi, behind Rajabhat University. 51sq wah, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-970 5009.

SUPER CHEAP, PATONG

Now only 4.7 million baht. New pool villa with seaview. 3 storeys, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 4 aircons. Tel: 087-0536016.

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



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

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

SALE CONDO KATHU

1 bedroom 25sqm, with balcony, 1 bathroom, fully furnished, freehold, Price 400,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 0991.

LAND PLOT NEAR PIA

Nice 2 plots. 800sqm each in a secure development estate with underground electricity. Less than 10 minutes to PIA. Price: 1.5 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777.

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**NICE HOUSE
88SQ WAH**

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

**TWO
TOWNHOUSES**

For sale. 2-storey house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good location and atmosphere. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-956 2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.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

**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.

**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.

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

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.

LUXURY 1-BEDROOM

Apartment. 63sqm. Ensuit bathroom, kitchen, dining area, lounge, balcony. In central Patong. Price: 4.9 million baht ono. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

URGENT SALE!

Nice plot at a good location near Two Villas project (Manik area) with Chanote title. Price: 1.5 rai at 6.9 million baht. The land has electricity, access and ready to build on. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakapoms@yahoo.com

**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: pakapoms@yahoo.com

**SEAVIEW LAND
IN AO MAKHAM**

For sale. Chanote title, easy access in and out with concrete road. Price: 12 million baht per rai. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

**ABSOLUTE
BEACHFRONT CONDO**

Foreign freehold luxury condo at Sireh Beach. Tel: 087-472 7870 (English & Thai). Email: info@nchantra-property.com For further details, please see our website at www.nchantra-property.com

**12 RAI IN NAI HARN,
6.5 MILLION BAHT/RAI**

12 rai with Chanote title, 178 meters of road frontage, priced to sell at 6.5 million baht per rai. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketlifestyle.com

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

**HOUSE IN
PHUKET VILLA 5**

Home and business in Phuket Villa 5. One living room, a dining room, 5 bedrooms, 1 office, 4 shower/WC, 1 business room, 1 storage room, 1 kitchen. Plot over 500sqm. Price: 7.7 million baht. Tel: 086-479 6685 (Thai), 086-682 4356 (English & Thai). Email: siam@gmx.net www.thai-swiss.ch/Immobilien.immobiliien.0.html

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

In Koh Yao Yai, 78 meters beach frontage, public road, power, water, white sand, no rocks only 4 million baht per rai. Beautiful land. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketlifestyle.com

**NEW GUESTHOUSE
PATONG**

New guesthouse in Patong. 12 rooms, kitchen and more. Must see. Tel: 080-603 2949.

**2-BEDROOM HOUSE
NEAR LAGUNA**

Modern. Walled, electric gate, swimming pool, aircon. Financing available from owner. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

**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

**BAAN SAIYUAN
VILLA**

Detached house in Rawai 98sqm, 3 bedrooms. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, located in secure estate in Rawai. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

TRADE-IN-OFFER

Want to sell my villa in Kata. From 19 million baht. Now only 14.5 million baht.

Trade-in options:

- (1) 2 engines motor yacht between 9 and 11 meter (25 and 30ft)
- (2) Recent luxury car, such as Porsche, Audi or Mercedes
- (3) 2-bedroom apartment with sea view
- (4) Can get 75% mortgage/financing

FOR THIS VILLA

With 3-bedroom, 1 office room, large American kitchen, pool, jacuzzi, garden and parking. Freehold chanote and free transfer. For more info. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**SEAVIEW LAND
BANG TAO, SURIN**

Amazing views, private upscale community, underground utilities, 3-phase electricity. Ready to build. Plots starting at 4 million baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

Over 12 rai, with Chanote title and a view of golf course for sale to the highest bidder. Ends July 2011. Minimum offer 45 million baht. Tel: 081-893 3462, 081-956 3166. Email: voute.a@gmail.com

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

HOUSE IN THALANG

House for sale or rent in Thalang (Baan Suan Yau Charoen 3). 1-storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 aircons, 1 kitchen in Thai and European style. Includes garage and tropical garden on 140.70sq wah. Contact Khun Somsak. Tel: 081-895 2355.

PATONG HOUSE

for condo price. Modern house in central Patong, 5 minutes walk from the beach. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, living room. Price: 5.8 million baht. Tel: 076-290235, 080-519 9777. Email: kenth@zarpazo realestate.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE
IN KATA**

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

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

1 bedroom with private pool at Bang Jo, fully furnished, from 4.2 million baht. Near Layan & Surin Beach. Tel: 081-968 5139 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-620983. Email: integramanda man@yahoo.com

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.

KATHU LAND 1.2 RAI

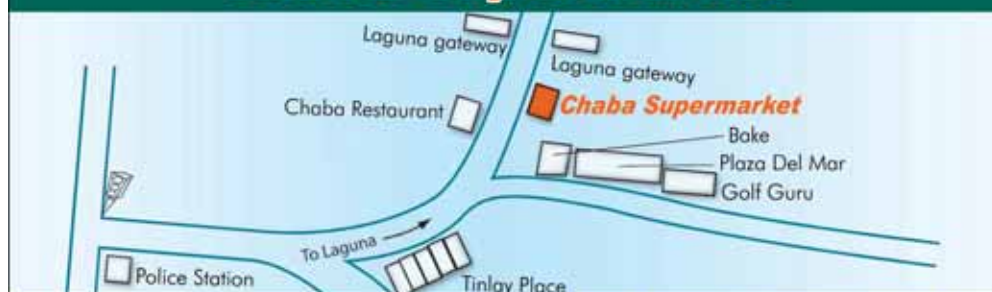
Hillside lake view, offered as a whole with 2 separate Chanote titles. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 087-900 8445.

180 SEAVIEW LAND

at a perfect location. At Leelawadee hill. 270sq wah. Price: 18.9 million baht. With Chanote title. Behind The Outlet village on bypass road. Secure gated community. Underground electric line, 8m wide road. 5 minutes to central, BIS, RPM & Phuket Town. Call now for a unique offer. Tel: 081-823 4627.

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Property
Wanted**RAWAI/NAI HARN**

Looking for a 3 bed house. Needing work is ok, to a max of 7.5 million baht. Must be on at least a 450+ sqm plot, ideally 600 sqm. Must be in a safe location, very close to, if not on, a concrete road. Email: patrick@mancity.net

LOOKING FOR HOUSE

Looking for small house in Chalong, Rawai, or Naiharn. Max: 2.5 million baht. Email: bengtjansson@hotmail.com

**LAND OR RESORT
WANTED**

We are looking for a piece of elevated land around 5 rai or a resort with a seaview and 40-50 rooms in the Patong area. Price upon negotiation. Tel: 081-901 4801, 081-803 5830. Email: noreekattiyaa.ree@hotmail.com

**50-100 RAI,
50 YEAR LEASE**

For horse business, Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga. Qualifies under the new zoning restrictions as recreation and/or agriculture. Bi-annual payment only. Commercial 50-year lease. Developers: Add Incentive with first-class horse riding facility. Tel: 084-842 4581. Or send email: christyksweet@gmail.com

**2 BEDROOMS
4 PERSON**

4 person: 3 adult & child (10 years). We're need 2 bedrooms, kitchen, swimming pool and security. Email: margaret.adv@gmail.com

Property
Services**VILLA AND
APARTMENT
MANAGEMENT**

Personalized management and rental services, for individual homes or estates. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

Accommodation
Available**NEW APARTMENTS
CLOSE TO LAGUNA**

New apartments close to Laguna for rent. Start from 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-615944, 081-866 2055 (English & Thai). Email: info@sivanaplace.com For further details, please see our website at www.sivana.place.com

**KATA SEA FRONT
LUXURY VILLA**

3-bedroom luxury villa on the tip of Kata Beach headland. Built up area: 3400sq.ft. 15m above sea level, spectacular Andaman sea views. 15m x 6m infinity pool on edge of rocks overlooking sea. Villa surrounded by dense foliage, spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings, very private and secluded. Thai, Japanese and Balinese design influences and artifacts. Excellent cook and maid provided. Tel: +65-9-621 0254 (English). Email: seavest@singnet.com.sg For further details, please see our website at www.housephuket.com

PATONG LUXURY

At a very quiet place. 60sqm apartment with jacuzzi. Daily rent from 2,500 baht. Monthly rent: 35,000 baht. 4 minutes' walk to beach, 2 minutes to entertainment venues. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com See: www.banglasuites.com

**KATA ROOM
FOR RENT-PRIVATE**

6k WiFi, maid, laundry, cable. Must be quiet & no bringing bar girls/boys home. Tel: 087-888 9089. Email: jaisabai@gmail.com

**NAI HARN BEACH
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

**APARTMENT & ROOM
IN PATONG**

Apartment for long-term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 600-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com For further details, please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

**LUXURY HOUSE
IN NAI HARN**

Fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms, maid's room, western kitchen, private swimming pool, quiet location, 24 hrs security, IP camera, wireless internet, big TVs. Rental price long term: 85,000 baht per month. Short-term: 90,000 baht per month. Sale price: 19 million baht. Tel: 086-276 2785 (English), 087-887 7133 (English & Thai). Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

FREEDOM APARTMENT

Patong European style, aircon, wireless internet, cable TV, safe area, bathroom with hot water. Price 7,500 baht/month. Tel: 084-845 0541, 083-380 6744.

KARON BEACH

Now special offers available. For further details, please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

**96,000 BAHT/YEARLY
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

**400 B/DAY,
9,000 B/MONTH**

Rawai pool guesthouse. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, aircon, WiFi, cable TV. Car and motorbike for cheap rent. 300 meter from beach. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

TIMESHARE

1-bedroom deluxe unit at Patong resort hotel. 86 years 2 weeks. Available for Christmas and New Year holidays. Tel: 084-745 5546 (English).

**ROOM IN KATA FOR
6000 BAHT**

Room with aircon, modern furniture, hot water, Internet and a nice rooftop terrace with sea view. Available now. Tel: 081-968 5904. Email: sujira_sk@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.surinate.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

**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

**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

Accommodation
Wanted**VILLA NEEDED JAN-
JUN 2012**

Need a villa with private pool, 3+ bedrooms, furnished, near beach in Kata or Karon (maybe Rawai/Nai Harn) from Jan to June 2012. 40-45,000 baht per month range. Email: cocteau30@yahoo.com

KARON RENT

I am looking for accommodation for the months of August and September. I would prefer a place with a separate living room and bedroom. With a Pool OR close to the beach. Email: dianz_p@hotmail.com

**LOOKING FOR
AUG-DEC**

1 bedroom or studio, Kata, Kamala, or Surin. Furnished + ADSL. Aug to November or December. Email: shortstop61@hotmail.com

**WANTED: 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

Holiday
Homes & Villa
Rentals**1 & 2 BED APT & POOL
PENTHOUSE**

115-180sqm, fully furnished, kitchen, minutes walk to two different beaches. 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. For further details. Please send email: paahlman@gmail.com

Household
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SALE**

ALL FURNITURE
INCL. BEAUTIFUL
OLD PIECES

**50%
DISCOUNT**

THE PLAZA, SURIN
TEL: 076 271 629, 076 270 055
WWW.SOULOFASIA.COM

**DISHWASHER AND POS
SYSTEM**

Dishwasher under counter, good condition, new price 94,000 baht now sell for 47,000 baht, POS system hardware and license, new price 84,000-baht now sell for 42,000 baht. Tel: 081-956 9903 (English & Thai). For more details please email: minaoka_nui@hotmail.com

**LIVING ROOM &
DINING ROOM**

Huge living room set, brought from China, features a large sofa (230 cm), love seat, and chair with coffee table and corner table. The dining room set seats six. See website for more. Tel: 085-884 1840 (English & Thai). Email: bilyams@gmail.com See our website at http://sites.google.com/site/phuketmove/

**GARAGE SALE -
FURNITURE**

Almost brand new rattan furniture: beds, sofas, coffee tables, dining tables, chairs, benches, lamps. Tel: 081-584 8502 (English & Thai). Email: admin@philkade.com

Household
Services**PHUKET 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

Live in Patong?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
The Deli Supermarket

**Simply write out
your ad, pay
and leave it with
Khun Damrong
(076-342275)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published
simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Chief Accountant (1 position)

for Restaurant Group (4 venues), based in Kathu, Phuket

Duties and responsibilities

- Manage day-to-day accounting, bookkeeping
- Manage intercompany transactions (4 restaurants)
- Maintain fixed assets registration and depreciation
- All taxes, VAT, withholding tax, social security, etc...
- General ledger, P&L, Balance Sheet
- HR tasks for employees, company

Skills & background

- Accounting bachelor's degree or MBA
- Minimum 5 years experience as senior accountant
- Computer literate and fluent English is necessary
- Positive thinking and flexible attitude

Position available immediately.
Please email resume and application letter to
jean@willsee.com

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

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.

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

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 For further details, please see our website at www.web62.com

TEACHERS NEEDED

Earth Language Training Centre requires native English speakers with teaching experience. Tel: 076-232398. Email: siripanyaschool@yahoo.co.uk

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: 089-159 3239.

STAFF NEEDED

One maid for cleaning and one motorbike mechanic/repairman. Experience needed. Tel: 083-634 5772 (English & Thai). Email: info@husiphuket.se

WEB DESIGNER

Experienced web designer required in Ao Nang, Krabi. Thai national only. Tel: 081-077 5698. Please send email to: rbysouth@hotmail.com

TEACHER WANTED

Charlempriakatsomdet-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 Contact Clarke for more details at tel: 084-446 3049.

**What is your story?**

- Do you want to be the best?
- Do you enjoy delivering the higher standard?
- Are you passionate about your career?
- Are you a positive team player?
- Would you like a 5-day work week?
- Free transport to and from Phuket Town?
- International career guidance and coaching?

If you say YES! To above then please submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying for to recruit_phuket@anantara.com of us!

Contact Human Resources Department,
Anantara Phuket Villas Tel: + 66 (0) 76 336100-9 Ext 552-553
Fax: + 66 (0) 76336166

**Positions Available**

- F&B Service Manager
- Asst Restaurant Manager
- Salt Guru
- Recreation Manager
- Chief Steward
- Executive Sous Chef
- Sous Chef
- Guest Service Center
- Engineering
- Waiter/Waitress
- Human Resources Manager
- Human Resources Supervisor
- Loss Prevention Manager

To be a successful candidate you will need to possess average above English communication skills.

Join us to create your own story! Good Luck!

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

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

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 Website: www.clubasia.phuket.com

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-law.assistance.com

TIMESHARE SALES & MARKETING

Our new project is opening in Patong very soon. It's a well-funded, secure, and great product with a great location. We're looking for admin, sales and marketing people who want to work in a positive, progressive and professional work culture. If you have experience that's a plus, but not a pre-requisite. This is an amazing opportunity to join a world-class team. Tel: 083-105 5001 (English). Email: pypconnect@gmail.com

TEACHER NEEDED

Female caucasian teachers needed to teach children age 3-5 years old. Tel: 084-847 0732 (English). Email: Info@smiley-kidz.com

ESL SUMMER CAMP TEACHERS

Wanted. British International School requires additional English Summer Camp teachers for July. Degree & TEFL qualification required. Contract from July 3 to 30 with boarding duties. Excellent salary. Tel: 076-238711. Please submit your resume to ppreez@bisphuket.ac.th or cespouy@bisphuket.ac.th

MAID AND GARDENER (THAI)

Wanted, with hotel experience for farang-owned house in Rawai. For more info. Tel: 081-797 7898.



DESIGNED BY WOULFE
BESPOKE INTERIOR DESIGN

We are looking for candidates for the following roles

- Architect
- Interior Designer/Interior Architect
- Secretary/Admin

- Monday-Friday, based in Phuket
- Salary based on experience
- Good written and spoken English required
- Able to work in a team
- Fluent use of Microsoft Office
- Autocad, 3D Max and Sketch-Up are an advantage

Interested candidates should submit their resume in English and salary expectations to hr@designedbywoulfe.com

ENGINEER SUPERVISOR

Engineer - salary 11,000 - 12,000 baht per month plus service charge - available now - shift 8am to 7pm - work 6 day shifts - skilled in electrical & plumbing systems, wood work and swimming pool - Thai national, fluent in English. Tel: 076-333222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccblosses.com

HOUSE MAID RAWAI

To look after pool villas. For more details. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: Rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

MAID

Maid to work mainly in Kamala, need own motorbike. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: info@husiphuket.se

ADMIN ASSISTANT

Limcharoen, Hughes and Glanville International Lawfirm is looking for an Administrative Assistant. Must be a Thai Female, have good organizational and secretarial skills, good command of spoken and written English, good command of Microsoft Office, strong ability to translate documents from Thai to English, work well in team environment and under deadline tasks, flexible and willing to learn new tasks. Please send CV and cover letter to above email. Email: admin_phuket@limcharoen.com For further details, please see our website at www.limchaloen.com

NEED ASSISTANT MANAGER

Looking for assistant manager (female) for international restaurant in Jungceylon, Patong. Good experience in F&B needed. Please contact Alain 084-758 7468 (English). Email: alain@cafe101.co.th

NEED STAFF

Need Thai sales person for a shop in Bang Tao area – the shopping Plaza near the Dalar Resort. Good conditions. Tel: 080-717 1900 (English). Email: iriyad@mail.ru

PR, OPC AND SALES POSITIONS

PR, OPC and sales people wanted. Must speak English. Very good pay. Tel: 076-325195, 080-145 2854 (English). Email: opc_simon@yahoo.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female Caucasian to teach class of 10-12 students aged 3 to 5 years. In Chalong. Mon-Fri between 8am to 4pm. Can start immediately. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com

WORK RECRUITER

Construction company seeking work recruiter. Candidate should be Thai with 10 or more years experience in the construction industry. Good salary and incentives. Tel: 076-384691, 089-736 8310 (English & Thai). Email: giannilarustica@yahoo.it

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/



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

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, Chao-fa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605 Email: 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,
chuthamas@sansiri.com

For more information please contact 0 2201 3173, 0 2201 3072

Anantara Hotels and Resorts is a luxury hotel brand which is now expanding its portfolio throughout Thailand and abroad. Today we have more than 15 properties around the world, and this will continue to grow over the next few years.



In particular, Anantara is now looking for professional management to work with us. We offer you the chance to be part of a team of high performing and dedicated colleagues, who will work together to deliver memorable experiences and amazing stories for our guests.

THE REQUIRED POSITIONS ARE:

Desert Islands, Abu Dhabi

- Spa**
 - Spa Therapist
- Food & Beverage**
 - F&B Supervisor
 - Hostess
 - Bartender
- Kitchen**
 - Senior Chef De Partie
 - Demi Chef
 - Commis Chef
 - Canteen Chef
- Front Office**
 - Butler
- Engineer**
 - Shift Technician
 - HVAC/Electrical Supervisor
 - AC Technician
 - AV Technician

Qasr Al Sarab, Abu Dhabi

- Spa**
 - Spa Therapist
- Food & Beverage**
 - Outlet Manager
 - Head Waiter
- Kitchen**
 - Demi Chef
- Recreation**
 - Pool Attendant / Lifeguard
- Front Office**
 - Guest Service Agent
 - Guest Relations Officer
- Engineer**
 - Electrician
 - HVAC/Electrical Supervisor
 - Mechanical Operator
 - TVAV Communication Engineer



Eastern Mangroves

- F&B - Thai restaurant**
 - Outlet Manager
 - Assistant Outlet Manager
 - F&B Supervisor
 - Hostess
 - Bartender
 - Restaurant Waiter
- Front Desk**
 - Guest Service Agent
 - Guest Relations Officer
 - Concierge
 - Business Center Supervisor
- Butler**
 - Butler
- Recreation**
 - Recreation Receptionist
 - Recreation Attendant
 - Fitness Instructor
 - Gym/Pool Attendant
 - Pool Attendant/Life Guard
 - Kids Club Attendant

Eastern Mangroves

- Housekeeping**
 - Housekeeping Supervisor
 - Florist
 - Supervisor - Uniform Room
 - Laundry Supervisor
 - Tailor
 - Dry Cleaner
- Kitchen**
 - Chef de Partie
 - Demi Chef
 - Commis Chef
- Spa**
 - Senior Receptionist
 - Receptionist
 - Senior Therapist
 - Therapist

Eastern Mangroves

- Engineer**
 - Electrician/AC Technician
 - Carpenter
 - Painter
 - Mechanics
 - HVAC Technician
 - General Maintenance/Shifter
 - Manson
 - TV/AV Technician
 - BMS Operator
 - Mechanical Supervisor
 - HVAC Supervisor
 - Duty Engineer
 - Gardener Supervisor

Interested applicants are invited to apply and person interview on 18 June, at job fair phuket Merlin Hotel. 19-20 June, at job fair Anantara Phuket Villas, Contact Human Resources Department: Tel: 076-336100 or 081-370 5151 and send CV to recruit.phuket@anantara.com

After 20 June please send full resume with a recent photograph for our consideration to gperean@anantara.com visit our website: www.anantara.com

SWEDISH STAFF

Part-time work for Swedish-speaking female 20-30 years old. Send your CV in English to rainforestjob@gmail.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

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: marcjonker_69@hotmail.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 and lbhaber@aol.com

PHP PROGRAMMER

Wanted for full-time position in Chalong. Good salary. Tel: 084-628 2629. Send resume to 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

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@balihamassage.com

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. Email: accounting@oicasia.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

SCPLAW ASSISTANCE

Paralegal services. Qualifications:

- Fluent in English, both written and spoken
- Excellent English communication skills
- Good attitude and works well under pressure

Email: Rodriguez.l@scplawassistance.com

RECEPTIONIST/ FRONT DESK

Salary 9,000 baht per month. Thai female, English speaking, hotel experience. Tel: 076-344701, 085-523 1772 (English). Email: info@patongsubinn.com

MARKETING JOB

Looking to recruit English speaking Thais for our marketing company in Chiang Mai. Tel: 053-282079 or 085-473 4207 (English). Email: sastravelmarketing@gmail.com

MAID/NANNY WANTED

Required for live in-job near Boat Lagoon. Great salary. Tel: 080-208 7454.

Employment Wanted

EU RESORT + PROPERTY GM

Experienced in TH management, pre-openings, marketing, long/short term and as a consultant. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

Scandinavian software developer looking for short/long term projects or employment. Java, PHP, Coldfusion etc. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroe@gmail.com

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Articles
For SaleMOVING! 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

PEPPER SPRAY

Large (60g) 600 baht. Lipstick size 400 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

JACUZZI FOR SALE

Mobile spa in good condition, used only for 1 year. Price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-667 1637 (English & Thai).

CAKE MIXER

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. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@aenyim.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

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.

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.

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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-326867, 087-275 3614 (English). Fax: 076-326867. Email: tradexpat@hotmail.com

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

Bar &
Restaurant
Equipment

I NEED TO BUY

For your used restaurant equipment. Tel: 087-080 4258.

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 17 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)
Tel: 086-9440460 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

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwcc.com

SKIPPERS PUB QUIZ

At Royal Phuket Marina. Last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Happy hour and prizes. Tel: 076-360890-3.

Business
Opportunities

PHARMACY FOR SALE

This is a new pharmacy in Phuket Town, very good location near Nai Inn Book Store on Phuket Road. Fully furnished with aircon and built-in shelves. Tel: 089-866 2310, 086-509 2673 (English & Thai). Email: ounesuna@hotmail.com

16 ROOMS PLUS 3
SHOPS

Lease one of the best money-making guest houses in Patong. Great location, with 16 rooms and 3 shops. Pay only 70,000 baht rent per month. Call today. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (English & Thai). Email: info.realprophuket.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.realprorealestatephuket.com

BAR/RESTAURANT

145sqm, large kitchen and storage room, air conditioned living quarters & large toilet/shower, fully decked out bar including stock, 42" plasma TV, coffee machine, speakers & amp, licensed 24/7 and security, 4-year contract. Price: 2 million baht inclusive of key money. Contact Jen. Thai & English speaking. Tel: 083-690 9921 (English & Thai). Email: fr.jen@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Under boxing stadium. Fully furnished; fridge, TV and staff included. A good investment. Email: fasa6075@hotmail.fr

HOTEL FOR SALE IN
KARON

New hotel for sale with 50+ rooms, 100 meters from Karon Beach. At a perfect location, with sea view. Only serious customers please. Tel: 081-666 6622. Email: aae_freedom@hotmail.co.th

30-50% OWNERSHIP

Minimum investment: US\$1 50,000. Construction 95% complete but needs to be equipped. Be the owner of a 25x6x8m floating house. Unique opportunity to become the legal owner of a super yacht with a market value of around \$1 million. It can be set up for sale, used for chartering and/or your own pleasure. Tel: 089-287 4007. Website: www.argusyachts.yolasite.com

BAR BANGLA ROAD

Soi Gonzo. Top Ten. Rent at 8,700 baht per month. 3 years + 1 month. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 089-875 8187 (English). Email: topberggren@hotmail.com

MINI MART
FOR SALE

At Royal Phuket Marina. 50sqm. 3-year lease. 1.5 million baht. Email: business@worrall.info

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT
FOR RENT

On the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

RAWAI/POOL
GUESTHOUSE

5-year lease. 1.4 million baht or 480,000 baht yearly rent. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, with WiFi, cable TV, 5 motos. 300 meters from beach. No key money. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

INVESTMENT
OPPORTUNITY

15-room boutique hotel, within 5 minutes walking distance of Patong Beach and Jungceylon shopping mall. On a 9-year lease. Owner is relocating. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: +97-150-244 2441. Email: aahmed244@gmail.com

MASSAGE SHOP
FOR SALE

6 beds, 3 chairs. In Kata. Available for viewing. Tel: 082-646 1698.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE
WITH LIFT

16 rooms, lift, restaurant area and kitchen. Key money is only 1.7 million baht. Contact Gonsasi. Tel: 089-648 1739 (English & Thai). Email: annychou@hotmail.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- Julapan Stationery (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369

CHERNG TALAY

- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket) Tel: 076-324313
- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE
for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____



To ensure clarity,
please airmail.
Do not Fax!

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14	B	A	R	A	15	I	T	O	16	E	R	A	T	O	
17	A	D	I	T	18	K	I	N	D	19	T	E	S	T	A
20	F	L	E	A	21	P	I	T	22	T	A	T	A	R	
23	T	E	S	L	24	I	R	A	25	T	E				
26					27	D	E	S	E	G	R	E	G	A	T
28					29	A	A	A	30	A	L	A	S		
31	C	E	D	A	32	R	N		33	I	M	P	O	R	T
34	L	I	O	N	35	E	T		36						
37	A	N	T	A	38	I	T	A	39	T	E	S	T	E	D
40	W	E	S	T	41	E	R	N	42	M	O	S	T		
43					44	G	E	T	45	U	P				
46	S	P	E	A	47	R			48	I	N	S	U	L	I
49	S	I	E	G	50	E			51	K	E	N	O		
52	T	E	N	E	53	O	L	E	54	A	S	H	E		
55	S	T	Y	E	56	D	I	S	57	R	E	E	D		



FURY ABATED: FC Phuket supporters in a jubilant mood after their win last Saturday. Photos: Apinun Saithong



NOT TICKLED PINK: Kone Adama is molested by Chainat player.

Hulks elated with 4-1 win

By Neil Quail

FOUR goals and three points gave the FC Phuket faithful a reason to celebrate their first win in six weeks against an unruly Chainat FC at Surakul Stadium last Saturday.

Phuket coach Sompong Wattana was determined his team would play disciplined football and a petulant "Hornbills" played into the hands of his tactics, which paid dividends in the second-half.

An opening salvo from the home side began after just three minutes. Abdoul Coulibaly picked out an unmarked Paulo Renato on the edge of Chainat's penalty area, and after one touch sent a left foot shot streaking toward goal. Chainat's goalkeeper, Panupong Pijittham was up to the early task, and made a spectacular save to deny Phuket an early lead.

Only a minute later, Phuket knocked on their opposition's door again with a 20-yard free-kick from the right sideline that sent the ball toward the near post. Chainat's Suradech Saitaisong was alert and used his head to clear the danger.

Chainat's captain Narongchai Vachiraban lost control of the ball in the 13th minute, but Phuket's clearance only reached Ratchapol Nawanno. He snapped a shot at goal, but Phuket's goalkeeper, Leuchar Juntawong deflected the effort wide.

Suphat Aonthong cracked a volley from a Sarach Yooyen corner in the 16th minute, but

Panupong managed to scramble the ball away.

Soon after, Leuchar drew gasps of despair from Phuket fans when he lost control of a strike from Chainat's Tuwadon Suwonchart, which fortunately deflected off the post rather than hitting the back of the net.

Phuket's first goal came from a Sarach Yooyen free-kick on 25 minutes. Taken from the left corner of the penalty area, Panupong could only block Sarach's wicked strike. Nirun Funtong met the rebound on the edge of the box, and his venomous shot met Chainat's net.

Minutes before the first half ended, Phuket's warranted claims for a penalty were refused. Watcharapong Jun-ngam was blatantly shoulder-charged to the

ground inside the penalty area by Sumeth Yotoo.

The referee waved play to continue and following a clumsy charge upfield, Chainat manufactured a free-kick 30 yards from Phuket's goal on the left. The set-piece was initially cleared, but the ball was sent back to Phuket's left post and then headed across the face of the goal, where Tuwadon Suwonchart volleyed the loose ball into the roof of the net.

Two minutes into the second half, Sarach's cultured right foot found Nene B Tre Sylvestre from a corner on the left, who flighted his header into the top right corner of the Chainat goal, putting the score at 2-1.

Kone Adama came on as a substitute for Pongsak Panicharoen

Team	P	Pts
Buriram	17	42
BBCU	17	42
BUFC	17	34
Songkhla	16	32
Chainat	17	30
PTT Rayong	16	27
Rajapracha	17	27
Saraburi	17	25
Phuket	16	23
J.W. Rangsit	16	19

after the Phuket player received the first yellow card of the match in the 66th minute.

It was an inspirational change, as Kone was mauled to the ground

minutes later just outside the penalty box by Chainat's Kouadio Daniel N Pascal. Sarach bent a rising shot from a dead-ball, through the wall and again past Panupong into the top right corner, giving FC Phuket a 3-1 lead.

Chainat's discipline soon disintegrated and Thongchai Nalaitong received the first red card of the evening after a vicious hack at the shins of Watcharapong in the 73rd minute.

Paulo Renato opened his account for Phuket and gave his side a fourth goal in the 79th minute. Nirun neatly swung a corner in from the right as Renato reached the near post and superbly controlled his header down and wide of a defender on the far post.

Chainat's Chalemsuk Kaewsooktae couldn't contain his frustration, and a snap at Sarach was awarded with a second yellow and the game's second red

card several minutes before the final whistle blew to signal victory for Phuket.

Although a positive result, there is no change in position for Phuket who remain ninth in division one of the Thai Premier League with 23 points after 16 games.

Phuket began their Toyota League Cup campaign on Wednesday June 15 when they faced Bangkok Christian College.

The next league match is scheduled for June 25, again at home. Phuket's opposition will be Songkhla FC (Fighting Bulls) who are currently placed fourth in the league on 32 points.

Phuket's supporters should prepare for an onslaught of Songkhla fans, considering the team has the highest average attendance for division one games. Kick-off is at 6pm.

Other Division One results from last weekend

Rajapracha Thailand FC 2 - 0 Suphan Buri FC
BBCU 3 - 0 Airforce Untd
RBAC 1 - 1 Chantaburi

Bangkok Utd. 1 - 0 Saraburi FC
JW Rangsit FC 1 - 3 Buriram FC
Songkhla FC 5 - 1 Samut Prakarn
PTT Rayong 6 - 0 Thai Honda
Chiang Mai FC 1 - 2 Bangkok FC

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Sport

New record for 'Run Paradise'

By Neil Quail

GRITTY Russian Vsevolod Khudyakov surged through the 2011 Laguna Phuket International Marathon (LPIM) 42-kilometer course on Sunday, setting a new record of two hours, 33 minutes and 51 seconds (02:33:51).

Khudyakov, from Khabarovsk, eastern Russia, almost missed registration on Saturday, signing up with only minutes to spare.

Fearing he would not remember his way back to the Laguna start-line, Khudyakov found a sheltered spot on a nearby beach and slept under the stars the night before his record-breaking run.

"I read about the marathon and decided I wanted to run it," he said.

"It was a beautiful course and very unlike any I've run before. I really enjoyed my marathon and I'm very pleased that I finished so well," said Khudyakov.

"My goal is to run the marathon at the London Olympics in 2012, but this depends on my studies, my coach and my race times improving," he added.

The gutsy Russian missed out on soaking in the scenic side of the "Run Paradise", setting off in darkness at 4:30am. He crossed the finish line just after 7am.

According to the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) website, the 22-year-old engineering student completed last month's Moscow Marathon in a personal best time of 2:16:24, less



MEDALS OF HONOR: Laguna marathon winners. Photos: Christian Mouchet

than 13 minutes off the current world record, disputably held by the great Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia.

This new LPIM benchmark is over five minutes faster than the time of 02:39:23 set by Stephen Paine from Australia in 2009.

Last year's winning time of 02:40 (Charkrit Boonkong) would only have secured second place at this year's event, that position going to Christopher Paulett of the United States with a time of 02:51:24.

Thailand's Lekcome Caradloun placed third, finishing three minutes later in a time of 02:54:31.

Mari Kauri was the first woman to finish the LPIM full marathon. The Finnish national posted a time

of 03:30:46, slightly behind last year's time of three hours and 21 minutes set by Thailand's Thanayathorn Samutnoi.

Great Britain's Moira Lowe followed shortly after Kauri with a time of 03:39:07, while Australia's Angela Stevens took 03:42:45 to complete the course and gain third place on the podium for her efforts.

Julia Thorn completed her 115th marathon in a time of five hours and 24 minutes. This was also the fifth marathon she has completed in an attempt to finish 10 marathons over 10 consecutive weekends.

Immediately after the LPIM press conference on Saturday, Julia had imparted valuable advice and strategies on how to deal with the



COMING IN FROM THE COLD: Russian winner Vsevolod Khudyakov.

mental strains of distance running, which she certainly employed during her own race.

"It was hard, extremely hard. When the sun came out at about the 27km mark I knew I would struggle. However, I aimed for five and a half hours, so I'm very happy with my time," Julia told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Director of Marketing Communications and Events, Robin Wilson expressed his delight with the 2011 event and Asia's fastest growing destination marathon.

"It's been a fantastic day. This year has seen a record number of entries and a new course record. Our new champion is quite the character.

Some 45 countries were rep-

resented at LPIM 2011 reflecting its growing international appeal," he said.

"The other great aspect of the event has been the awareness generated for the charities involved. Thai film star, Mario Maurer has brought a lot of focus to the fundraising for Baan Klong Mai Daeng and has been a wonderful charity ambassador," Robin added.

Three contestants from reality TV show *The Biggest Loser Asia*, with a combined weight loss of around 150 kilograms, completed the half marathon as part of their new lifestyle and to also help local charities.

The *Phuket Gazette* is a proud media sponsor of Phuket's largest sporting event.

PPAO basketball gets air for 2012 league

THE PHUKET Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) and the Phuket Basketball Club have scored a "slam dunk" for the sport with confirmation of this year's second provincial basketball competition.

The opening ceremony of the

"Basketball PPAO Phuket Junior League 2011" will be held at Saphan Hin, Gymnasium 1, on June 25. The league will run until September 23 with matches starting at 4pm every Friday.

OrBorJor President Paiboon Uptasing said this week that out-

standing players from the two leagues will be invited to train with the Phuket Basketball Youth Squad.

Eighteen players have already been selected in preparation for the 2012 Thailand Youth Games to be held in Phuket in March next year.

If any of those selected perform particularly well, they may even get funding to continue into university education," added Mr Paiboon.

The competition will have a boys league with nine teams and a separate girls league with six teams. All players must be under 17 years old.

Schools and colleges represented in the boys league include Satee Phuket School, Muang Thalang School, Kajornkiet Suksa School, Phuket Thailhua School, Phutthamongkolnimit School, Phuket Wittayalai School, Muslim Wittaya Phuket School, Phuket Technical College and Phuket Vocational Education College.

Those represented in the girls



ALLEY-OOP: Representatives from some of the 15 participating schools in the PPAO Phuket Basketball Junior League 2011.

league include Satee Phuket School, Kathuwittaya School, Muang Thalang School, Kajornkiet Suksa School, Phuket Wittayalai School and Phuket Vocational Education College.

The winning team from each

league will receive 10,000 baht, 5,000 baht for the first runner-up, 3,000 baht for the second runner-up and 2,000 baht for third place, in addition to trophies and medals.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

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Upset in Phuket Snooker Cup

By Neil Quail

THEPCHAIYA Uh-nooh pocketed a cheque for 100,000 baht and his first ranking tournament title last Saturday, winning the Sangsom Phuket Snooker Cup at the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong.

The 27-year-old Thai player eased through his first-round game against Phaithoon Phonbun by 4 frames to 0, but had slightly stiffer opposition in his conquest of Dechatwat Poomjang, defeating his compatriot by a score of 4 frames to 3.

Ratchapol Pu-Ob-Orm, better known as James Wattana on the western snooker circuit, awaited Thepchaiya in Friday's semi-final. Ratchapol had muscled his way through a pre-qualifying match against Pramual Jantad and followed that victory with wins over Supoj Saenla (4-2) and Noppadun Sangil (4-0).

With Ratchapol playing well, it seemed this match would be a formality for the world number 67.

This game saw the third top 100 professional fall as Thepchaiya bundled Ratchapol out of the tournament by a score of 4 frames to 3.

Briton Alfie Burden began the tournament's pruning of professionals by defeating world number 87, Thanawat

Thirapongpaiboon in Monday's pre-qualifying matches.

Burden was himself next to stumble. Ranked at 57 in the world, Burden should have eased past Poramin Danjirakul, but it was the Thai player who took the scalp of the British player.

At the other end of the draw, Stuart Bingham was made to scramble on several occasions to recover frame deficits.

As the highest ranking player in the tournament, Bingham should have waltzed through his matches, but found his Thai opposition very much up to the challenge. A pre-qualifying round victory over Nakorn Chapol was followed by a 4-1 win over Chuchart Trairatt-anapradit.

Bingham's subsequent matches were hard fought battles. The world number 17 trailed in his next two games against Passakorn Suwannawat and fellow-ranked professional Issara Kachaiwong, but eventually found his form to win both games in the deciding seventh frame, 4-3.

In the final game played on Saturday, Thepchaiya and Bingham broke at 1pm in front of a 200-strong partisan crowd eager for a Thai win.

An upset seemed a pipe-dream as Bingham went 3-1 ahead in the best of nine match, but the young Thai player took his



WHO KNEW: Thepchaiya Uh-nooh after his win over Stuart Bingham. Photo: Siam Sports

opportunities well and notched three frames in a row to take a one frame lead.

Thepchaiya knew he had to close the door on Bingham in the eighth so as not to allow a deciding frame.

This he did, and sealed his win by 5 frames to 3 to become the second Sangsom Phuket Snooker champion.

The *Phuket Gazette* are sponsors for the Sangsom Phuket Snooker Cup.

Phuket Property Dot Com Pro-Am a prize golf event

THE 2011 Phuket Property Dot Com Pro-Am Invitational was due to tee off on Friday at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

As this newspaper went to print, 120 golfers, including 30 professionals and 90 amateurs, were getting ready to play in the sold-out event for prizes valued at more than five million baht.

Peter Bolton, co-founder of title sponsor Phuket Property Dot Com, said he was proud to be a part of the competition for the second consecutive year.

"The inaugural event last year was a resounding success and we are confident our continued sponsorship will provide strong foundations for the event and allow it to grow in the future," he said.

"It's not every day golfers can meet and play with professionals, and where better to do this than in Phuket," he said.

In the run-up to the event cad-dies will have been rubbing their hands in anticipation, as extra large tips were expected if their player, professional or amateur, shot a hole-in-one at the competition.

A whopping 1.2 million baht boat or a car worth 2.8mn baht were up for grabs for hole-in-one hot shots.

The Sessa 19 Key Largo day boat from Max-Marine Asia was the hole-in-one prize at the 150-yard par three hole 11.

And the car, a Mini Cooper S Turbo, was provided courtesy of



A 1.6 Mini Cooper S was up for grabs.

AutoExpress for players with the skill to down-in-one at the 150-yard par three hole 16.

AutoExpress general manager, Saksri Kerdphol, said she was hopeful one of the players could win the Mini Cooper S on the day of the event.

She was also keen to highlight that the event would be raising money for the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation, a charity based in Kamala that provides English-language education for more than 700 Thai children.

More prizes were up for grabs for best team stableford points, best player (male and female) and nearest the pin on every hole.

Further prizes were also available at the gala dinner, scheduled after the competition at the B-Lay Tong Resort in Patong.

For more information visit W: ProAm-Phuket.com.

See next week's issue of the *Phuket Gazette* for more on the event.

— Neil Quail

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