

# Phuket Gazette

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## Pirates plea for 'justice'

By Atchaa Khamlo

A THRONG of pirates from Kata and Karon staged a protest in Phuket Town on Wednesday to fight rising opposition to the sale of illegal wares.

The protest leaders went to Phuket Provincial Police Station, where Deputy Commander Chalit Kaewyarat received the letter of complaint on behalf of Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong.

The crowd of about 60 vendors then moved on to Provincial Hall, where Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen received a letter on behalf of Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

"We are asking for justice as

the police have been raiding our stores and seizing our pirate goods every day now for more than a month. We are in financial trouble and some of us need to borrow money," said one protest leader, who asked not to be named.

"Why do the police raid only the shops in Kata and Karon but not those in other areas, such as Patong and Kamala? We feel we are being targeted," he said.

"We have been running our shops for 20 years now," he added.

The protester explained that before raids began, warning letters were handed to each operator.

The warning letters said that the Royal Thai Police and the In-



V/Gov Weerawat reads the letter calling for 'justice' in front of the pirate protestors. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

tellectual Property Department have a joint policy to suppress the sale of pirate products, which they said was damaging the country's economy and reputation, he said.

The letters were marked as issued by Provincial Police Commander Pekad, he added.

"They want us to sell only OTOP [One Tambon One Product program] and local products,

which [many] other shops are already selling.

"The police said that it is possible to earn a living by doing so.

"But we have already invested in our businesses so action like this is causing big problems for us – now most of our shops are closed. That's about 1,000 shops in Kata-Karon going out of business," he said.

One shop selling pirate goods

makes about 5,000 baht a day, he explained, adding that this means 1,000 shops are making about five million baht for Kata and Karon.

"But the warning letters said we are destroying the country's economy," he argued.

The protest leader also complained about the cost of constantly posting bail for employees arrested, including migrant workers

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## PTT cautions over oil rigs in the Andaman Sea

By Janpen Upatising

A TOP official at PTT Exploration and Production Public Co Ltd (PTTEP) on Tuesday expressed his concern that tapping any oil reserves found in the Andaman Sea off Phuket will become a "national issue".

PTTEP Vice President Visit Coothongkul voiced his concern at a meeting to update Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuthirak and other local authorities on the status of oil and gas exploration off Phuket.

"I do not think it will be an easy task as I believe the decision to drill in the Andaman will definitely become a national issue. We

have to know whether or not the locals approve of this," he said.

Mr Visit explained that PTTEP hired TDI-Brooks International (USA) to conduct seabed geochemical exploration in order to find any traces of oil in the area.

The team collected samples of seabed soil and rock at 35 sites between May 17 and 26 this year, he said.

"We are now trying to find out whether there are oil reserves in these areas. The samples are being analyzed and sent to the US. We expect the results to be submitted to the PTTEP at the end of August," Mr Visit said.

However, even if the tests do return positive results, the PTTEP would have to then conduct a seismic study before selecting where to drill, he added.

Mr Visit explained that PTTEP testing for oil in the Andaman was the result of limited choice.

"We have drilled about 8,000 to 9,000 boreholes in the Gulf of Thailand. Some of these are producing oil, but we have yet to find any new oil fields.

"We have run out of places to look. So the Department of Mineral Fuels, under the Ministry of Energy, is looking at unexplored areas in Thailand.



Mr Visit points out the oil field test sites.

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## This Week

### What's the deal?



Will the new ID cards for kids prevent identity fraud? **Pages 4-5**

### Film



Ever wanted to kill your boss? Then this is a film for you. **Page 15**

### What did we just celebrate?



The roots and customs of Asaha Bucha Day explained. **Page 16**

### Expat Gallery



The *Gazette's* Fraser Morton immortalized in cartoon form. **Page 17**

### Education



Some important Thai labor laws teachers should know. **Page 18**

### Sport



Young Phuket golfer Pariwat comes second in US tourney. **Page 43**

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# 47 injured as express train slams into truck

By Chutharat Plerin

AN EXPRESS train from Bangkok to Surat Thani, commonly used by travellers heading for Phuket, plowed into a truck at a crossing in Ratchaburi on Tuesday afternoon, injuring 47 passengers on board.

"At about 10:30am, there was a big accident between an express train from Bangkok to Surat Thani and a truck at Moo 3 Pak Tho, Ratchaburi," Lt Col Somboon Murapan, duty officer at Pak Tho Police Station, told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"The train had more than 100 passengers bound for Surat Thani on board. Luckily, none of the passengers were seriously injured," he added.

However, the driver of the truck, reportedly fully loaded with rubber sheets bound for processing, was not so lucky.

"The truck driver and the train driver were the only people reported so far to have suffered serious injuries.

"The train driver suffered a broken arm, and I have yet to be



The train hit the lorry on a crossing with no boom gates. Photo: The Nation

informed of the injuries sustained by the truck driver," Lt Col Somboon said.

He explained that the rail crossing where the truck was hit by the train did not have any gates to prevent traffic from crossing the rails while a train was approaching.

"The crossing has no boom gates. Only people living in the

neighborhood know there is a railway there. The area is very dangerous even though there is a sign indicating it is a railway crossing," he said.

"However, I have yet to complete my investigation of the accident. At this stage I do not have the full details about what happened," Lt Col Somboon said.

## Mayor protests bus terminal

THE Mayor of Rassada Municipality is set to file a complaint with the Administrative Court if the Thepkrasattri Road median strip is broken to accommodate the yet unopened Phuket Bus Terminal 2.

Mayor Suratin Lianudom told the *Phuket Gazette* of his plans following an announcement made by Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Chief Teerayout Prasertphol that the median strip in front of the terminal would be broken to allow bus operations to begin by October.

"I, along with other residents, live opposite Bus Terminal 2 and disagree with this decision. It will cause more traffic problems. We are just a small group but we should receive fair treatment," Mr Suratin said.

"Why didn't they hold a public hearing before beginning con-



The site of the still-unused bus terminal on Thepkrasattri Road.

struction? It isn't right to look for a solution to traffic problems [in front of the terminal] after construction is completed," he added.

"We already filed complaint letters with the transport office and Governor Tri Augkaradacha on the behalf of villagers. If they insist on altering the median strip, I will not hesitate in filing a complaint with the Administrative Court," Mr Suratin said.

Phuket Provincial Highways Office Chief (PPHO) Arun Sanae said on the same day that the plans for altering the median strip were already finished and they were waiting for budget approval from the PPHO director-general by the end of this fiscal year.

"We have already submitted the layout plans and need about three million baht to complete them. We should receive the money from this year's remaining fiscal budget and aim to start the project before October 1," Mr Arun said.

PLTO Chief Teerayout explained that Thepkrasattri Rd was under the authority of the PPHO and it was not within his right to organize a public hearing. He echoed Mr Arun's statement that the project was being pushed for a pre-October start.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

## Police deem 'Bagged American' a suicide

THE American man found dead with a plastic bag over his head committed suicide, say police.

"After forensic investigators examined the body, it was determined that our initial suspicions were true. The man intended to commit suicide due to business problems and his American girlfriend leaving him to return home," said Chalong Police Superintendent Wichit Intorrasorn.

"There was no evidence of a struggle, looting or an attack found within the room in which he died," he added.

The owners of the apartment have been informed by staff that

Mr Weitz brought an oxygen tank and other items that could be used to inflict self harm into his room a few days before his body was discovered, Col Wichit explained.

His body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where his blood was tested for drugs.

The police were still awaiting test results as the *Phuket Gazette* went to press

"We sent a letter informing the US Embassy of the case. The medical report will be made available to them in the future if they have any further questions," Col Wichit said.

— Atchhaa Khamlo



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HOLIDAY INN PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH RESORT





ASEAN-Korea Center Secretary General Young Jai Cho.

## Korea steps up trade support for ASEAN tourism

ABOUT 50 staff from Phuket tourism businesses this week attended a three-day intensive training course with the aim of providing better services to inbound Korean tourists.

The course, held at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa from Tuesday through Thursday, was part of the "ASEAN Tourism Human Resources Development Program" organized by ASEAN-Korea Center (AKC) in cooperation with Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

AKC Secretary General Young Jai Cho said that Thailand – especially Phuket and Chiang Mai – and the Philippines were now the most attractive destinations for Korean tourists among the 10 ASEAN countries.

"The number of Koreans visiting Thailand grows every year. When I flew here from Korea last night, the flight was full. There was not a single available seat, and most of passengers were families traveling together," he said.

Pattamat Wongpattanasiri, Executive Director of the TAT's Product Promotion Department, said the number of Korean tourists grew last year by more than 30 per cent, to 805,445.

"Tourism operators should learn more about Korean behavior in order to provide quality services and to expand Korean market," she said.

– Pimwara Choksakulpan

# Dolphins take 'top priority'

By Stephen Michael Fein

THE heads of two non-government organizations were in Phuket last weekend to announce the start of a partnership campaign to halt plans to build a "dolphinarium" as part of a resort and tourism complex in Rawai.

Mark Berman of the US-based Earth Island Institute and Edwin Wiek of the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) stopped by the *Phuket Gazette* offices today to drop off a copy of the Academy Award-winning documentary *The Cove*, which they plan to translate into Thai and distribute among the local media, schools and government agencies.

The pair said their two groups would work together domestically and internationally to fight a plan by Canadian investor Daniel McDaniel to build a tourism attraction that would include a dolphin show.

Both men feel it is unethical to keep dolphins in captivity and that dolphin shows are dying out in the West as more people learn about how the mammals are captured in the wild.



Mr Berman (left) of the Earth Island Institute and Edwin Wiek of the WFFT at the *Phuket Gazette* offices. Photo: Dean Noble

Mr Berman said he plans to return to Phuket with former dolphin trainer Ric O'Barry to encourage Thais to attend free showings of *The Cove* in order to raise local awareness of the issue.

Mr Wiek, a Dutchman who has lived in Thailand for over two decades and is fluent in Thai, will

lead the fight locally in Phuket, preparing a version of the film with Thai subtitles and using the media to spread the message.

The development planned for Rawai is not the first time people have tried to import dolphins as part of a tourism related business, he said.

"I understand that some people think that zoos and dolphinariums are still a thing of this time, but scientific research has not proven that it works. I don't know what this gentleman's argument is that it will be good for Phuket.

"From a financial point of view I am sure it could make a profit, especially with so many tourists coming in from Russia and China, but from an ethical point of view I don't think it's right to take animals from the wild and put them into tanks to entertain people," Mr Wiek said.

As for claims that as many as 1,000 jobs could be created, he said most of those would probably go to low-wage workers from Burma who build the project.

Mr Berman said the Earth Island Institute would call for a boycott on Thai tourism as well if the import of dolphins is allowed.

Mr Wiek was less enthusiastic about this approach, saying such a call might be impractical and cast his group as obstructionist.

His group would rather work at the local level to raise awareness about the issues involved, he said.

## Dane found dead in Kamala

A 62-year-old Danish man was found dead in a resort garden near his Phuket hotel room early on Tuesday morning.

Police identified the man as Preben Thomsen Schmidt.

Staff at the Print Kamala Resort discovered the man's body at about 6:30am and called the police immediately, said Lt Col Anek Mongkol.

"His body was found in gardens beside a walkway that joins bungalows. His right arm had wounds we believe were sustained in a fall," he said.

However, Lt Col Anek did not speculate what may have caused contusions to the man's face.

"We have sent his body to Patong Hospital for further examination. We are still waiting for the



Rescue workers recover the body from the gardens.

results," he said.

Hotel staff told the police that the man booked a hotel room for four nights, although police say his passport shows that he entered Thailand on June 27.

"He was last seen by a hotel

security guard at about 1am. He was drinking in front of his room, but the guard paid no attention because he had seen the man spending much of his time drinking," one police officer told the *Gazette*.

## Planning chief calls to heed zoning rules

THE chief of the Public Works and Town and Country Planning office in Phuket has called for all developers and local authorities issuing building permits to heed the new zoning regulations that came into force on July 7.

"The application form for building permits remains the same and requires submission at local Administration Organizations for processing and issuing," said Vongsagorn Noonchookan.

Building permits issued before July 7 remain under the previous regulations, even if construction has not begun at the site, but applications filed after July 7 must adhere to the new rules, he added.

## Pirates parlez for justice

From page 1

illegally selling goods in a shop, and not performing the work as prescribed in their work permits.

"We have to pay 20,000 to 30,000 baht to post bail for each person arrested, while our products – which we bought from Pratum, Sampeng and Pahurat in Bangkok – were seized every day," he said.

"We want to know why the police are being so unfair, and whether there is something else behind this. We would like the Phuket Commander to leave Phuket," said one of the protest leaders.

Col Chalit said he will pass the letter to Maj Gen Pekad, who was not in Phuket on the day.

V/Gov Weerawat said a com-

mittee would be tasked with finding a practical solution to the problem.

"Actually, this problem started with Karon Subdistrict Chief [Kamnan] Winai Chitchiew collecting money from us then 'not being fair to shop operators', so we stopped paying him," said one shop operator.

"Then he complained to every related organization to instigate the raids on our shops. This might be why the commander [Maj Gen Pekad] is doing this.

"The commander could choose to compromise instead of just using the rules to force people to change. If he wants to enforce the rules, he has to do so across the whole island, not just in select locations," he said.



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# 'Croc-o-duo' free to roam family home

PHITSANULOK Municipality Council member Awiroot Natip has shared his family home with a variety of pets over the past decade, two of which are two-meter-long freshwater crocodiles. "I've been raising them for almost 10 years," Mr Awiroot, 45, told *Kom Chad Luek*.

Mr Ariwoot bought the pair, named Ngern (Silver) and Thong (Gold), from Nakhon Sawan MP Pinyo Nirote for 3,000 baht each when they were about two years old, he said.

"We raise them just like other pets. If they're hungry and hear us making noise in the kitchen, they come to us and we just give them some food. Then they go back into the house.

"We feed them some chicken every few days, except during the Vegetarian Festival, when we just feed them vegetables," he told a Channel 3 reporter.

"My son has chickens, rabbits, hedgehogs and a Pomeranian –



they all play together, even the crocs."

Mr Awiroot said that he leaves the gate to his home open "all the time", and used to let the pair swim in the nearby Naan River.

"The neighbors know that I give the crocs full reign in the house. However, if we have visitors, they will be supervised," he said.

One of the beasts has taken to climbing to the second story of the house and sleeping in his 12-year-old son's bed.

"Even though I've been living with them for 10 years, I would never sleep with them. When I go up to my room and they are in

there, I just tell them to leave," the youngster said.

"They are usually nice to the family, but if a stranger comes close to me, they will threaten – but they've never hurt anyone," his father said.

Of the two reptiles, Ngern is the wildest, he noted.

"I just keep him in the house. Thong is wild as well, but he's never hurt anyone.

"I used to pat them on the head, but not anymore because Thong bit me once. It wasn't a serious injury, though," he added.

Mr Awiroot's youngest son, Athipong Natip, 10, said, "I'm not scared of them.

"They're so cute and I've been around them since I was very little.

"I can pat their tails, but I don't dare get too close," he added.

"I guess, deep down, I am scared of getting hurt. I'd rather just raise rabbits and hedgehogs," young Athipong said.

# Kid cards

All Thai children aged seven to 14 years old – about eight million people – are now required by law to get a national ID card. Is the process worth the stress?

Officials have cited several justifications for the new mandate [see First Person on page 9], one of which claims that the scheme will protect Thai nationality from being obtained illegally by alien children. The *Phuket Gazette's* Steven Layne reports.

ADVOCATES of the new national ID card scheme for children argue that the benefits of a comprehensive and universal E-gov (electronic government) system, ultimately outweigh any drawbacks or inconveniences in the process.

Niran Kanlayanamit, director-general of the Interior Ministry's Department of Provincial Administration was quoted in various news reports as saying, "Issuing children ID cards will help protect Thai rights from being taken advantage of by aliens."

There have been cases of immigrants committing identity fraud reported in Thai media.

In one such incident in Chiang Mai in 2007, an 18-year-old Burmese immigrant and his Thai stepfather were arrested for allegedly purchasing the identity of another Thai man's son, two years prior, for a fee of 20,000 baht.

When the identity seller's son turned 15 and applied for an ID as required by law, the database query returned an identity duplicate, alarming officials who then alerted police.

In that case, the media focused on the suspected buyers, though it wasn't mentioned whether the seller was punished.

There are less risky, yet more expensive methods for illegal aliens to obtain an ID card.

One involves buying the identity of a deceased person whose death was not officially reported.

According to one report, this apparent failsafe method would cost an immigrant – or Thai criminal seeking a clean slate – anywhere from 300,000 baht to one million baht.

As the electronic national database system continues to evolve, aiming to implement finger scanning technology in the future, the potential for fraud is decreasing.

In October of last year, Parliament voted in favor of a controversial law that would have required Thais aged one year and older to obtain an ID card.

That legislation became the topic of heated debate and was

never officially ratified.

The law would have required a massive budget and likely caused a meltdown in the system, as a two-year deadline was given for all children to be registered.

Furthermore, academics argued that the plan would have actually opened routes for identity fraud, not closed them.

For one, kids' heads and faces change dramatically from birth making it easier for another [alien] kid use the same ID without being detected.

Moreover, younger kids have a high risk of losing cards, which could potentially lead to a "lost-and-found" ID card market.

The current law, which was signed in May and went into effect on July 10, was a compromise on the original.

However, the question remains: How will issuing ID cards to children from the age of seven address identity fraud?

Muang District Chief Supachai Pochnukul recently told the *Gazette* that if there

is identity fraud involving immigrant children, it would most likely occur at hospitals during birth registration.

"When [immigrants] give birth to a child, it is possible for a parent to falsify they are a Thai national,

because a birth certificate [which says at least one parent is Thai] is the basis for Thai nationality.

"If this has been done in Phuket, there's really no way we would know about it. However, with the new ID card system, the verification process will allow us to confirm if a child's parents are consistent with the information on their birth certificate. I'm confident it will filter out frauds," he said.

A maternity nurse working at the Vachira Phuket Hospital maternity ward who asked to remain anonymous disagrees that hospitals are the source of such fraud.

"It would be extremely difficult for an illegal migrant worker to pose as a Thai to get their child a birth certificate.

"Both parents need to present

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# ‘prevent’ identity fraud



Schools can take children to apply for ID cards. Photo: Steven Layne



Supasek 'Pike' Amornchat with his mother, Yingluck Shinawatra after getting his first ID card. Photo: The Nation

their national ID cards before we process the birth certificate [which is filed with the local district or municipal office]," she said.

"I suppose it would be possible for an immigrant to use someone else's ID card who looked similar, but even so, we'd be able to tell if they're Thai judging from their looks and mannerisms, among other things.

"If any officials are in doubt or curious about our verification process, they are welcome to come see for themselves," she added.

Chanisa Wiwatthumrongsanti, a Thai grandmother who operates laundry services and runs an eatery in Koh Kaew, said she plans to take her two grandchildren, Nut, 12, and Oam, 8 to obtain an ID card as soon as possible.

She strongly agrees with officials that the ID cards will protect Thai people's rights [from aliens].

"I've heard about hospitals issuing Thai birth certificates to immigrants.

"If the immigrants lied to get their child Thai rights they should be deported.

"In a neighboring house, there is a Burmese family who have one child, two or three years old. The mother told me her kid has a Thai birth certificate issued by a hospital and will be able to study in Thailand as a Thai," Mrs Chanisa said.

"I'm not sure how that family got the certificate for their child, perhaps with help from their employer I'd guess.

"When she told me that, it surprised me because usually Burmese workers who give birth in Phuket end up sending the child back to Burma soon after," she said.

Officials said there have been

no high-profile Thai identity fraud arrests involving alien children in Phuket. The only incident even close to identity fraud was in 2006 when a Burmese man and a Thai woman were arrested in Phuket for forging the Kanchanaburi governor's signature to issue fake hill tribe identity cards to illegal Burmese immigrants in the southern region.

Whether or not identity fraud involving immigrant children is rampant remains to be seen.

However, the issue of migrant children living in Phuket and the rest of Thailand is in plain sight.

In his re-election campaign for Phuket constituency two, Phuket MP Raywat Areerob promised to solve this problem by sending [the immigrant children] back to their country.

A new can of worms? No matter where one might stand on the human rights debate, Raywat did give a reason for his statement when he asked: "Who's going to take responsibility and care for them when they get older?"

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# Gunfight at temple raises security fears

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE gunfight at a temple in Surat Thani province early last Monday morning that claimed the lives of a local official and a five-year-old girl has sparked security concerns at temples in Phuket.

Six men armed with pistols entered the Suwanpadit temple just after midnight and opened fire on local administrator Songwut Noppakhun, killing him.

Mr Songwut was handing out awards to children that had performed in a talent show at the temple as part of celebrations to mark the beginning of Buddhist lent (Khao Phansa).

His assistants returned fire, sparking a shootout that left 11 wounded, including five-year-old Pornicha Thammasangwan, who died on her way to hospital.

In reaction to the tragedy, Abbot Phra Wisutthithammakhani, the highest-ranking abbot in Phuket, today voiced his concerns over the incident.

"Of course it's not a good thing,



A volunteer providing security at the Wat Chalong Fair this year.

regardless whether it happens in Thailand or anywhere else in the world. We have to do our best to stop anything like this from happening again," Abbot Phra Wisutthithammakhani told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"Normal people don't do terrible things like this. [These are the actions of] people who are mentally disturbed. Sadly, now this has happened, so we should check to make sure people do not carry weapons into temples," he said.

However, the 60-year-old abbot held firm that the attack was an isolated incident that would not deter people from visiting temples.

"This will not stop people from going to temples. This type of thing is not happening across the country, so people will understand," he said.

Chalong Police Superintendent Wichit Intorrasorn was exasperated by the attack.

"It was a terrible thing. As any Buddhist already knows, the temples are sanctuaries of life," he said.

Chalong Police were forced to cope with a similar incident in 2009 when 37-year-old tour company boss Chalernpol Pranweerapaiboon was gunned down in broad daylight in the parking lot of Wat Luangpoo Supha on Makha Bucha Day, one of Buddhism's holiest days of the year.

Since then, Chalong Police have provided security at temple fairs, but only at the request of temple organizing committees, Col Wichit



Abbot Phrawisutthithammakhani, the highest-ranking abbot in Phuket.

explained.

"Right now we provide security at temple fairs only, but of course if any temple in our area requests our assistance we would be willing to help," he said.

"At temple fairs, we often coordinate with organizations, such as civil defense volunteers, local organizations and temple commit-

tees, like those at Wat Kata and Wat Karon, to protect against crime. This seems to work very well.

"Our officers stationed at temple entrances [to provide security at temple fairs] always manage to seize some weapons from people entering temple grounds," he said.

## Americans called to STEP up

THE US embassy in Bangkok is calling for all Americans in Thailand to register with its Consular Section so it can better provide assistance to US citizens.

"If you are an American citizen in Thailand – either a long-term resident or a visiting tourist – please consider enrolling with the US Embassy's Consular Section via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program [STEP]," said Tim Swanson, Chief of US Embassy Bangkok's American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit.

"Using this system, you can enter information about your trip abroad so that the Department of



State can better assist you in the event of an emergency," he said.

The range of emergency services offered by the ACS Unit includes assistance regarding arrests, missing persons, medical emergencies, death, crime and lost or stolen passports, he explained.

"You can enroll online in a few

minutes at <http://travelregistration.state.gov>. After you've enrolled, you can use STEP to enter and update your contact information at any time, allowing you to keep your travel and contact information current.

Kristofor Graf, Consul at the embassy, confirmed that the next ACS outreach service clinic in Phuket is still scheduled for September 16, though a location has yet to be set.

More details will be announced closer to the event date, he added.

The US embassy posts on Twitter at @ACSBKK and on its website <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov>

## Local hospitals join fight against women's cancer

TWO of Phuket's major international hospitals will be providing discount breast and cervical cancer screening packages in August.

Urairat Atiset, president of the Phuket chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Association (BPW) of Thailand, on Monday announced that Bangkok Hospital Phuket (BHP) and Phuket International Hospital (PIH) will be offering breast and cervical cancer examinations for 3,000 baht.

The cancer-awareness campaign is being held in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's birthday on August 12 and Thai Women's Day on August 1, she explained.

The normal prices for the combined examinations are 5,200 baht at BHP and 4,100 baht at PIH.

At a conference held to promote the campaign, BHP Deputy Director Dr Bodin La-ied said the hospital now has the latest digital mammogram technology available.

"It is a fast and highly accurate machine. We conduct an average of 100 exams a month and of those about five require surgery for breast cancer," he said.

Dr Bodin was also confident in the hospital's method of detecting cervical cancer: a pap test developed by ThinPrep that he described as the "most accurate method in the world".



Dr Manop Janthanaphan explains the type of examinations available.

"Each year we find about 300 cases of early-stage cervical cancer, and there is a 100 per cent cure rate for such cases.

"According to National Cancer Institute statistics from 2000, breast cancer starts to appear in women aged about 35 to 40. We suggest every woman over the age of 40 is screened each year," said Dr Attawut Chuathong, a surgical oncology specialist at BHP.

Dr Manop Janthanaphan, an obstetrician and gynecologist at PIH, said, "I suggest any woman to have a screening done after three years of having sexual intercourse for the first time. After that, they should go for a screening every year until they are 70."

– Janpen Upatising



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# ICJ ruling boosts peace hopes

An International Court of Justice ruling creates a new demilitarized zone on the Thai-Cambodia border

THE International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Monday ordered the creation of a demilitarized zone around the temple of Preah Vihear on the Thai-Cambodian border, raising hopes of a permanent ceasefire between the two countries.

The ICJ ordered both countries to immediately withdraw troops from the area around the temple, which was the center of clashes in February that killed soldiers and civilians on both sides.

"[The court] finds that both countries must immediately withdraw their military personnel," said Boris Heim, information officer at the court, via the *Phnom Penh Post*.

"We have defined a zone around the temple in which we said that both parties must withdraw all troops."

ICJ President Hisashi Owada said in reading out the verdict that "having noted that the temple area had been the scene of armed clashes between the parties and that such clashes might reoccur, the court decided that, in order to ensure that no irreparable damage was caused, there was an urgent need for the presence of all armed forces to be temporarily excluded from a provisional demilitarized zone

## AROUND THE nation

around the area of the temple."

The decision was hailed by both sides.

Outgoing Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, who led the Thai delegation to The Hague, called the ruling "fair for both parties," Bloomberg reported.

"We will urgently initiate negotiations with Cambodia for the troop withdrawal," he said.

Outgoing Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said he was satisfied with the verdict since it had no effect on Thai sovereignty.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong also welcomed the decision.

"This provisional demilitarized zone means there will be a permanent ceasefire.

"It will be tantamount to the cessation of aggression by Thailand against Cambodia," he told reporters.

Mr Abhisit said Thailand would not pull its troops out of the zone until it had consulted



ICJ President Hisashi Owada speaks at a hearing over the Thai-Cambodia issue. Photo: Valerie Kuypers AFP/ANP

with agencies and Cambodia on how to comply with the order.

He said the Joint Boundary Commission, a bilateral body working on delineating the 800km border between the two countries, was the

best forum to continue negotiations.

In April, Cambodia had requested that the ICJ order the withdrawal of Thai troops from the area. It also asked that the court reinterpret its 1962 decision

awarding the temple to Cambodia, a request that the Thai side asked the ICJ to throw out.

Both sides claim a 4.6-square-kilometer patch of land adjacent to the temple as their own.

## Germans seize Royal aircraft

A DIPLOMATIC spat erupted between Thailand and Germany last week after German liquidators seized a Boeing 737 at Munich Airport used by HM Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn.

"This is a great mistake stemming apparently from false information provided to the German judicial system by the plaintiff," Reuters quoted Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya as saying.

German insolvency liquidators impounded the plane on July 13 in a bid to force the Thai government to resolve a 30-million-euro (1.26 billion baht) debt to a now-bankrupt German firm.

The company, Dywidag, which later merged with now-insolvent Walter Bau, helped build a tollway road to Bangkok's Don Muang airport 20 years ago. The firm claimed the Thai government had reneged on an agreement by refusing to raise tollway fees sufficiently.

The Thai government has submitted documents to a German court purporting to prove that the craft is the personal property of the Crown Prince and should not have been impounded.

The Royal Thai Air Force said earlier it presented the jet aircraft to HRH the Crown Prince in 2007 for his personal use.

## EC gives nod to Yingluck, Abhisit

THE Election Commission (EC) endorsed Prime Minister-elect Yingluck Shinawatra and outgoing prime minister Abhisit Vejjajiva MPs on Tuesday, putting to rest a week of speculation that a "judicial coup" was in the offing.

At the time of writing, the EC deliberation was still in progress and expected to conclude shortly on how many additional MPs-elect would be endorsed, *The Nation* reported.

Of 500 MPs-elect, 139 have had their endorsement delayed due to campaign-related complaints.

The previous week, the EC endorsed 358 MPs out of the 500 House seats.

Yingluck and Abhisit, as well as several leaders of the red shirt anti-government protest movement, were not among the candidates endorsed last week, leading to speculation that the EC was refusing to endorse Yingluck in a bid to derail the formation of the Pheu Thai government.

However, the EC is required to investigate complaints of electoral malfeasance before endorsing candidates.

The commission was investigating a complaint that banned politicians were heavily involved in her campaign.



Mrs Yingluck arrives at Pheu Thai headquarters on Tuesday. Photo: AFP

One politician the complaint focused on was Mrs Yingluck's older brother, fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who lives in self-imposed exile.

The complainants cited the Pheu Thai party's slogan "Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai does" as evidence.

A case was also lodged against Mr Abhisit claiming he indirectly bought votes because the Commerce Ministry held a trade fair on the day of advance voting.

The new Parliament is expected to convene in early August to elect the 28<sup>th</sup> prime minister of Thailand.

With the Pheu Thai Party having announced a six-party coalition comprising 300 MPs, Mrs Yingluck is expected to be elected the country's new leader.


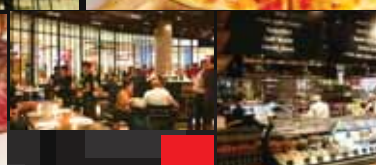


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# Business goes on

THE armed attack by six gunmen at Suwanpadit temple in Surat Thani just after midnight last Sunday has of course brought much consternation.

The men, armed with pistols, entered the temple and opened fire on Songwut Noppakhun, an official serving with the Surat Thani Provincial Administrative Organization (*OrBorJor*).

Mr Songwut died at the scene and five-year-old Pornicha Thamasangwan died en route to hospital after being hit by a stray bullet.

Although the despicable attack took place in Surat Thani, the incident is quite relevant for Phuket.

Beyond the outrage over the deaths, injuries and the venue of the massacre, the call for weapons checks at temple entrances on major Buddhist holidays is a development that almost no-one wants.

But the call is likely to have little effect. "Honor among thieves" is rare enough, never mind "honor among killers". And Chalong Police Superintendent Wichit Intorrasorn has told the *Phuket Gazette* that police checks at temple fairs always result in weapons being seized, meaning that they do not act as a deterrent.

More relevant for Phuket was that Mr Songwut knew someone was coming for him. The rapid return fire of the armed "assistants" at his side makes that a dead giveaway. But the question remains as to why the assassination was ordered. What was Mr Songwut involved in – or what did he refuse to be involved in – that triggered his assassination?

Here, speculation is rife, but police have already indicated the likelihood of a "business dispute". And in this neck of the woods, "business dispute", more often than not, means "land".

Police would impress this newspaper if they managed to apprehend all the killers, unless the assassins were among the 11 injured. It's not difficult to arrest patients in hospitals.

Even with the investigation into the 2003 murder of Pongtorn Hiranyaburana, the man appointed to lead the Thaksin-ordered investigation into "suspect land titles" in Phuket, the police have failed to bring the killers to justice.

That said, the hit squad assigned to Mr Pongtorn's demise seemed a touch more professional. They shot him while he was driving home from Phuket to Surat Thani to see his wife and children. They didn't wait for the car to stop en route; they nailed a moving target.

Run-of-the-mill intimidation and standover tactics are pretty much considered part of the territory in provincial Thailand. Indeed, the *Gazette* would love to hear from anyone in business in Phuket for more than five years who has never been threatened, intimidated or asked for a gratuity for anything to which they were already fully entitled, as enshrined in law.

Here in the boondocks, this is just business as usual – unless, of course, it spills over onto temple grounds.

Heaven help anyone who stands between an unscrupulous man and more money than he has ever seen in his life, even if the sum appears rather unimposing to many of our readers.

– The Editor



# Who needs Windows?

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Live Wire: Get your browsers right, July 14*

Windows is not required to fill the computer needs of most people. Let's not forget that Windows 95 integrated Internet Explorer (IE) and aside from destroying the third party browser market (remember Netscape?), this opened the door to most of these malware nasties.

Chrome, Opera and Firefox are great browsers. They do a good job to protect the user from malicious software.

Ty  
*Gazette forum*

## Health care clarity

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket hospitals join fight against breast, cervical cancer, July 18*

This is really good. My ongoing experience with Phuket hospitals is that they give patients good explanations about the illness and what can be done, but fail to provide straight answers regarding how much a private operation will cost for an expat.

Viv-Anne  
*Gazette forum*

## Buckle up

Re: *Gazette online, Driver plows Phuket trees, hits pole, July 16*

I hope this will be published in the Thai media as well as the story highlights the importance of safety belts and airbag. I am really bothered by drivers not wearing a seatbelt and sometimes even holding a child on their lap while driving.

Fritz Penguin  
*Gazette forum*

## Letters to the Editor

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

## The solution is in the Salaengs

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Despite the danger, reconciliation on the roads not likely for now, July 17*

Salaeng crack down? Not in our lifetime for sure. Even police I know operate them and drive without helmets when on duty.

The police have a lot of sympathy for the poor who drive salaengs and use them for business.

They would never take that away from them.

I don't see Thai roadways getting any safer in this century, of course I won't be here to see if I'm correct.

The original Steve  
*Gazette forum*

## Build it and they will come

Re: *Gazette online, Mayor protests Phuket Bus Terminal plans, July 15*

Full marks to the Mayor of Rassada, his comments are spot on.

It's not too late to build another terminal on the bypass road, connect it to the planned light railway and put the existing building could be to better use.

Let's hope common sense prevails.

agogohome  
*Gazette forum*

## In aviation, don't follow the leader

Re: *Gazette online, Air traffic control unveil new systems at Phuket Airport, July 14*

That's great news. This is putting money where it counts. A tip of the hat to those involved.

Please try to shoot higher than US air traffic controller standards. It's not like they have a stellar record in general.

Dave Williams  
*Gazette forum*

## Education, for better or worse

Re: *Gazette online, For the love of dolphins: NGOs to launch heated campaign in Phuket, July 16*

Sounds like a good idea translating *The Cove* into Thai and showing it to the locals.

I just hope that no one will learn the wrong thing from the exercise and start trading dolphins when they realize how much money there is to be made.

Save the Dolphins  
*Gazette forum*

## Pleading the fourth

Re: *Gazette online, American pedophile arrested in Phuket gets 15 years, July 13*

The lawyers are reprehensible too. The police find the photos in this monster's apartment, and then his lawyers try to build a defense around the fourth amendment?

Morally, they should be behind bars with him. Pity he couldn't serve his sentence in the city he committed them [the crimes].

sateeb  
*Gazette forum*

## Phuket Gazette

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# Child IDs will lessen burden for parents

## FIRST PERSON

Issuing ID cards to children will not only make it more convenient for parents and their kids to benefit from and prove their identity as Thai citizens, the new system will also teach families more responsibility.

The reason for issuing ID cards to children is not really different from why we need to issue them to adults. The cards are similar.

The cards must be renewed every six years and cost the same as adult ID cards, and when the system is in full swing, the benefits will also be the same.

The only new change is the additional work officials have to do to meet the deadline for issuing IDs to all the kids in the country aged seven to 14.

Having an ID card will allow kids to instantly show who they are without any confusion like before. Now it won't be necessary for them to carry documents and evidence to prove their identity.

All their information will be stored on the one smart card.

In the past, when applying for or using services that require personal information to be verified – whether it be schooling, health care, insurance or flying domestically – parents had to bring and carry vital documents such as a child's birth certificate and their house registration to verify their identity.

In some cases a lost or damaged birth certificate would cause



Muang District Chief **Supachai Pochnukul**, 55, has been a government official for 31 years. Before taking his current position in January last year, he was a district chief in Phang Nga, then in Krabi. Mr Supachai has a master's degree in social policy planning. Here, he talks about the benefits of a new law requiring ID cards for all Thai children aged seven to 14 to by next year.



Teachers will be able to stand in for parents during child ID issuing.

even more inconvenience, because you'd have to go back to the original district registrar to have the documents reissued.

The smart card system doesn't require this and, just like adults, you can apply anywhere in the country.

For example, I have a child who is from Phuket. If we went to Songkhla and wanted or needed to apply for a new card, we wouldn't have to come back to Phuket. Any district or municipal office in the country has the authority to issue

cards since all information is stored on the national database.

It might be inconvenient for many parents to do walk-in appointments during weekdays due to work. That's why many district and municipal offices are coordinating directly with schools directly.

Teachers will have the same authority as parents in the issuing process, and responsibility will fall on schools and government offices, though parents can take still take their kids if they prefer to.



## Me, my book and I

### Island View

By Blair Christopher

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

THERE is a problem with reading books on this island and it has to be stopped.

Waitresses in bars and restaurants have some sort of impulsive giggling fit every time I read in their establishments.

This is not a one-off occurrence, it happens alarmingly often. "Why you come alone... Why you always reading?" they ask.

My response: "Err, I came to relax and to finish my book."

"Awww, you not have lady?" Why would that be the the next question to pop into someone's mind?

What does reading a book have to do with being in a relationship.

And I am in a relationship, thank you, and she likes to read books too – and doesn't ask stupid questions either.

To some people, I may look like an odd cookie sitting alone in a bar reading a book, but it feels quite natural to me.

Comedian Bill Hicks had a similar observation back in the early '90s, an observation one of the waitresses at my local watering

hole should take note of:

*I've noticed a certain anti-intellectualism going around this country [America]; since about 1980, coincidentally enough... I was in Nashville, Tennessee, and after the show I went to a Waffle House. I'm not proud of it, but I was hungry. And I'm sitting there eating and reading a book.*

*I don't know anybody, I'm alone, so I'm reading a book.*

*The waitress comes over to me like, [gum smacking] "What'chu readin' for?"*

*I had never been asked that.*

*Not "What am I reading?" but "What am I reading for?"*

*Goddangit, you stumped me. Hmm, why do I read?*

*I suppose I read for a lot of reasons, one of the main ones being so I don't end up being a f\*cking waffle waitress.*

## Issues & Answers... ...asking the questions that affect you...

### VAT invoices on domestic flights

I frequently travel for business on domestic airlines but when I ask for a tax invoice their staff tell me that they can only issue a receipt. Are airlines exempt from issuing VAT invoices?

frequent flyer  
Koh Samui

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

Domestic airlines receive no exemption from issuing tax invoices. I too travel frequently and have received an invoice after every request. Most airlines will issue one to you right at their counters when requested.

**A ticketing officer at Nok Air replies:**

I am able to issue tax invoices to our customers. You may file your request via our website, through call centers or at ticketing counters. The process may

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

Submit your issue at

[www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

take up to seven working days if you live in Bangkok and nine days for other provinces.

**A ticketing officer at Bangkok Airways replies:**

We are able to issue tax invoices to customers at our ticketing counters. At Phuket International Airport, the Bangkok Airways counter can be found on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Please bear in mind that we are only able to issue an invoice if you booked your ticket directly from Bangkok Airways. If your reservation was made through an agency, you must make a request with them.

### How can businesses have highway signs?

I have seen many white signs posted along major roads in Phuket that feature the names of private companies.

How can a private business put its name on a government sign?

Which department approves these signs, and how can I have a sign of my own?

DW  
Thalang

**Arun Sanae, Director of the Department of Highways Phuket office, replies:**

The Department of Highways allows private organizations to have roadside signs featuring the organization's name and directions to its premises.

Among the types of places featured on these signs are: stadiums, shopping malls, markets, OTOP centers, hotels, tourist attractions, schools, hospitals, religious places, industrial estates, foundations or charity organizations,

housing estates or condominiums and even political offices.

The cost of having your own roadside sign varies depending on its size and color.

For example, a white sign measuring 2.4 meters wide by 75 centimeters high erected on poles 1.5m tall costs 10,000 baht a year.

A green sign measuring 2.4m wide by 2.3m high on poles 5.5m tall costs 50,000 baht a year.

Please be aware that this does not include the cost of actually making the signs, which must be made according to precise specifications.

We do not make the signs, you have to organize and pay for that yourself – but we can recommend businesses that do make signs to our specifications.

To have such a sign for your business you must first obtain permission from the Highways Department.

Application forms are available at our office on Narisorn Road in Phuket Town.

Attached to the application must

be a copy of the company's certificate of incorporation and a copy of the house registration document (*tabien baan*) and the ID card of the applicant.

Foreigners must provide a signed copy of their passport face page.

The application must specify which size and color the sign will be and have a map showing precisely where the sign is to be posted.

Our office will check the application and decide whether the proposed location for the sign is safe for motorists.

After we have vetted the application, we will send it to our regional office in Surat Thani, which will forward the application to the Department of Highways head office in Bangkok for approval.

The process should take no longer than 45 days.

If the application is approved, the appropriate fee must be paid in advance.

For more information call our office at 076-212179.



# For the sake of health and safety

By Janpen Upatising

THE new workplace health and safety law that came into effect last Saturday will have little effect on employers, but does place greater responsibility on building owners to make premises safer, says Phuket's Labor Protection chief.

The Safety, Occupational Health, and Working Environment Act BE 2554 came into force on July 16.

"Employers do not have to change much because much of this new act was already covered by the existing law, the Labor Protection Act BE 2541," said Kittipong Laonipon, chief of Phuket Provincial Labor Protection and Welfare Office.

The new legislation reinforces the legal obligations of employers and employees to practice health and safety procedures prescribed by law, he said.

However, the new law gives employers greater power to modify rented work areas in

order to comply with safety provisions, he said.

"Building owners must now allow business operators renting the premises to change and modify the building for safety reasons. The building owners cannot refuse them the right to do this anymore," said Mr Kittipong.

Section 19 of the new act has been drafted to specifically address this issue.

It reads: "Whereas an Employer rents a building, premise, tool, machinery, equipment or any others to be used in an establishment, the Employer shall have powers to carry out an operation on occupational safety, health and environment involving with the rented building, premise, tool, machinery, equipment or any others in accordance with the standards as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation issued under Section 8."

In the past, business operators claimed they could not break walls to install fire escapes because they did not own the

building, explained Mr Kittipong.

"This was a way of refusing to be held responsible in case of fire, but with this new law business owners can no longer make such claims," he said.

A provision was included in the new legislation to protect employers from landlords wanting to sue them for damages to the property, Mr Kittipong said.

"The owner of the buildings cannot sue the business operators [who rent the buildings] because they have to make the changes for safety reasons," he added.

The new law also brings into effect harsher penalties for non-compliance.

"Previously, under the Labor Protection Act BE 2541, the maximum penalty for one breach was one-year imprisonment or a fine of up to 200,000 baht, or both," Mr Kittipong said.

"But under the new act, the maximum penalty is up to two years' imprisonment, or a fine of up to 800,000 baht, or both," he said.



**SAFETY FIRST:** A new health and safety law places emphasis on building owners ensuring better safety practices. Photo: Jim Welch

## Call for return of Tourism Minister

By Stephen Fein

LEADING Phuket tourism business analyst Bhuritt Maswongsa has voiced his approval for the Tourism and Sports Ministry portfolio to go to the newly-formed Palang Chon Party.

Mr Maswongsa, who is the Phuket Tourist Association's Vice President for Marketing, said the Palang Chon Party's de facto leader Sonthaya Khunplome understands the developmental needs of tourism provinces because of his experiences in developing his home province of Chon Buri.

Mr Sonthaya served as Tourism and Sports Minister under Thaksin Shinawatra. He is among the 111 former executives of the Thai Rak Thai party nearing the end of

a five-year political ban for electoral fraud after the party was dissolved in 2007.

Now serving as an adviser to Palang Chon Party, Mr Sonthaya has appeared on television recently outlining the ways he would improve the ministry if he were appointed minister.

Describing Thailand as "amazing", Mr Buritt said anything was possible when it came to Cabinet appointments in Thailand, but added that change at the top of the Tourism and Sports Ministry was overdue.

"It's too soon to predict anything because Thailand is one of these amazing countries. If you are a politician you are somehow deemed qualified to be the minister of any of 18 ministries," he said.

However, Mr Sonthaya appears

well-qualified to lead the Tourism and Sports ministry, he said.

"If he has the chance he will do it. He showed he had the caliber and professionalism to manage Pattaya and Chon Buri to become popular cities.

"Pattaya right now is going to get a light rail system between Chon Buri Town and Pattaya on two lines: red and green. It is already under construction. It is the first light rail system in Thailand outside of Bangkok," he said.

Asked whether he thought the new Government would order a bureaucratic reshuffle that would see sitting Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha transferred, Mr Bhuritt said this was not likely because Mr Tri is approaching mandatory retirement age.



Bhuritt Maswongsa (pictured) says Sonthaya Khunplome has the experience Phuket needs.

## Long weekend creates a buzz for businesses

THE LONG weekend beginning with Asaha Bucha Day saw Phuket buzzing with Thai tourists and an influx of foreign visitors, particularly from China and India, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

The TAT adds that this year's

low season figures have been better than last year's because of the peaceful political situation and new direct flights reaching the island.

Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, director of the TAT's Phuket office, said the long weekend from Friday July 15 to July 18

was busy with both Thai and foreign tourists.

Mrs Bangornrat said Thai tourists headed to Phuket via the island's airport and by road. Significant numbers of Indians and Chinese were among the foreign tourists, helping to boost hotel occupancy to an average of 70 per cent, she said.

Chinese and Indians are coming to Phuket in increased numbers because of new direct flights from various cities in their countries, she said.

Mrs Bangornrat said the new Indian market was particularly interesting. The island is becoming particularly popular with Indian families who visit Phuket as the last stop on a tour of Thailand.

The TAT chief said tourism during this low season had been very good, with an average occupancy rate of 60-70 per cent.

Figures have been much higher than last year with occupancy

good throughout the year. Last year saw some months in which the numbers of tourists plunged dramatically, something that hasn't happened so far in 2011, Mrs Bangornrat said.

The TAT believes one reason for the improved outlook this year is the peaceful political situation and the successful conclusion of the election period.

A variety of special events are also likely to boost tourist numbers this year. One example is Phuket Seafood Fiesta 2011, set to take place throughout August. About 60 restaurants are participating in the campaign, which will use the fresh seafood characteristic of Phuket cuisine as a selling point to draw in Thais and foreigners alike.

Other events set to draw in visitors in August include the Six Senses Regatta, which is expected to see the participation of about 100 vessels.

— Phuket Gazette

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# TrueVisions to expand Phuket HD services

THAILAND'S leading subscription-based cable television operator TrueVisions, has announced an expansion of high definition (HD) services in a bid to broaden its subscriber base.

Managing director Thiti Nantapastri said recently that the company until now had operated three HD channels – Reality HD, HBO HD and True Sport HD – as a pilot project via its digital fiber-optic cable network.

The service has now been expanded to 11 channels, offering a wide range of information, knowledge, music and entertainment programs.

The eight additional channels are TrueSport HD2, National Geographic HD, Discovery HD World, Star Movies HD, Fox Family Movies HD, AXN HD, KMTV HD and iConcerts HD.

The service area for the HD channels now covers Bangkok and surrounding areas, as well as Phuket,

Nakhon Ratchasima, Khon Kaen, Rayong, Chiang Mai, Songkhla, Lampang, Nakhon Sawan and Ubon Ratchathani provinces.

Chief Commercial Officer Ongard Prapakmol said the company expected the HD service to be available in 19 provinces by the end of the year.

Though the new service remains limited to subscribers to the fiber-optic cable network, it will also be available to satellite customers next year, with the goal of covering more than two million households within the next two years, he said.

The service expansion would help the company achieve its revenue target of 10 billion baht this year, which would represent a 20 per cent annual increase, he said.

In the first quarter, the company generated 700 million baht in revenue from spot advertising, he added.

– The Nation



The TrueVisions HD display at the company's office in Phuket Town. True is expanding its range of HD channels in order to boost its subscriber base.

## THAI resumes regular flight operations to Japan



THAI Back on track to Japan.

THAI Airways International has resumed its normal schedule to and from Japan to the levels served prior to the earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

"THAI has resumed all its regularly operated services on routes from Bangkok to five airports in Japan, back to the same level served prior to the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11. Passenger traffic to and from Japan is regaining normal levels," said Pandit Chanapai, THAI executive vice president of commercial operations.

Beginning November 16, THAI will operate three additional flights per week on the route Bangkok-Osaka (Kansai) utilizing the retrofitted Boeing 777-300 aircraft. With the introduction of these three additional flights, THAI will operate a total of 17 flights per week to Osaka (Kansai), making it more convenient for passengers with flight connections to Europe.

The winter traffic program will also reflect adjustments to flight scheduling for easier connections into Phuket.

– The Nation

# Rise of the Russians as arrival figures soar and 'more growth' on the horizon

By Anand Singh

THE RUSSIAN tourist market is one of the fastest-growing segments in Thailand's tourism industry. Currently, some 600,000 Russian tourists visit Thailand every year, with a growth rate of 20 to 100 per cent each year.

The number of Russian tourists in Phuket surged during the last few years. In 2008, around 100,000 Russians checked into Phuket hotels throughout the year. In 2009, that figure reached 178,000 and in the year 2010, despite the global economic slowdown, Russian check-ins for Phuket's hotels jumped 28 per cent year-on-year to 230,000, according to statistics from the TAT.

Mr Andrey Snetkov, contract and marketing manager of TEZ Tour, believes that Russian tourism still has a lot of growth potential within Thailand.

"In the coming months we will be getting a mix of quantity and quality tourists from Russia. Central Russia and Eastern European markets have a high paying ability but the market is already developed," Mr Snetkov said.

"The main market addition for this coming season will be from



TOURISM CHEER: Russian tourist arrivals to Phuket continue to soar.

emerging tourist markets like Siberia and Far East Russia. However, these are low-income regions therefore the focus will be on quantity and budget tourism," he added.

Mr Snetkov explained that unlike Pattaya, which is a budget destination, Russian tourists who visit Phuket range from middle-to-high income groups. Many of them are business-people,

office workers and retirees.

"Phuket is also emerging as a deluxe destination for Russian VIPs. There has been an extremely high demand from this group, but they also have high expectations," Mr Snetkov said.

"They are willing to pay high prices to stay in hotels with people of the same social status and are very sensitive to it. They often choose Phuket or one of the nearby islands as their holiday des-

tinuation. Sometimes they may also choose to holiday in Koh Samui or Koh Chang. But this group usually travels from the end of December till the end of January, never during the low season," Mr Snetkov added.

Mr Snetkov concluded that there is a need to raise awareness of Phuket as a tourist destination among Russian travel agents. Ninety per cent of trips to Thailand are still arranged by Russian travel agents and yet many Russian travel agents do not have first-hand experience of Thailand, therefore their recommendations to clients are frequently ill-informed.

"Familiarization trips for travel agents are an important way to remedy this," he added.

According to data provided by TEZ Tour, 31 per cent of Russian tourists visiting Phuket choose to stay at five-star hotels. Forty-four per cent choose the four-star hotel segment, whereas 25 per cent choose to stay in three-star hotels or lower. Phuket also has the highest proportion of Russian tourists staying in five-star hotels, compared with other destinations such as Pattaya, Samui and Bangkok.



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# AIS rolls out 3G coverage

**Finally, it's here! 3G has arrived on Phuket and will be available later this month**

AIS marketing and sales manager, Paiboon Rinsakul, gave a ground-breaking presentation at the Computer Clinic meeting last Sunday. Mr Paiboon demonstrated AIS's new HSPA 3G service, with full internet access over AIS's about-to-be-released wireless network.

In front of 50 observers at the meeting, Mr Paiboon ran the group's standard international speed test to Los Angeles (phuketinternet speed.com). AIS's 3G clocked at 1.8 Mbps download speed from LA – by far the fastest wireless internet connection the group has ever seen.

**BREAKING NEWS:**  
AIS has 3G working throughout Phuket. You'll be able to sign up for service starting July 28.



By comparison, most wired connections in Phuket are running at 0.6 to 1.3 Mbps. Yes, that means the wireless AIS 3G service, right now, is faster than most wired ADSL connections. It's also faster than most 3G connections in the US and Europe.

Of course, measuring the download speed on a beta test connection is a bit like measuring commute times on an empty freeway, but the number is still quite impressive.

Mr Paiboon revealed that AIS postpaid-GSM and prepaid 1-2-Call will roll out HSPA 3G to towers covering about 95 per cent of the internet usage areas on the island by the end of the month.

Full details – including pricing – aren't yet finalized, but AIS will probably offer several levels of service.

AIS is also extending coverage throughout the island. The True signal

is only available from nine towers on the west coast of Phuket and in Samkong, although – as I explained in *Live Wire* last week – True pledges to get more towers up and working in short order.

The new 3G AIS service will run at 900 MHz. Your phone, tablet, or PC dongle has to be able to work at 900 MHz, in order to hook into the AIS network. So, for example, AIS 3G will work on an iPad 2, but not on an iPad 1. It will work on an iPhone 3 or 4, and on most (but not all) Android 3G phones sold in Thailand.

The only way to know for sure if your phone, pad or PC dongle will work with AIS is to check the specifications: it has to support HSPA at 900 MHz. Specification checking can be done at gsmarena.com.

The AIS roll-out has several smart aspects. Foremost among them: the AIS (GSM or 1-2-Call) SIM card you have right now will work on the new 3G network. If your phone, pad or dongle can handle 900 MHz 3G, all you need to do is drop by an AIS counter sometime after July 28 and sign up.

Dozens of people have written to me over the past 24 hours, saying that their phones or pads are suddenly picking up a 3G signal. If you're experiencing the same, it's a good sign that you'll be able to get AIS 3G using your current SIM card and phone number when the service goes live on July 28.

Until then, you may think you're running at 3G speeds, but you aren't: AIS is automatically dropping you back to EDGE/GPRS, until you sign up and pay for the new feature.

In theory, all of the AIS shops, including Telewiz shops (AIS's authorized dealer) and select mobile phone shops on the island, will be able to set you up with 3G starting on July 28. There may be a bit of confusion at first, so don't get too excited.

AIS will have a booth, staffed with engineers who know what they're talking about (really!), at the IBAP Business Fair, July 30 and 31, in the Homeworks mall opposite are Central Festival. You're cordially invited to drop by and learn the details, particularly on the afternoon of the 31, when AIS will have its official opening (time to be announced).

If you get AIS 3G working, please go to the Internet Speed Reporting site mentioned above and report your speeds. AIS will be monitoring the site to see if there are any problems. You can also drop your suggestions, complaints and – it must be said – compliments when you post your speed.

The game is afoot.

*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.*



**Live Wire**

**By Woody Leonhard**

## Will this be the last interest rate rise for China?

CHINA recently raised interest rates again by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.65 per cent, the fifth time since initiating rate rises in October last year.

This is a result of rising inflationary pressures and unofficial earnings estimates made by security analysts set the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in June at 6.2 per cent.

Rising inflation has been a problem in China for a while now, with the graph indicating that real rates are actually negative when food prices are included.



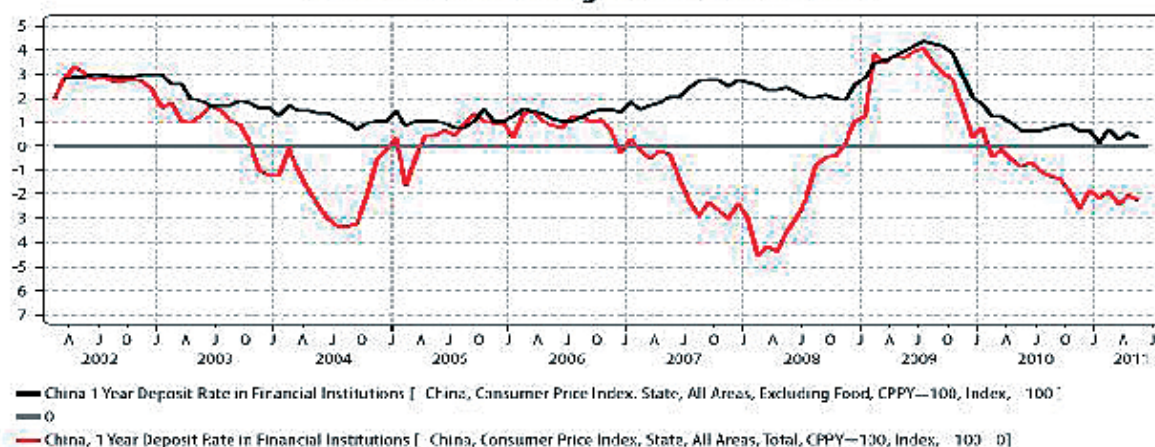
**Island Investor**

**By Graham Macdonald**

Many now feel that the Chinese central bank has done enough and that this will be the final rate increase for the year. Views on this differ though.

If I had to hazard a guess, I'm inclined to believe we are near the end of interest rate tightening, if not the end itself. Why do I make this bold statement given that most

**China Real Rates Using CPI and Non-Food CPI**



**UP AND DOWN:** This graph indicates that real inflation rates are actually negative when food prices are included.

economists usually get these things wrong?

First and most importantly, raising rates is not the only tool that the Chinese have in their arsenal when it comes to controlling the supply of money. What they seem to prefer to do is increase the Required Reserve Ratio (RRR) of the banks.

Currently this sits at 21.5 per cent for the big banks and 18 per cent for the small banks, which effectively means that it has become a lot more difficult for banks to lend money.

This difficulty in lending is seen in the amount of lending dropping from an official 7.95 trillion last year to current levels of 6.7 trillion. This, coupled with evidence that the housing market appears to be rolling over, as seen by inventories in China's biggest cities

which are set to rise to over six months' worth of supply by the end of this year, and transaction volumes that continue to tumble – they're down over 15 per cent Year To Date (YTD) in major cities such as Beijing.

Secondly, given that the central bank is loath to raise interest rates that are already high, if inflation does continue to rise, the central bank can increase the RRR again, because this attracts hot money as investors await the inevitable Renminbi appreciation.

With the latest rate increase, does that mean we are worried about a hard landing in China? We do not believe another 25 bps is the tipping point, but overall this cannot be good for economic growth. However, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates are still much higher than nominal

interest rates, so it's hard to believe this latest rate rise will make much of a difference.

It's how much the banks are able to lend, rather than the cost of the debt that matters. In this respect the latest interest rate rise does not make much difference.

For now we remain sanguine about China's growth rates. But should we see a further increase in reserve requirements, we will start being a little more cautious about global growth and start being a lot more nervous about commodities and commodity currencies.

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

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Kampong falls

Mae Rim elephant camp

*I've always been the one up for anything and when I saw this I flew straight from Phuket to Chiang Mai on the next available flight for the weekend. And that is where my Tarzan Adventure began.*

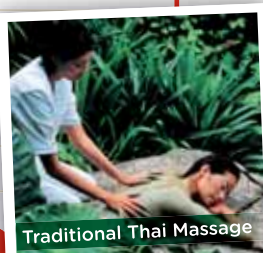
### Day 1

0800 - I rose bright and early and packed a hearty breakfast as the first thing for me this morning was white water rafting. An hour later, I was picked up from the hotel and we headed straight to **Mae Taeng River**, it was quite a harrowing journey but I felt that this would be great.

1100 - At the camp, the basics and common practices of rafting were explained. Even for a first timer for me. An hour after lunch we were already rafting at Level 4 that stretches over 10km! 4 hours later, I still could feel the adrenalin rush as we cleaned up and changed to head back to town for the evening.

1900 - Dinner promised to be interesting and laidback by the side of the **Ping River**. The Riverside Pub & Restaurant was not a letdown, I had a scrumptious meal serenaded by pop music as the river breezes cooled me down for the night.

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Traditional Thai Massage

### Day 2

0900 - From the hotel it was only an hour's drive to the rainforest. We stopped at this picturesque little section to experience the peaceful ecosystem and revel in the freshness of the cool water running down the **Kampong falls**. You've always read about it, but the bliss of actually experiencing it is just sublime.

1300 - We spent the next 2 hours on the air trek which leads up into the forests canopy using zip lines and sky bridges. Viewing the world at such an altitude was truly an incredible experience.

1900 - This was the PERFECT end to my actively physical day. I had 1 full hour of **Traditional Thai Massage** in a nice cosy spa. And by the end of the massage, I slept like a baby the whole night through.

### Day 3

0800 - As it was my final day, I was advised to check-out early right before we head off to the **Mae Rim elephant camp**, an hour' drive away. I was told I could ride the elephants for the next 2 hours and they will take me on the elephants to see the paddy fields and waterfalls in the green forest.

1200 - Well this was the end of my incredible Tarzan adventure. The best thing about this tour was that I had the option to also choose other activities such as monkey training school, ATV riding, visit a snake farm and many other things I never even thought off! As I hopped on the plane heading back to Phuket, I told myself I WILL be back. The adventure will not stop there! There's just so many things to do in **Chiang Mai**, besides it's only a 2 hours flight away on AirAsia. Why not right?



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

**Phuket lucky license plate auction raises more than B123mn**  
PHUKET: The sixth annual "Lucky License Plate Auction" held in Phuket Town over the weekend raised 23,504,500 baht. Kanok Siripanchikom, chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), has told the Phuket Gazette. "I am very happy with the revenue raised - it's five million baht more than last year," he said....  
March 1, 2011  
Full Story

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

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Date	Hours	Title
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Mar 7 - 11	21:00 - 01:00	Mango House Festival
Mar 12	07:00 - 16:00	Transforming Felicity and Adversity at Mind Centre
Mar 13	20:30 - 12:30	Salsa Night @ Les Angeles
Mar 16	08:00 - 12:00	Phuket Yacht Club Kid's sailing
Mar 17	10:00 - 12:00	Celebrating The Burgundy Grand Crus by Drouhin
Mar 18	19:00 - 22:30	Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch
Mar 19	10:00 - 14:00	Second Belly Dance Party
Mar 20	19:00 - 23:30	FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Mar 25	20:30 - 10:30	SIX of the Best in Phuket
Mar 26 - 27	10:00 - 12:00	Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron Island Regatta
Mar 26 - 31	08:00 - 17:00	Bacon and Stone Visual Arts Exhibition
	11:30 - 23:30	

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# Horribly relatable tale a surprise hit

## Film

By Scott Phillips

### Horrible Bosses

**Director:** Seth Gordon

**Starring:** Jason Bateman, Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis, Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Spacey, Colin Farrell

**Genre:** Comedy

**Gazette Rating:** 4/5

TIMES are right for a movie about disgruntled laymen attempting to kill their unbearable bosses. With the worldwide economic "recovery" never seeming to reach as far as reports claim, many working professionals still feel fortunate just to be earning a salary.

Some bosses (we've all had at least one) prey on this dependency. We all condemn violent thoughts in public, but anyone who won't admit to listening to a horrible boss while thinking of throwing them out the window is, well, probably lying.

In rough times, dark comedy often finds a welcome audience.

That is exactly what *Horrible Bosses* is. Quite possibly the most surprising sleeper hit this year, the film is wittier, raunchier, and far more entertaining than one would expect. It's been a long time since a film provided such a steady supply of laughs from beginning to end with such enjoyable characters. Director Seth Gordon clearly knows that in comedy, timing is everything – just as it is in executing your boss.

The tone of the film is spot on for this kind of subject material. Although people struggling in the job market may connect with the movie, it's never too serious. *Horrible Bosses* is one of the few films that makes outrageous comedy work, thanks to a screenplay that takes matters beyond absurd and its playfully immoral characters.

It grows increasingly implausible as it progresses, yet it never feels like the filmmakers were selling out to earn cheap laughs. As the characters slowly reveal themselves, it becomes apparent that they are right at home in a dark, comic world.

The premise is straightforward: three buddies, not necessarily overworked and underpaid so much as just plain abused by their bosses, plan to kill the one boss that's making their lives unbearable. They are Nick (Bateman), Dale (Day), and Kurt (Sudeikis),



**MORE THAN FRIENDS:** Aniston plays the inappropriate boss.

and their daily ritual includes frequenting a bar to share beers and stories of ill-willed abuse from their bosses.

The film does a perfect job of making audiences hate the three horrible bosses. In some form or another, you will see the personas played by each of the three bosses and think of some miserable, mean, schmuck you've actually met.

Nick's boss, played by Kevin Spacey, is a narcissistic sociopath who genuinely prides himself on causing misery for others. Kurt's boss (Farrell) is a prostitute-loving coke addict who inherited his dad's company in the wake of an untimely death.

Dale's boss is a nymphomaniac who could care less about Dale's engagement, relentlessly attempting to molest and seduce him in various work settings.

As you might have guessed, Nick and Kurt don't have much sympathy for Dale – whose boss is played by Jennifer Aniston in a role that

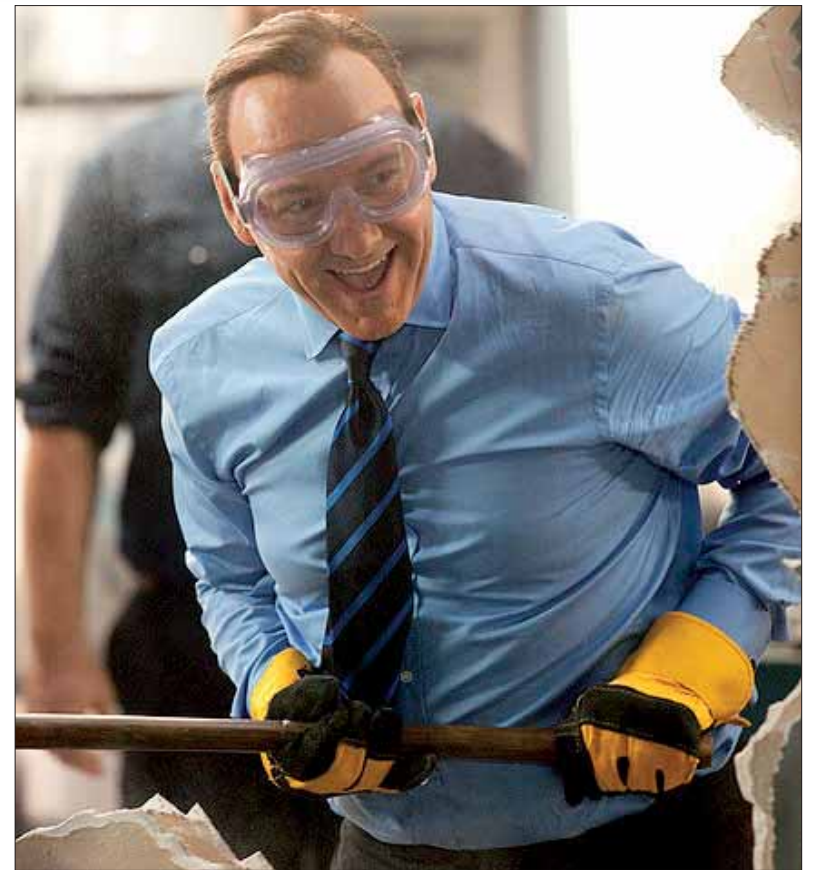
could become the boost that her career needs. She's over-the-top sexually aggressive towards Dale, who has every intention of remaining faithful to his fiancé. For Aniston – whose name has solidified past films' status as cliché and contrived – it's a breakthrough role, even if she plays the crudest female character to grace the silver screen since Sharon Stone crossed her legs in *Basic Instinct*.

Adding to Aniston's surprise role is an absolute all-star cast. For a film that received very little hype prior to its release, *Horrible Bosses* abounds with cameos and smaller roles by top actors, some of them placing a fresh spin on their usual roles by taking on comedy.

Colin Farrell, for instance, is almost unrecognizable as the coke-addict golden boy, and shows he has a talent for comedy. Jamie

Foxx proves that he still has the comic touch as the mysterious gangster with a tattooed head full of advice for amateur assassins.

And Kevin Spacey is as perfectly cast as the boss who will



**BANG ON:** Spacey is a perfect fit as the evil egomaniac boss.

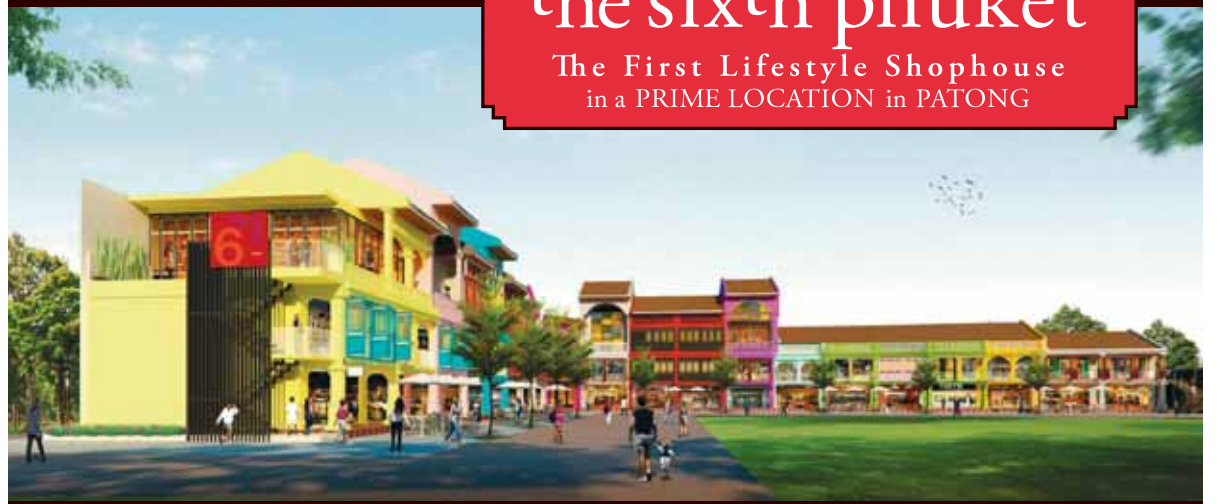
stop at nothing to ensure his ego rules at the expense of everyone else's happiness.

The three leads are spot-on in playing their characters with a sense of excited stupidity. In the

hands of another director and other actors, the screenplay for *Horrible Bosses* could have easily become contrived and mundane, but these filmmakers clearly know how to find the humor in hardship.

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# Opening the door to a spiritual path

Uncovering the significance and sacred celebrations of two of Thailand's most revered religious holidays

By Steven Layne

LAST week's full moon heralded the official start of the rainy season in Thailand marked by back-to-back Buddhist Holidays, Asaha Bucha and Khao Pansa.

For non-Buddhists, the long "dry" weekend to welcome the "wet" season served as ample opportunity for relaxation, if nothing else.

For most devout Buddhists, however, there is much deeper meaning and purpose to July's holy weekend.

Here is an explanation of the holiday, its roots and customs.

## ASAHA BUCHA DAY

Marked by the full moon of the Thai lunar calendar's eighth month, Asaha Bucha was designated to celebrate and perpetuate the first sermon that the two-month-enlightened Buddha gave to his first five followers over 2,500 years ago.

The word "Asaha Bucha" derives from ancient Pali language and literally means "worshipping fourth month".

The fourth month of the ancient Indian lunar calendar is equivalent to the eighth month of the Thai lunar calendar.

It is for this reason that in Thai, Asaha Bucha is also referred to as *wun pen deuan bpad* – the full-moon-day of the eighth month.

It is one of three lunar-based Buddhist holidays in Thailand.

The other two are *Makha Bucha* Day – typically a full moon in February, sometimes in March –



Asaha Bucha Day commemorates when the enlightened Buddha gave his first sermon 2,500 years ago, about the 'Dharma Wheel in motion'.

commemorates the Buddha's sermon to 1,250 followers; and *Visakha Bucha* Day – typically a full moon in May, sometimes April – celebrates Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death all in one day.

Celebrations and ceremonies in temples are generally the same for all three days.

After the offerings, blessings and sermons during the day, there is a climatic moonlight candle procession during which participants carry a lit candle, three joss

sticks and a lotus flower and encircle the temple's main Buddha hall three times.

The number three in Buddhism refers to the "triple gem" and symbolically represents the Buddha, his teachings (*Dharma*) and the clergy

(*Sangha*). This is the reason for circling a temple or crematory three times and also prostrating three times in veneration of the Buddha or a senior monk.

## THE ULTIMATE TRUTH

The intricacies of custom and tradition all too often cloud underlying meanings and purposes.

Contrary to popular belief, to understand the essence of Buddhism and benefit from its philosophy, practitioners do not have to be versed in ancient mantras and spells, nor need to seek the protection of a magical tattoo or amulet. In fact, many of the practices we see today are contradictory if not irrelevant to what Buddha actually taught.

We turn to his first sermon, the real point of Asaha Bucha day. Buddha's first and fundamental sermon explains that the Dharma Wheel – an analogy for our life cycle – comprises the "spokes" of birth, illness, death and rebirth.

The wheel turns relentlessly; life is a constant cycle of suffering caused by our desires, dependencies and attachments.

In order to break free from the cycle of pain and suffering that is life – not to be reborn again into the same cycle – and thus obtain the ultimate truth of enlightenment, detachment and renunciation of the unessential and harmful things in life must be practiced.

At the same time, it is important to avoid extremes and instead seek a middle path, willfully and consciously living by the basic five precepts: to abstain from killing, stealing, lying, drinking and sexual misconduct.

That said, Buddha is not a god to be worshiped, but rather a teacher to be honored.



THE RAINS RETREAT: The monks retreat to the temples for three months during Khao Pansa because of the seasonal weather. Photo: Dean Noble



Ordination of a prospective monk.



SHOW OF FAITH: When honoring Buddha during this holiday, worshippers burn candles and incense, keeping in mind the 'triple gem'.

## KHAO PANSA

The day after Asaha Bucha is Khao Pansa, literally the "Rains Retreat". This is the traditional time for laymen to ordain as monks.

For this three-month period, monks traditionally retreat to temples because the rains make it difficult for them to meditate in the forest or ask for alms in the village on a regular basis.

To ensure the monks are able to sustain themselves, laypeople make larger-than-usual offerings during Khao Pansa.

Aside from food, large candles have been the customary form of offering, a practice dating to times before the invention of electricity. Today, large

candles are still offered but this is largely a tradition now as most temples have a continuous supply of electricity.

During Khao Pansa monks stay in temples, disciplining themselves by following hundreds of precepts which dictate that they abstain from everything from growing eyebrows to even singing. This is in contrast to the five basic precepts that laypeople attempt to follow as outlined in the Buddha's principle sermon.

Khao Pansa also sees an increase in social awareness through media campaigns on Thai TV, newspapers and radio, the most common echoed in the nationwide alcohol abstinence slogan: "*Khao Pansa Ngote Lao*".

# Trio

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# Fraser Morton

Fraser Morton has worked at the *Phuket Gazette* for the past two years. Under his direction as Features Editor, the newspaper has presented timely lifestyle news in an attractive format. He not only writes and takes photographs, but also edits and designs the pages.

The 28-year-old is proud to come from Scotland where he studied media, communications and journalism for six years, gaining a Diploma and Bachelor of Arts Honours degree from Edinburgh's Telford College and Napier University.

He took night classes to learn the art of writing screenplays and directed documentaries about the Edinburgh Festival. He also worked on TV commercials and for MGM Studios in Florida as part of a university program.

During his summer breaks, Fraser would travel and write on trips with his friends around Europe. To date, he has been to 27 countries – and says he plans to see many more.

After graduation in 2006, rather than heading to London to work in media, Fraser bought a one-way ticket to Thailand in search of adventure.

To fund his travels, he took a TEFL course on Koh Samui and headed to Phuket where he taught and wrote for Thai and British magazines.

In 2007, he went to Japan to teach honors and masters students at Meiji University while spending his spare time writing for websites.

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

"My mother [Sheila] was a flight attendant for many years and it was her stories that inspired me to travel the world from an early age."

Fraser credits mentors who have been a big influence on his writing. His uncle, Rodney, who worked on the *Evening Times* newspaper in Glasgow, would send him blank newspaper pages to draw on when he was a boy. Fraser was designing front-page "splashes" before he finished school.

"I knew from an early age that newspapers were for me."

Another mentor was his elder brother, Blair, who died when he was just nineteen. As boys, the two worked as groundskeepers and would play golf with their father Wilson.

Fraser is a talented sportsman. When he was 11 years old he played for a men's cricket team, and was also given the honor of playing in front of thousands of people during the break at a test match at the Oval in London. He won many other medals for sports, including his primary school 'Sportsman of the Year'.

Fraser also loves outdoor adventure sports: From skiing in Slovenia and

Italy, to kayaking in France, hiking and cycling in Thailand and off-road motorbiking in the Cambodian jungle.

After his Tokyo tenure in 2007, Fraser continued to explore and write in Asia and took another job in Vietnam. But he was drawn back to Phuket, and not long after met his girlfriend of now three years, Sarah Foster-Gross.

He soon found work as Associate Editor at the *Phuket Post*. He was also a features presenter for Capital TV. He penned numerous news 'scoops' at the *Post*, but in 2009 moved to the *Gazette*.

Among the stories Fraser is most proud of writing for *Gazette* readers are the adventures of Les Bird who climbed Europe's Mt Blanc for Phuket charities; the life of possibly the world's oldest man, 114-year-old local abbot Luang Pu Supha; and his interview with DJ Bob Sinclar.

While at the *Gazette*, he also anchored for PGTV and helped with script writing. To date, Fraser's stories have been published in *The Nation*, *Bangkok Post*, *Daily Mail*, *News of the World*, *New Zealand Daily Herald*, *The Guardian*, *The London Evening Standard*, *CNN Go* and many more.

He is currently working on his first novel and is continuing his studies online with the National Council for Training Journalists in the UK.


As of today, Fraser's role at the *Gazette* will change to Supplements Editor so he can help drive the company's media product expansion.



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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# Signing on the dotted line

## How to make sure you excel as a teacher and avoid confusion with your employment contract

THERE'S always a party going on at Thai public schools. From annual, anniversary, retirement – the only thing many school board's like better than to throw a party, is to charge its teachers a fee to attend.

Whether you turn up or not, you might be asked to pay for the pleasure.

But according to the Labor Protection Act (LPA) B.E. 2541 (1998), sections 76 and 77, unless explicitly agreed to, automatic deductions like the one mentioned above are in most cases illegal.

As we all know, legality and reality are often two very different things.

That said, the Labor Protection Act is a must-read for all foreign teachers employed in Thailand, and free English translations are readily available on the Internet.

Here are a few highlights:

Once you start a job, the maximum period of probation allowed is 120 days. Related to this, your employer cannot ask you to pay a security deposit as a condition of your employment. If your employer tells you they are going to withhold any money from you as a guarantee towards

contact completion, the employer must pay this money back with interest.

While under contract, you are entitled to paid leave in observance of Thailand's 13 official holidays.

Set at 30 days, paid sick leave is substantial, so long as you don't call in sick three days in a row, employers cannot demand a written doctor's note. But taking advantage of this probably won't do you any favors when it's time for your contract to be renewed.

Pregnant teachers are entitled to at least 90 days of maternity leave (45 paid) and employers cannot terminate employment on the basis of pregnancy.

Up until the not-so mandatory age of retirement, employees are entitled to health insurance. Some employees are able to choose their hospital, while others might not be given that option, so you should check with your school to see if you have a choice. If you do have a choice, you cannot change it, so choose wisely.

Worker's compensation is not a foreign concept in Thailand, and in the event that you

### In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

The Labor Protection Act is a must-read for all foreign teachers employed in Thailand, and free English translations are readily available on the Internet.



TEACHER TIME: Teaching is a hugely popular profession in Phuket for foreigners. Photo: Amy Davies

are injured at work, you are entitled to ask your employer to help cover the costs of any medical treatment sought as a direct result of on-the-job injuries.

Unless you've committed one of the acts defined in Section 119, any employee who's been fired or laid off is entitled to severance pay. The amount of severance is dependent upon the length of employment.

If an employee feels the employer has violated any portion of the LPA, he or she is entitled to lodge a complaint with the local Labor Inspector who is obliged to make a ruling on the com-

plaint within 60 days of it being filed.

The good news is that Thailand's Labor Court is notoriously pro-employee, no matter where the employee is from. If you feel you have a case against a school, it might be a good idea to investigate the validity of any grievances.

Better yet, have a read over the LPA before you sign your next employment contract.

Although there is plenty of research that can be done through the Internet, it's always good practice to consult a lawyer if you think your employee rights have been violated in any way.

## Local school bonds with Australian college

EARLIER this month, Srinagarindra, The Princess Mother School Phuket (SWPK), became a sister school with Billanook College in Victoria, Australia, and signed an agreement with the Center for Education and Re-

search in Environmental Strategies (CERES) so the two schools can exchange ideas about environmental issues.

SWPK School Director Nachai Keimnipatt and Eric Bottomley, team leader of CERES Sus-

tainability Projects, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Building of Partnership Through Sustainability.

"We could learn about mangrove forests from your school, and maybe you could learn about energy conservation, such as the careful use of air conditioners from our schools – especially the schools in Northern Australia where they have to rely on air conditioning as much as you do in Thailand," he explained.

"The support of the Australian-Thai Business Association in Darwin and the Australian government, enabled us to come to Asia and locate a school that was interested in environmental issues," he said.

This is our first collaboration with a foreign country, he said.

"In the future, we would very much like to expand this network to include schools in China, the Philippines, and Malaysia," he added.

Steve Lingard, Director of International Student Programs at Billanook College, added that in the future the collaboration between the two schools may focus on other areas outside of environmental sustainability.

"It may be possible to have teacher exchanges, student exchanges, study tours and other activities," he said.

– Janpen Upatising



Left is Steve Lingard, Director of International Student Programs of Billanook College, and SWPK School Director Nachai Keimnipatt.



SEALED DEAL: Mr Lingard and Mr Keimnipatt with Eric Bottomley, team leader of Sustainability Projects of CERES, presenting the MoU.

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Bonsai houses a 100-year-old structure transported from Uttaradit.



ANTIQUE: Vases in the museum.



Fried snapper with tamarind sauce.



BANQUET: Some signature dishes.



COSY AND QUIANT: The foliage and decor give Bonsai a homely feel.

# Strong roots make Bonsai a hit

By Michael DesPortes

Bonsai restaurant is a fascinating venue that sets itself apart from other eateries in its market segment.

From the Chao Fa East Road – Bonsai's entrance lies meters south of the turn to Palai – all that's visible is an unassuming two-story building and a gravel parking lot. The building is in fact the kitchen and the restaurant hides behind it.

The first thing you notice are the large tamarind trees and potted bonsais that fill the space. Despite the fact that the bonsais number about 500, they don't clutter the restaurant but instead add an endless point of interest.

The tamarind trees have wide canopies, offering shade during the day, but as Vilasinee Thephasadin Na Ayn, Bonsai's owner, points out, it is after dark that the space comes to life.

Mrs Vilasinee, her husband Michael, and son Manun led the way past a 1976 Rolls Royce and a 1957 Triumph parked inside a pavilion near the entrance. This is the first sign that Bonsai restaurant doubles as a museum.

Ceramic pottery displays hug the perimeter walls.

Much of it is from the Chinese Ming, Song and Qing dynasties.

A 100-year-old wooden house transported from Uttaradit holds yet more art and first issue stamps from around the world. This represents just a portion of the family's vast collections.

Michael's passion is the bonsais, which require loving care and a lot of maintenance. Bonsai trees are extremely sensitive. They often die when new designs are attempted or when they are moved too hastily. The oldest bon-

sai tree at Bonsai restaurant has been around for 180 years.

Dinner was served as darkness set in. The dishes Mrs Vilasinee selected were placed onto one of the unrefined, chunky wood tables. The restaurant doesn't have indoor seating or air conditioning, and nor should it. The outdoor setting and the decorations define the restaurant's character.

As the meal began, the family described each dish. Chili dips with shrimp paste served with boiled vegetables (150 baht) is an award-winning dish that they are particularly proud of, though it may pack a punch for those not used to spice.

Their paradise spring rolls (150 baht) are a flat concoction of minced shrimp, ham, cashew nuts and Chinese *gai-lan* that have a fantastic western taste despite the ingredients.

The largest dish at the table was white snapper fried with herbs and tamarind sauce (350 baht) made from Bonsai's own trees.

"*Lug tung mor din*" (350 baht), which translates to "folk clay pot", is a clear, sour soup with generous portions of fish.

Mrs Vilasinee surprised the *Gazette* by ordering crocodile stir-fried with red chili herbs, black pepper and herbal vegetables (150 baht).

It complemented the other dishes well. Both the texture and flavor

are somewhere between chicken and beef.

Venison was another pleasant surprise. After being stir-fried with herbs and black pepper chili (150 baht) the venison was added to a spicy herbal soup.

Bonsai also has a sizable wine list, but for this particular meal Michael ordered the South

African house wine (750 baht/liter, 120 baht/glass), saying that the lighter taste would complement the food. He was most correct. His wine selection was an ideal way to round off the meal.

The quality of the presentation is impeccable, and the prices are worthy of praise for this caliber of restaurant. What makes Bonsai's stand out even more are

the large portions. Comparing price to quantity, Bonsai is far ahead of the competition.

In the middle of the meal, a live folk band arrived to play light music, adding yet another dimension to the atmosphere.

Mrs Vilasinee did not let the meal end without dessert and strongly recommended the homemade ice cream topped with amaretto.

Delicious servings of banana and vanilla were brought in tall glasses.

Bonsai deserves high marks for its food alone, but the entire experience is more memorable because the owners share their hobbies and interests with customers. If you're in search of a special evening, this is the place.

Bonsai is open daily from 3pm to 1am. Tel: 076 374603

Despite the fact that the bonsais number about 500, they don't clutter the restaurant but instead add an endless point of interest.



The resident Rolls Roys.

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- ◆ All entries must be in English
- ◆ Essays must be written by the student and should not be edited by others
- ◆ The submission must be 800-1,200 words long
- ◆ Submissions will be accepted from June 1, 2011 until August 15, 2011
- ◆ The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 1 in Phuket and the authors will be asked to read their submission

\*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry

## PRIZES

- 1 The Winning Author in each region will earn 10,000 baht and there are two Merit Awards per region of 5,000 baht each.
- 2 The Overall National Winner will receive 50,000 baht in cash.

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## JUDGING PANEL FOR SOUTHERN REGION

- ◆ Fraser Morton, Features Editor of the Phuket Gazette
- ◆ Nanthapa Pengkasem, Columnist for the Phuket Gazette
- ◆ Narong Promjitta, Director of BMS Events Organizer

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### July 18-23. Free Phuket Bridge Clinic for beginners

From 10am to 12pm at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Join Phuket Bridge bard Derek Priest for an absolute beginner's guide to the game. If you're curious about bridge and want to learn the basics, drop by and learn from our local five-star master and qualified bridge teacher. Soon you'll be ready to join the regular weekly duplicate bridge sessions. Perfect for blustery day. This free seminar is on July 18 from 1pm to 4pm at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. The lesson's limited to 12 people. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. Contact Derek Priest at T:076-290468 register E:priest\_derek@hotmail.com or visit W:Khun Woody.com.

### July 20-24. Six Senses Raceweek

From 10am to 11:30pm, winner of the Asia Boating Award for Best Asian Regatta of the Year 2011, Six Senses Phuket Raceweek presents four days of adrenalin-pumping, international-standard yacht racing for a wide range of yachts – from the highly competitive top racers all the way to live-aboard cruisers and charter boats. Based at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, the social programme is five-star, offering excellent catering and first-class entertainment. Phuket Raceweek is Phuket's own, locally organized, international-standard regatta. Contact Grenville Fordham at T:076-264491 E:raceweek@image-asia.com or visit W:phuketraceweek.com.

## July 28. An Extraordinary Wine Dinner

A dinner where authentic Thai cuisine meets fine wines. Discover a remarkable dining experience featuring four courses of signature Thai cuisine, paired with impeccable Thai wines from the Chateau des Brumes winery by Village Farm & Winery. The sounds of live Thai music will compliment the evening. The wine dinner commences at 6:30pm at Ruen Thai, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. Price: 2,000 baht per person. For more information contact the food and beverage team. Ext. 7303, 7626 T:076-362999 E:dtlplb@dusit.com or visit W: [dusitthanilagunaphuket.dusit.com](http://dusitthanilagunaphuket.dusit.com).



### July 21-26. Super Sports Golf Fair – Central Festival

From 10:30am to 10pm, Central Festival Phuket invites all Golf Lovers to join our greatest golf event of the year, Super Sports Golf Fair 2011. There will be discounts up to 60 per cent on golfing gear, clothing and golf shoes. The activity will be held from July 21 through August 3 on the 1st floor of the Grand Hall at Central Festival Phuket Department Store. Contact Siromanee at T:076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com.

### July 23. Free Phuket Apple Clinic – What's an iCloud? Or a Lion?

From 10am to 12pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. Join Sitthichai "Mr X" Laoveerakul, director of PhuketSchool.com, for a look at

iCloud and Mac OS X 5 "Lion", Apple's soon-to-be-available upgrade to its laptop and desktop products. Steve Jobs promises that iCloud will revolutionize the way you work and play. Can he live up to the promise? What, exactly, is an iCloud? Should you buy new hardware now, or wait? Mr X will hold a free seminar in English. Reserve a seat by emailing Sitthichai@exbiz.com. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, the *Phuket Gazette* and Phuket School.com. Contact Sitthichai at T:076-290468 or visit W:PhuketSchool.com.

### July 23. Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center

From 12pm to 3pm, every Saturday Two Chefs proudly presents our big brunch buffet with a Scandinavian touch. You can eat all you want for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht drink as much as you like from the wide choice of free-flow beverages. The lovely voices of MJ & Megan will also compliment the brunch. For reservations, contact T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

### July 23. Laguna Summer Family Festival Beatles Party

Take a trip back in time to celebrate the fab four's era of Mersey beat, flower power and psychedelia at the Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival Beatles Party from 5pm until late. Revisit the 1960s in Canal

Village with a carnival of Beatles music, special Beatles themed entertainment, a Beatles painting contest with festival artist-in-residence Christopher Hogan and prizes for the best 60s costume. There will be welcome drinks, canapes, a barbeque, Village Bakery menus and a Happy Hour bar. Contact Robin Wilson at T:076-362300 E:robinw@lagunaphuket.com or visit W:lagunaphuket.com.

### July 24. Back to School with Chef Jens

Learn how to cook like the Pros from 12pm to 3pm at Evason Phuket & Bon Island. Chef Jens will demonstrate how to prepare some of his signature dishes. This event will take place in the herb and vegetable garden and will include lunch accompanied by organic and biodynamic wines provided by Take Fin. Price: 950 baht net per person. Contact Phissamai Promwong ext. 1501 T: 076-381010 E:paeamfb@evasonresorts.com or visit W:evasonresorts.com/evasonphuket.

### July 25. Cowboy Night at Two Chefs Kata Beach

From 6pm to 2am. Cowboy Night is the night when we set the buffet table with food with a big influence from the Old West, at Two Chef Kata Beach. So come on in and enjoy an evening with great food and drinks. There is going to be a large buffet and it's only 495 baht. Ollie & Francis will be on hand to delight with their music. Reserve at T:076-284155 E:kata@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

### July 28 – 31. Architect & Engineering Exhibition

11am to 8pm at the Convention Center, Rajabhat. The Phuket Construction Materials & Tools Exhibiton will include all types of construction materials, including new light-weight structural materials for floors and roofing. See the latest breakthroughs in construction technology, interior design and building maintenance. Products from more than 100 manufacturers and importers. Top of the range light and sound systems for conventions and conferences and night clubs. The latest products for home spas, swimming pools and gymnasiums. Learn how to design smart homes for multi-million-dollar projects – IPTV, 3G internet, IP Phone, CCTV and high-tech devices. Contact PIC Phuket at T: 076-355693 E:info@picphuket.com or visit W:aaashow.com.

### July 30. Jam Session by Jens

Michelin Star Chef Jens Jakob will showcase a six-course dinner prepared using only the best imported and local ingredients at Evason Phuket & Bon Island's award-winning signature restaurant, Into the Sea. The menu will include items even from the organic herb and vegetable garden, accompanied with wines provided by Take Fin. From 7pm to 11pm. Price: 1,900 baht net per person. Contact Phissamai Promwong T: 076-381010 E:paeamfb@evasonresorts.com or visit W: evasonresorts.com/evason-phuket.

## Free Computer Clinics

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

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The British International School of Phuket's two summer camp programs are still going strong after three weeks.

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## Four nights of delight



GRAPES and Grazing was a sublime culinary and wine affair last week. Four resorts at Mai Khao Beach hosted four very special nights of wine tasting and delicious food.

Winemakers from New Zealand, Australia and Italy were on Phuket to impart their knowledge of all things wine to holidaymakers and Phuket residents over the four nights.

Resorts involved included, Renaissance, Sala, Anantara and JW Marriot.

Peter Kelly showcased wines from Peter Lehmann, Australia, and was joined by other winemakers and owners including: Erika Ribaldi from Marchesi di Frescobaldi, Italy; Peter Lynn from Majella, Australia and Kathy-Lee Bird from Spy Valley, New Zealand.

The *Phuket Gazette* sponsored this event.



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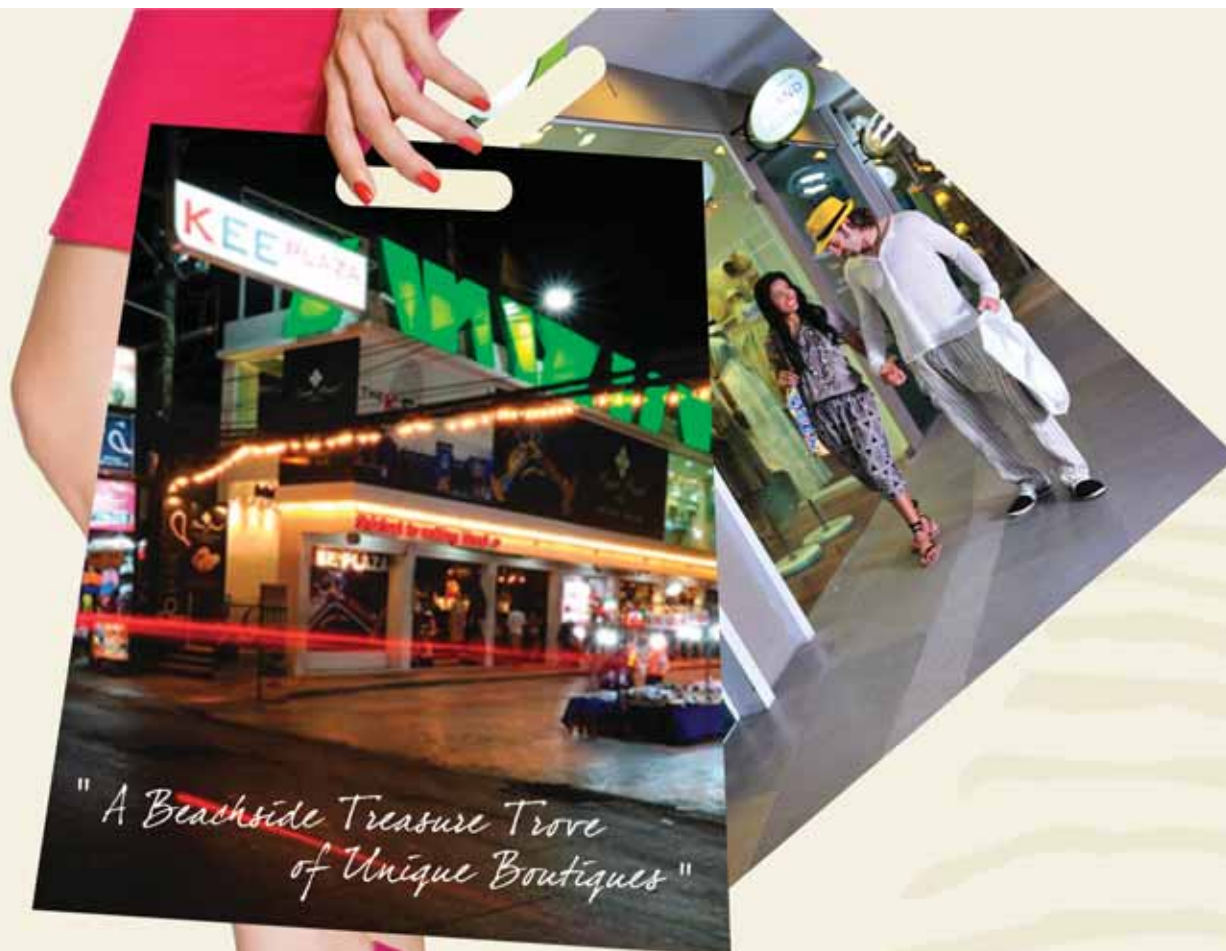


# Kathu street culture

The third annual Kathu Culture Street Festival turned heads with a splash of color last weekend.

The festival showcased the cultural heritage of one of Phuket's oldest and most vibrant communities.

In addition to the sale of local food and handicrafts, activities showcasing local lifestyle during Phuket's tin-mining era was on display on five stages in the area.



"A Beachside Treasure Trove of Unique Boutiques"



## KEE Plaza, Patong Phuket

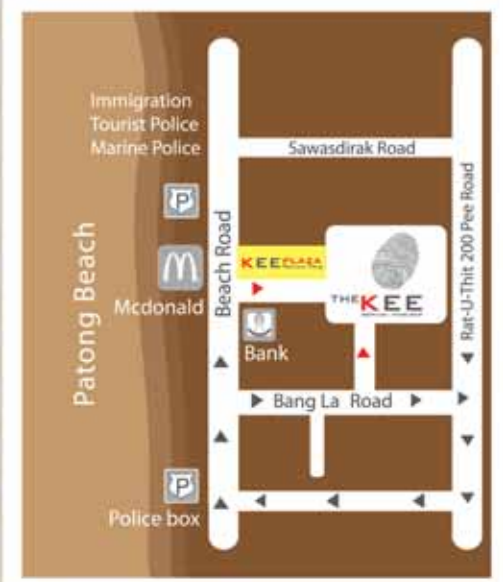
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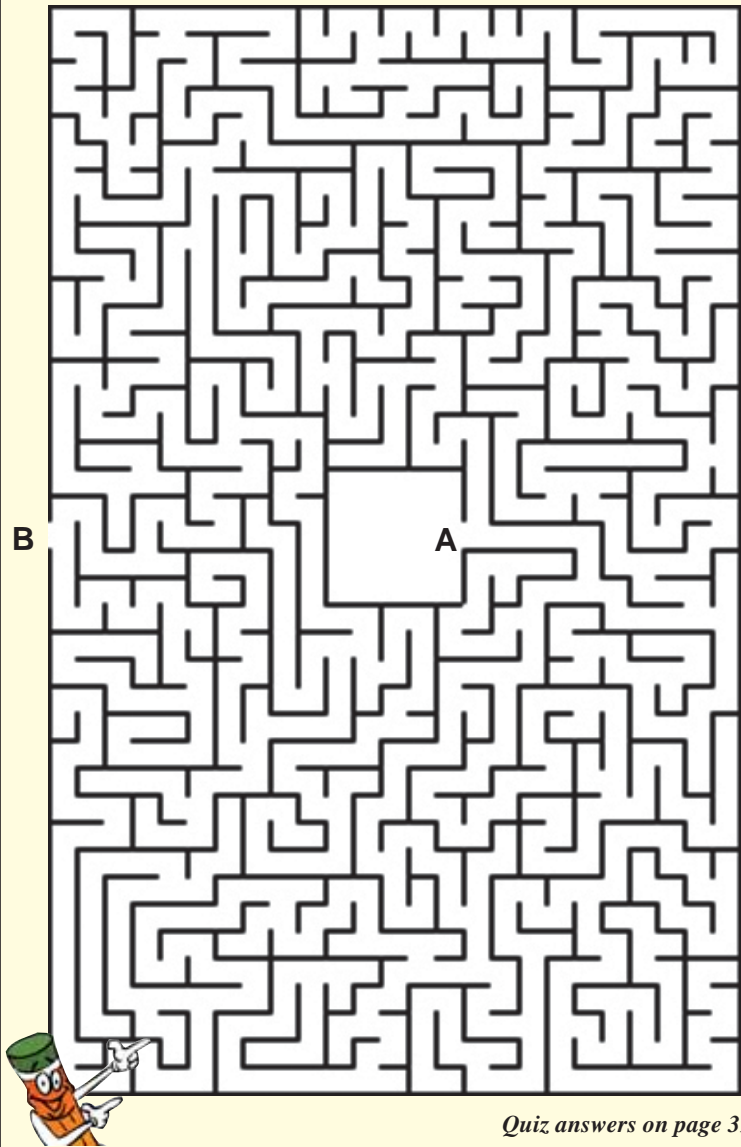
Discover the finest array of designer garments, oriental ornaments, traditional handicrafts and top-quality accessory brands among unique and chic boutiques lining the walking streets of the Kee Plaza.







A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.



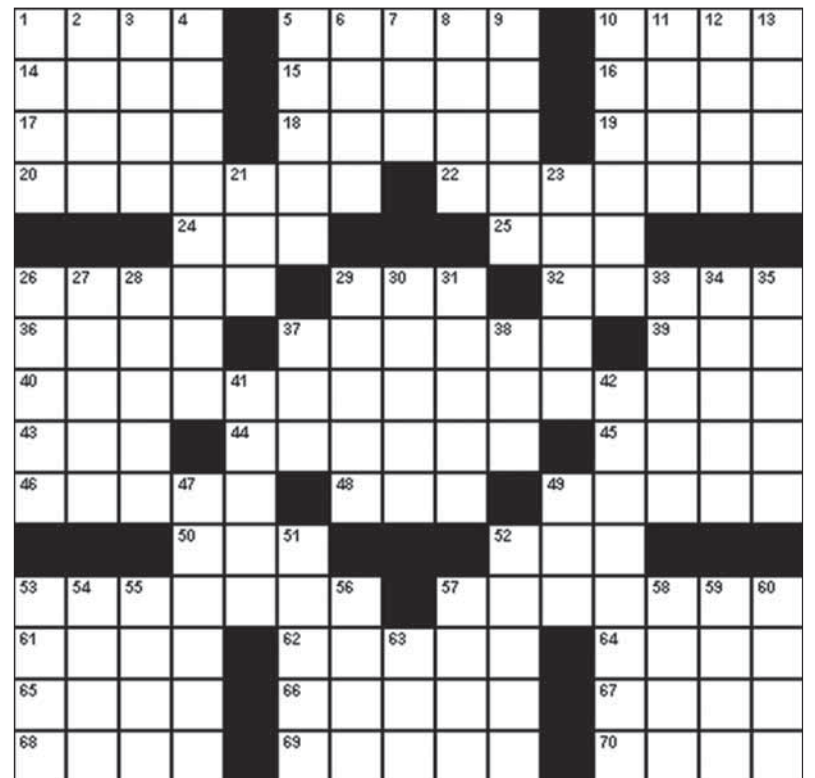
Quiz answers on page 39

#### Across

1. Thick slice
5. Valuable collection
10. Contributes
14. Soft drink
15. Strong Australian horse
16. Agitate
17. Ancient Athens Temple
- 
18. Bird that gets you down
19. Preserve with salt
20. Determined
22. Informal
24. Court call
25. Male mum
26. Tending to a definite end
29. Code-breaking organization
32. -- lift?
36. Opposite of sans
37. Trinket
39. Bumped into
40. Study of communicative attitudes
43. Conductor de Waart
44. Sheath
45. French 101 verb
46. Confiscate
48. Afore
49. Gut course
50. Apr. addressee
52. Pledge
53. Refuse floating on water
57. Handcuff
61. Ness, for one
62. Shoe ties
64. Massive wild ox
65. Dull pain
66. Roofing stone
67. -- \_account (never)
68. Wanting
69. Buenos --
70. Badgers

#### Down

1. Great quantity
2. Anecdotal knowledge
3. Actor Baldwin
4. Medieval church
5. Chirp
6. Sudden assault
7. Advanced in years
8. Change direction



9. Made a mistake
10. Area with coin-operated games
11. Billet-- (love letter)
12. Calamitous
13. Dog-powered snow vehicle
21. Last month
23. Back streets
26. Ribbons
27. Circumvent
28. Vive -- !
29. John -- Garner
30. Sucrose
31. Mistreat
33. Gives off

34. Denounce
35. Baffled
37. Coal container
38. Fail to tell the truth
41. Ogles
42. Teacart
47. Musical instrument
49. Eternity
51. Chip dip
52. Urns
53. Flutter
54. Bananas
55. Dos cubed
56. Former French colony of north-western Africa
57. Allot
58. Injectable diazepam, in military lingo
59. Respiratory organ
60. Archer of myth
63. Automobile

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Crossword answers on page 39

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

Work commitments could be causing stress for laid-back Leos during the last week of July. The stars advise taking each day as it comes this week. Where romance is concerned, history can repeat itself. Remembering what went wrong with past relationships should help you to avoid making the same mistakes again. Those with a birthday this week will be more mindful of others' needs in the year ahead.

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

In the world of work Virgoans are advised to keep their opinions quiet during the days ahead. An air sign is predicted to raise a sore point late next week and this could provoke you into responding too harshly. The stars suggest that you could be caught up with practical concerns at the moment and this may affect a romantic relationship. Do something spontaneous this weekend to please your partner.

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

Librans' quest for self-improvement is highlighted this week and this could result in plans for an unusual way of spending your summer holiday. At work, there

are hints that another air sign is being economical with the truth. Thursday is the most auspicious day to investigate what is going on. In the realm of romance, something you learn about a prospective earth sign partner could be the tip of the iceberg.

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

The stars suggest that Scorpions will be caught up in a whirl of social activity this weekend. Personal relationships fall under the spotlight during the last week of July. There are indications that an earth sign's idea of friendship is very different from yours and this could result in a conflict. Romance is likely to be a rollercoaster ride, particularly if another water sign is involved. Your lucky days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday.

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

The stars advise that you may have to put your foot down firmly this week. A work-related situation could get out of hand unless Sagittarians are prepared to show that they mean what they say. Those who are looking for love could have their heart set on fire by an earth sign this weekend. If you are already committed, expect your partner to



be enthusiastic about taking up a new health regime.

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

Motivation is highlighted and Capricorns should have their ambitions fuelled this week. The stars suggest that a fire sign's influence will encourage you to climb out of a rut and start being more active again. Love is in the air this weekend. Those born under the sign of Capricorn who recently suffered a relationship breakdown should have that blow cushioned by a romantic encounter with a water sign.

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

In the world of work, Aquarians are advised to evaluate recent developments before moving forward. There are signs that you could head in the wrong direction this week, possibly due to influence from a hot-headed fire sign. Take the time out this weekend to consider your

own best interests and financial gain should not be top of the list. Sparkling days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

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

Your mind is easily distracted this week and Pisceans are advised to pay careful attention to financial transactions. The stars indicate that you could lose out because of an air sign's clever words on Tuesday or Wednesday. Money matters fall under unclear astral conditions until the end of July, but August promises to bring good news concerning an ongoing dispute. Love with another water sign is well-starred this weekend.

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

Arians should guard against rocking the boat at work this week. An offer that is not what you were hoping for is unlikely to be improved. Those who are considering a change of employment are advised to wait until August as chances will be better then. A water sign's shyness will dissolve if you tone down your romantic approach.

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

The last week of July is a time when mysteries can be solved and un-

finished business resolved. At work, there are signs that your determination to get to the bottom of a puzzle is about to pay off. Romance becomes better starred - Taureans are forecast to be relieved by what they hear from a water sign and the relationship will blossom once more. Wear the color rose pink to encourage a softer mood.

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

The stars forecast that a stroke of luck will perk you up during the last week of July. Your reputation is interesting to more people than you are aware of and contact will be made by the end of the month. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, a fire sign is growing tired of being ignored. Geminis whose romantic interests lie elsewhere should find a way to make this clear.

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

Cancerians have the advantage of being one of the sharpest pencils in the box this week. During the last week of July the astral atmosphere encourages you to use your intellect to get ahead. Where love is concerned, your sunny mood affects a partner and bones of contention can be buried. Those who are single see that an earth sign is showing romantic interest.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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

## In brief...

### Construction suspended on 78 projects in Capital

CONSTRUCTION has been suspended on a total of 78 housing projects in Bangkok with 17,750 units worth more than 30 billion baht, according to a survey by the Agency for Real Estate Affairs (AREA).

Of those 78 projects, 23 have failed to win bank approval for project loans, while 21 are in locations unattractive to buyers. Ten projects have not passed an environment impact assessment, five have changed from residential to commercial buildings, 10 are contemplating price adjustments, and six have suffered construction delays because they are far from infrastructure links. The remaining projects do not have primary entrances from any main road.

However, AREA believes that the property market shows signs that it will be oversupplied by 2013, if property firms continue to launch residential projects at an

average of 100,000 units a year, agency president Sopon Pornchokchai told a news conference this week.

### Anantara replace Banyan Tree in Abu Dhabi deal

SINGAPORE-based Banyan Tree has been replaced by Thailand's Anantara brand for the management of the Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa in Abu Dhabi.

With an opening date of early 2012 on the table, the move comes after a series of reported operator and owner disagreements.

Banyan Tree's Angsana brand was to have adorned the property, but a difference of opinion led to the chain moving out of the agreement, which paved the way for Anantara to be appointed.

Minor International's Anantara Hotels and Resorts are continuing to pursue a rapid growth footprint both domestically and abroad.

— *Bill Barnett & The Nation*

# Tri-Asia set to launch Dewa Karon resort



**ANOTHER DOSE OF DEWA:** The luxury Dewa Nai Yang (above) will soon have a southern sister in the form of the Dewa Karon Beach Phuket.

PHUKET-based hospitality management company Tri-Asia has signed a management agreement to launch and run a unique new property at Karon Beach.

The resort will be operated as Dewa Karon Beach Phuket, reflecting its status as sister to the highly successful Dewa Nai Yang Beach hotel launched two years ago.

The announcement was made by Lars Ydmark, founder and managing director of Tri-Asia. Noting that the project has been

referred to as Baan Karon Paradise until now, Mr Ydmark said the property will open its doors to the public on November 1, 2011.

Dewa Karon Beach Phuket is a four-star boutique resort located on a hillside just a five-minute walk to the beach. The property consists of 49 apartments, including Karon Suites (one-bedroom apartments) and Family Suites (two-bedroom apartments), and the roof-top, one-bedroom Grande Karon Suites.

Tri-Asia says that all units are equipped with a kitchenette and are built for couples and families, adding that the units on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor have spectacular sea views over Karon Beach.

Resort facilities include a restaurant with bar, a wrap-around swimming pool, a minimart and free wireless Internet access.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Further information is available from Laddawan Somniyam, Director of Sales & Marketing.

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**MAKEOVER:** On Thalang Road in Old Phuket Town electric cables will be buried in the third phase of an ongoing project to boost tourism in the area.



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

PHUKET continues to ramp up visitor numbers faster than a shopaholic running up credit card debt, and what motivates tourists to visit the island is well-known.

Our island is one best known for its white sand beaches, coconut trees and soothing tropical breezes. Value comes into play, as do leisure activities such as golf, yachting and of course nightlife. But at the heart of the matter, the single biggest demand generator remains the dream of a beach holiday.

Cultural tourists these days have long ago abandoned Chiang Mai



**QUAINT:** Soi Romanee recently received a new coat of paint.

for more exotic locations and Brand Thailand today is mainly about affordability, easy access and mass numbers.

So what about our island's cultural heritage treasure – the one that features Sino-Portuguese design and Chinese influences? Of course,

I am talking about Phuket Town.

We have all been to various events that promote the area, experienced the hype, and seen the cosmetic changes that brought about the rebirth of Phuket Town. But the revival is arguably due to the commercial burnout of what used to be the island's retail hub.

Hypermarts, community malls and frenzied urbanization are pushing development into every nook and cranny around the island.

It's true that most hotels in town have enjoyed commercial success, but that hasn't translated into the kind of international branding experienced in other parts of the island. Accor's Novotel raised its international flag for some time, but once things came to a crunch the numbers just didn't add up.

Visitors were primarily Thai, with a smattering of foreigners who seemed to believe all of Phuket was a beach and were left wondering what time was high tide on Deebuk Road.

The question for many remains how can the area attract cultural

or niche tourists who are not of the mindset that "life's a beach" and want some culture.

Penang certainly has been a focal point of the Sino-Portuguese and historical building preservation movement. Thumbing an article in a recent edition of *Travel + Leisure* I see names of restored boutique properties such as Hotel Penaga, Muntri Mews, Moon Tree 47 and Yeng Keng Hotel.

Another big buzz is the restoration of Campbell House, built in 1903. These guys are getting it right. Why can't Phuket?

We've all seen the public relations attempts to gain UNESCO status for Phuket Town, but presently this seems to be something along the line of a gastro-eating fest destination. While there are some very nice local eateries there, I'm not sure that this is the right tactic.

It takes money, planning and long-term strategic initiatives for projects like Georgetown in Malaysia to take root and prosper. I've often wondered why hotels at Cape Panwa or Koh Sireh don't open up shops or restaurants in town, using their proximity to add an attraction for guests.

Instead, they are hellbent on trying to imitate resorts Bang Tao, Mai Khao or Kata, vying for the very same guests rather than venturing into new territory.

Singapore's well-documented love of boutique hotels in its own older quarter is a welcome change for many visitors, but for Phuket our fascination seems to only focus on the new and glossy versus the more challenging process of upgrading with love, respect and a sense of tradition.

New is not always better. For Phuket Town the clock is ticking if it is to take the progress of the past few years forward into something more tangible and long lasting.

While all that glitters may not be gold, Phuket Town's treasure trove of cultural attraction remains buried for the moment.

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

## In brief...

### New planning regulations issued

NEW town planning regulations for Phuket were issued July 6. The most significant changes have been to land areas located on hillsides and forest conservation areas.

For developers of condominium and land development projects, there were limited revisions. Those most affected will be upscale villa or luxury hillside projects.

### Low-price living coming to Laguna

THE upper-scale property areas of Bang Tao, Cherng Talay and Laguna are being infiltrated by the low-end price segment of the market.

Two Villas and the Erawana Group have built detached homes and condos in the Baan Don and Layan area.

Next up is the 59-unit Baan Tak r Kard, which according to the developers, has sold close to 50 per cent off plan.

Semi-detached units range from 108 square meters up to 125sqm of living area. Entry prices start at 2.69 million baht.

### CBD developers flock to Phuket

INTENSE competition and escalating land prices are motivating property developers in the Central Bangkok District (CBD) to relocate projects to greener pastures.

Most acquisition prices range from three-to-five million baht per rai, with a focus on larger inland parcels.

At the same time there has also been a surge of interest from overseas investors wishing to develop land, mainly from Singapore and Hong Kong groups.

During the global financial crises of 2008, the smaller villa projects were hit the hardest in Phuket.

### Nai Thon lux villa sales top US\$20mn

PROPERTY sales in Phuket are experiencing some breakthrough transactions at the top end of the market. Nai Thon's "Golden Mile" has seen transactions in excess of US\$ 20 million over the past few months. Istana just sold a six-bedroom ultra villa for US\$ 6mn through Phillip's Real Estate. Meanwhile, at nearby Malaiwana, four properties have been sold since April.

Emerging upscale addresses at Nai Thon includes Malaiwana, Istana, Trisara and the Pearl of Nai Thon. New hotels under development include ACCOR's Pullman brand and InterContinental's Hotel Indigo.

– Bill Barnett

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# The low-down on renting in Phuket

By Richard Lusted

RENTING a villa or apartment long-term is becoming very popular in Thailand, especially in resort areas such as Phuket, Pattaya and Koh Samui. Many would-be buyers are deciding to hold off on buying and instead rent for a year or more while they get to know the area and learn the ways of Thailand.

Renting long-term is cheap compared to Europe. You can find a two-bedroom villa with a swimming pool for as little as 20,000 baht (440 Euro) per month. But there are a few things you need to know before signing on the dotted line...

**Using an agent:** It is highly recommended that you use a reputable real estate agent to ensure you get the right advice, property selection and assistance in viewings. They will also help you negotiate the best rate possible. Going it alone is not advisable.

**Rental prices:** These range from as little as 10,000 baht per month up to 300,000 baht for luxury high-end villas with stunning ocean views and staff to cook and clean and provide a first-class service. The average three-bedroom pool villa in quiet areas such as Rawai and Nai Harn go for about 35,000 to 50,000 baht per month.

**Rental term and utilities:** A long-term rental is usually one year, but the tenant is expected that to stay in the property for a minimum of three months. Of course, this can be negotiated with the owner. In most cases the rent in-

cludes maid service, pool cleaning and a gardener, but utilities such as electric, water, cable or UBC TV and Internet are normally paid by the renter. Check with your agent or owner at the outset.

**Internet:** Most villa apartments have Internet, but not always broadband, so you should check what types of connections are available if it's important to you.

**Rental payment:** Rent is due on the first of each month in advance, and must be deposited in the owner's account as agreed at the time of booking. Failure to make payment within seven days of the due date is grounds for immediate eviction.

**Security deposit:** The owner will require a security deposit on booking which is normally two months' rent, and is held by the owner until checkout. As long as all the utili-

ties and other bills have been paid, and there is no damage to the property, then the deposit will be returned in full, usually within 21 days of departure. This delay is caused by the owner having to wait for the latest utility bill.

**Inventory:** When checking in, the owner should provide an inventory list for you to check, agree and sign. We strongly recommend you inspect the furniture, take photos and inform the owner of any damage or scratches at the outset to avoid any disputes on checkout.

**Lease agreement:** Before you move in the owner should provide a standard lease agreement. The cost of this agreement is usually shared between the parties.

**Insurance:** It is recommended that you take out full insurance cover prior to occupation.



THE BIG PICTURE: Taking in the Phuket rental property market. Photo: Gazette File

**Misuse of the property:** The owner reserves the right to interrupt service and evict the tenant without a refund due to noise complaints or any type of property abuse. Illegal activi-

ties will be cause for immediate eviction by local police.

For more information, contact Richard Lusted of Siam Villa Rentals [www.siamvillarentals.com](http://www.siamvillarentals.com)

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# Gardeners' question time



THE QUESTION IS: Do any lilies grow happily in Thailand? The peace lily shown above is one that does. Photo: Tahmid Munaz

READERS may or may not be familiar with an English radio program called *Gardeners' Question Time*.

Questions are launched by the public to a panel of experts, with invariably helpful results. While I don't pretend to possess their consummate gardening knowledge, I am always happy to solicit questions and provide informed answers.

One recent query concerned buying lilies. I responded that few varieties of lilies grow happily in southern Thailand. However, no mention was made of the one species that does indeed



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

grow well here, *spathiphyllum cochlearispathum*, commonly known as the peace lily. Technically, it's not a lily, but with its long-lasting snow-white spathes (hence the Latin name), it has much in common with the temperate arum lily.

The plant has two useful functions. One, it provides attractive ground cover in shady areas where it will spread rapidly.

Secondly, the *spathiphyllum* is an adaptable and hardy plant, one that graces many offices around Phuket. It's widely-available in local nurseries. This takes us to the next query about local garden centers.

"Trying to find your suggested plants in Phuket proves difficult," a reader recently opined. "I appreciate you may not want to favor particular nurseries, but can you include more information as to where to find the plants featured?"

Always go to a garden center armed with a picture of the plant you are looking for. It's even more helpful if you know the Thai word for the flower or shrub in question.

Sadly, few books offer phonetic pronunciations for Thai. But one book that does is *A Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia*. Written by Engel and Plummer, it is published by Cavendish, and is currently in print.

The Thai workers in the nursery are far more likely to point you in the right direction if you ask for

a *leelawadee* or *puttaraksaa*, instead of a *plumeria* or *canna*. So it's even better if you take a Thai friend along. He or she may even be able to negotiate a better price.

On the subject of individual nurseries, it would be instructive to hear about our readers' preferences. As always, your views are most welcome, and they are likely to be published in these columns. Share and share alike.

Searching for a recommended Thai nursery is further complicated by the fact that few nurseries advertise their names and even fewer do so in English.

A favorite of mine has a colorful sign written in Thai that's pronounced "gi-ra-sak". It offers good value, especially Chao Fa East. It's not cheap – on average, each plant costs about 150 baht – but the shrubs are mature and the selection is much greater than in the average establishment.

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



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## Tip of the week

### Natural air conditioners

WE ALL appreciate that outdoor shrubs and especially large trees do a great job of absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing more healthy oxygen into our atmosphere.

But it's not universally known that many house plants act as air cleaners. How many gardeners know the specific virtues of certain indoor plants?



HELPFUL INDOOR PLANTS: *gerbera*, *lantana*, *philodendrum*.

One of the most useful indoor plants is the peace lily (*spathiphyllum*). It goes silently about its business, removing environmental contaminants and pollutants from the air. No wonder it's so popular in Phuket's corporate offices.

Another plant, the feston rose, a variety of *lantana*, also acts as a natural air purifier. Plus it produces lots of aromatic orange and red flowers.

Other beneficial plants include *aglaonema* and *philodendron*, which remove formaldehyde, and *gerbera*, which tackle benzene, a known carcinogen.



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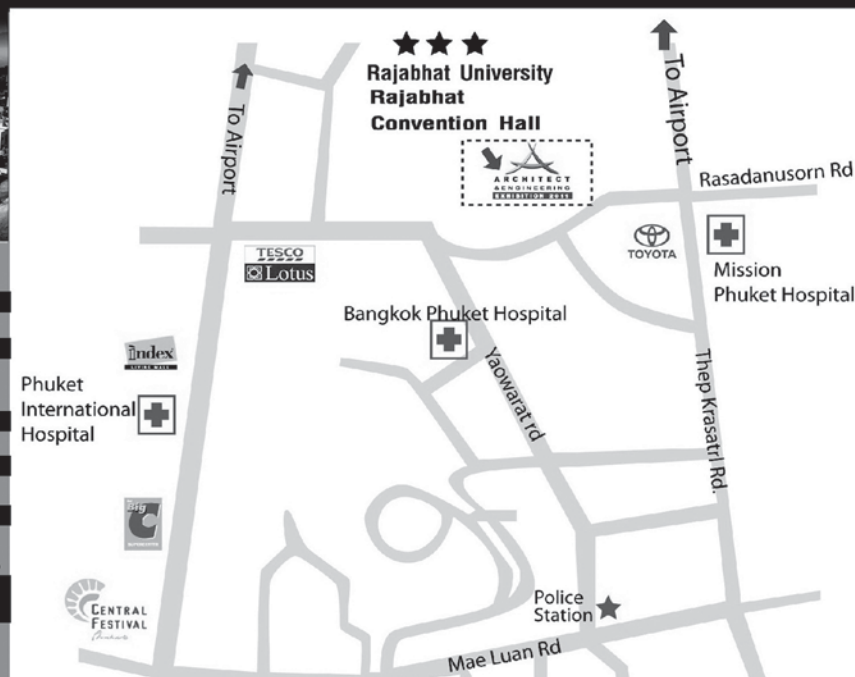
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### BEACHFRONT VILLA AO CHALONG



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### LOVELY NEW KATA CONDO 3.9M

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### OFFICE

Kata Road, Soi Ton Tan, 40/22. 40sqm. Toilet, aircon, storeroom. Price: 1.3 million baht. Tel: 089-650 5118 (English & Thai). Email: saopun@hotmail.com

### PA KHLOK HOUSE FOR SALE



59sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, European kitchen. Fully furnished, with common pool. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

### VILLA IN CHERNG TALAY



New villa at Cherngtalay for sale, near Laguna. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, on 500sqm land with Chanote title, freehold or leasehold. Price: 12.9 million baht. Directly from owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada\_villas@hotmail.com

### KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

### 4 RAI LAYAN 4 MILLION BAHT/RAI

By owner. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Concrete road, house for sale. Just 2 minutes to beach. Tel: 084-714 8391. Email: andreapaoletti@hotmail.it

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, large living room. Nice unit. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121. Website: www.phukethome.ws

### NEW SEAVIEW FREEHOLD CONDO

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European-style kitchen, balcony, pool, parking. 12.9sqm. Contact Phil for more information. Tel: 087-393 5462 (English & Thai). Email: philippew2001@hotmail.com

### LAND FOR SALE

At Pasak Soi 8, Cherng 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.

### 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.

### NEW HOUSE AO MAKHAM

408sqm, with Chanote. Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 aircons, big living room, kitchen, garden. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 085-888 6933. Email: sawasdee51@hotmail.com

### LAND FOR SALE



Stunning sea view, land ready for building on Andaman Mountain, overlooking Patong Beach. Has a concrete road, power and water. Area 1,048sqm (2/3 of a rai) 15mx70m. Price: 10.48 million baht. Tel: +44 7885488091. Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.property-land-phuket-thailand.co.uk

### TWIN VILLA IN KAMALA



For sale with rental income, very good money. 10 minutes walk to beach. Fully furnished with 6 bedrooms on 500sqm land with Chanote title. Freehold. Price: 14.5 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada\_villas@hotmail.com

### 11TH FAIRWAY LOCH PALM



For sale. Villa with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open living area and nice kitchen. Fully furnished. Sala, pool with jacuzzi, fairway and mountain view. Urgent sale for 10.8 million baht. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

### LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd 11km from Heroines' Monument, near Mission Hills. Price: 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### PHUKET VILLA 5 HOUSE FOR SALE

Home and business located in Phuket Villa 5. Living room, dining room, 5 bedrooms, office, shower/WC, business room, storage room, kitchen. Plot over 500sqm. Asking price 7.7 million baht. Tel: 081-956 6462 (Thai), 086-682 4356 (English & Thai). Email: siam@gmx.net www.thai-swiss.ch/Immobilien.immobilien.0.html

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

### LAND 9 RAI FOR SALE

Land with seaview on the main road to Promthep Cape. With Chanote title. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-693 9571.

### BEST PRICE POOL VILLA



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

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## HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

## LONG LEASE AND/OR SALE

Located on the 5th floor of a building at the Intersection of Rat-U-Thit Road, close to Family Mart. Size: 5x16 meters. Total land: 120sqm. Call Wattanawut for more information. Tel: 076-340250, 089-652 0059. Email: dioidna@hotmail.com

## POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Near Lersuang Club, 4 bedrooms, separate maid room, office, dining room. With Chanote title, 676sqm, 4x10m pool. Price: 25 million baht. Tel: 085-888 6933. Email: sawasdee51@hotmail.com

## BEACH RESORT LOTS

Lots: 1 million baht. Cottages: 2.5 million baht. Contact Wayne for more information. Tel: 076-238732, 081-797 0358. Email: wayneredgraham@gmail.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.

## 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

## 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

## REDUCED BY 1 MILLION BAHT

Pool villa with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on a quiet hillside for sale. Tel: 076-383792, 086-281 7605 (English). Email: nigellennard1@gmail.com Website: http://webspawner.com/users/phuketvilla

## KAMALA LAND 1+ RAI

Land on a hill, all services already available, easy to build on. The land has already had an offer of 6.5 million baht - won't sell for less than 7 million baht. Tel: 087-280 1598 (Thai), +44-7983-994455 (English & Thai). Fax: +44-208-421 0300. Email: del\_essen@hotmail.com

## PRIVATE POOL VILLA

Pool villa for sale with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Price: 8 million baht. Ready to move in. Tel: 087-389 0019. Email: angelinatravel\_tour@hotmail.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

## KATHU PHUKET

Exclusive, modern, European-style house near golf course. Completed in 2008. 3 bedrooms, large living room and pool. In a very quiet area. Price: 12.8 million baht. Tel: 089-413 6921. Email: leosteinemann@gmail.com

## 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.

## 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

## 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.

## LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

Beautiful lakeside plot at Loch Palm Golf Course. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-273 6959 (English). Email: bobyapp@mac.com

## HUGE 4 BED RAWAI OCEAN VIEWS

Has everything. Details on website. Urgent sale. Was 19 million baht now selling for 16.9 million baht. Tel: 083-595 3757 (English). Email: jlourie@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.happywife-happywife.com/property\_details.php?property\_id=2

## POOL VILLA FOR SALE



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

## 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

## THAI MUEANG LAND

Approx 3 rai, 2 km from town centre. Good road access and electricity. Very quiet, green area. Urgent sale for just 5 million baht total. Non-negotiable. No agents please. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

## CHALONG LAND

14 rai of land with Chanote title near Wat Chalong. Road access and electricity. Gently sloping. Sea views from top. Perfect for development. Price: 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

## 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.

## URGENT - CHEAP LAND THALANG

Two plots, 1,000sqm-1,600sqm, flat land, located near PIA. Only 1.9 million baht. Tel: 086-682 7818 (English & Thai), 084-744 2031 (English & Thai). Email: steffen@alypsophuket.com

## KATA SEAVIEW CONDO

Modern, fully furnished, 72sqm, 2-bedroom condo. Good rental income. Contact Peter for more info. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

## 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: 087-053 6016.

## 724SQM HOUSE WITH POOL



For sale. Very big garden with 4x10m pool. 3 bedrooms 3 bathrooms in Rawai. Need small renovation. Price: 7.2 million baht. Quick sale: 6.3 million baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: thenetworkproperty.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: pakaporns@yahoo.com

## TWO SEAVIEW PLOTS



Reduced to 4.95 million baht each or 8.5 million baht for both. Near Surin and Bang Tao beaches. Fantastic 180 degree views. Exclusive. Hill-side Development with quality homes, already built. All utilities available. Land area: 540sqm and 545sqm (adjoining). Chanote titles, leasehold or freehold. Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross.t@welcrp.com

## 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.

## 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

## 2.9MB 3-BEDROOM HOUSE



For sale with land and house in Chalong. Enough space to have swimming pool. 270sqm land in secure area. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

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## Properties For Rent

### DETACHED VILLA FOR RENT



Quiet location off Baan Saiyuan. With lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 with jacuzzi), study and laundry. Airconditioned. 17m pool and large outside area with verandah for living/dining. Includes TV and wireless internet. Tel: 085-795 4665.

### HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

Fully furnished, 2-bedroom suites, 240sqm with garden, clubhouse, wireless, UBC and 4 aircon units. 5 mins to beaches. Tel: 076-615805, 080-328 9517 (English & Thai), 084-061 3559 (English & Thai). Email: saranyu.2001@yahoo.com

### LOFT STYLE - KATHU

Fully furnished and located in a quiet, central area with good running spots. 8,000 - 12,000 baht/month. Long term rent. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

### NEAR MONUMENT, BAAN MANIK

Fully-furnished 2 bedroom suites with a hot tub, garden, wireless and security. 120sqm and 10 minutes from beaches. Tel: 089-472 3377, 080-328 9517. Email: ningkantasit@gmail.com

### POOL VILLA FOR RENT

1,2,4 bedrooms in Bangtao area. Fully furnished. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

### KATA SEAVIEW HOUSE 17,000 BAHT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with bath tubs and a big 26sqm terrace perfect for BBQs. Includes aircon, hot water, Wi-Fi and car parking spot. Only long term rent. Tel: 081-968 5904. Email: sujira\_sk@yahoo.com

### PATONG TOWER CONDO

Luxury sea view condo. Low price. Tel: 081-088 8099. See our website at: www.selectphuket.com

### STYLISH PHUKET TOWNHOUSE

Teak-furnished, modern-style townhouse with 2 floors and 2 bedrooms, a large kitchen, flat-screen TV, 1.5 bathrooms and a garden in a quiet neighborhood in the heart of Samkong, the food capital of Phuket. Rent: 14,000 baht per month. Contact Nicholas. Tel: 081-892 5335 (English & Thai), 084-494 5725 (English). Email: arutsu@gmail.com

### 100,000 BAHT (US\$3,350)



Per year. Rawai Beach studio, furnished, WiFi, cable TV. 200 meters from beach. 30-year lease. Selling for 1 million baht. Paid over 10 years. Monthly rent 5,000 baht (US\$170) per month. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

### PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



House for rent, 55sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

### HOUSE WITH POOL AO POR



House with pool for rent near Ao Por. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Furnished, with aircon, big pool, garden. Private. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-531 0697.

### THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Harn, low season rent: 37,500 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

### POOL VILLA 4 BEDROOMS

Rawai. Fully furnished, with full aircon and private pool. Rent: 3,000 baht per day. Tel: 087-893 8747.

### PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

Aircon, kitchen, TV, DVD player & ADSL. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

### POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-4729 870. Email: d\_chaibut@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN TOWN

Townhome in Phuket Town. "Chanakam village" near Central Festival. Total area: 96sqm. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with sofa and TV set, kitchen sink set, bedding, dressing table, wardrobe. 2 aircons. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 7773. Email: nobeta18@hotmail.com Website at www.ddproperty.com/property/show/146303

### KATHU GOLF VIEW PENTHOUSE

For rent. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathroom, big pool, 4km to BIS over looking lake, Loch Palm golf course, quiet, on top of private hill, secure, maid, furnished, WiFi. Long-term 65,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

### HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room with full kitchenette. New building. Furnished, with aircon, Internet, UBC. Quiet location. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

### COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



High-grade house, furnished and conveniently located. Minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

### THALANG ROAD SHOPHOUSE



Perfect for boutique hotel, high-end restaurant, gallery, or mixed-use development. The property comprises a 600sqm double-wide shophouse extra deep lot with two interior courtyards, and large rear garden in prime Old Town location. Tel: 081-893 5014 (English).

### HOUSE NEAR BIS



House for rent near BIS. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, recently redecorated. Rent: 16,000 baht per month. Contact John Griffin. Tel: 086-940 4267. Email: griffin2009@hotmail.com

### AMAZING SEAVIEWS



Luxury 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom villa, set in gardens with pool. With large kitchen and maid quarters. Very private. Only 1 minute to beach and 15 minutes to PIA/BIS schools. Furnished. Rent: 60,000 baht per month. Call Richard Desmond. Tel: 086-279 6283. Email: capeheights@yahoo.co.uk

### SPACIOUS 1 & 2 BEDROOM APTS

Short or long term lease. Free cable TV, WiFi, pool and gym use. 5 mins to town. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

### GOLF VIEW STUDIO FOR RENT

130sqm big pool. Over looking lake Loch Palm golf course quiet on top a private hill furnished, WiFi, maid. For long-term 20,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

### PHUKET VILLA 5

Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and carpark. In the center of the village. 4 aircons, comes fully furnished, telephone line. Only 5 mins to Central Festival. For long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Call for visit. Tel: 087-270 9093.

### 2 BED PATONG HOUSE

For rent. Furnished with aircon. Close to Jungceylon. Special rate from now to December: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-900 8445. Email: lozt@vic.chariot.net.au

### KAMALA HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, garden, parking. Detached Villa. Rent: 30,000 baht per month + utilities. 2 months deposit in advance. Minimum contract: 6 months. Tel: 085-994 0364.

### CHALONG BEACHFRONT HOUSE

Furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, with Internet, cable TV, pool. Rent: 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

### CONTEMPORARY HOUSE



Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, Western-style kitchen. In Talang-area, with local market and 2 Lotus Express outlets nearby, close to PIA International School. 10 minutes to beach. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara\_supertik@yahoo.co.th

### B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

### CHALONG HOME

Good value 2 bedroom home with ADSL, aircon and cable TV. Tel: 089-652 1473 (English). Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

### PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

Rent: 16,000 baht on long term. Visit our website at www.johnshoneymoonsuite-phuket.ch

### TOWNHOUSE RENT/SALE

Townhouse at Soi Nam Tok Kathu, very quiet, 2 bedrooms, long-term rent only. Tel: 084-186 4882 (English & Thai). Email: egbertsiewert@hotmail.com

### PROPERTY TO LET

Condo in Kamala. 160sqm, 2 bedrooms en suite, seaview, pool, fitness. Tel: 084-842 1687. Email: hmatthes@hotmail.com

### LUXURY POOL VILLA



For rent or sale in Loch Palm. Only 5 minutes from British International School. Fully fitted European kitchen, including Siemens appliances. Large pool 12m x 4m. 3 double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Views overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course 14th & 15th fairways. Fully airconditioned, fully furnished. Available from August 1. Rent: 65,000 baht per calendar month. Rental includes management fees, pool maintenance & garden service. This villa is also priced to sell at 14 million baht. Baan Suan Loch Palm 29/33, Moo 5, Kathu District, Phuket 83120. Tel: 076-323699, 087-124 5706 (English & Thai).

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PHUKET BRANCH

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- To convert leads to sale in accordance with Thai insurance sales legislation and in accordance with the company's rules.
- Ensure that all-sales activity and sales are recorded on the prospect database.
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- Produce daily and weekly team sales reports.
- To carry out any other duties which may be required from time to time.

### Key Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with at least 3 years experience on sales.
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- Well organized and good interpersonal skills.
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## ARCHITECT WANTED

Must speak English. To work on a new mixed-use development in Phuket. Tel: 076-384731, 081-693 9372. Please send CV to Daniel via email: [mainstreetdevelopment@hotmail.com](mailto:mainstreetdevelopment@hotmail.com)

## MAID

Maid to work mainly in Kamala. Need own motorbike. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: [info@husiphuket.se](mailto:info@husiphuket.se)

## NEED ASSISTANT MANAGER

Looking for assistant manager (female) for international restaurant in Jungceylon, Patong. Good experience in F&B needed. Contact Alain 084-758 7468 (English). Email: [alain@cafe101.co.th](mailto:alain@cafe101.co.th)

## SALES STAFFERS NEEDED

Sales staffers needed. English skills are required. Basic salary + commission. Tel: 081-270 1370.

## ACCOUNTANT

For long-established trading company in Kamala. We are looking for an accountant (1 person) also responsible for everyday office operations. Salary starts at 20,000 baht per month. Requires good English and office experience. Tel: 076-385221, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-279340. Email: [skgf@skgf.asia](mailto:skgf@skgf.asia)



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- Contract Processors
- Admins / PAs

Call 076-344-161 or send you resume/cv (with recent photo) via fax to 076-344-162. You can also send an email to [info@patongbayvacationclub.com](mailto:info@patongbayvacationclub.com).

## THAI STAFF MEMBER NEEDED

Thai staff member needed. Ability to speak English is a must. Basic salary + commission. Tel: 081-270 1370.

## RECEP, HANDYMAN, NIGHT MANAGER

New hotel seeks experienced staff. Call for interview. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (Thai). Email: [dshumny@yahoo.com](mailto:dshumny@yahoo.com)

## IT TECHNICIAN

Looking for IT Technician to provide computer maintainance and courses on Phuket. Specializes in Windows operating systems. Many years experience. Speaks French and English speaking. Tel: 080-789 4500. Email: [christophesoula@yahoo.com](mailto:christophesoula@yahoo.com)

## NEED STAFF

Need Thai salesperson 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](mailto:iriyad@mail.ru)

## GENERAL MANAGER

Needed for 33-room guesthouse in the center of Patong. Must be fluent in English, have a good level of experience and charisma. Please send CV to us. Email: [dtlimited@gmail.com](mailto:dtlimited@gmail.com)

## TV CAMERAMAN WANTED

Professional experienced in using HD video cameras and editing with Final Cut Pro essential. Thai national preferred. Email resume and work samples to Duncan. Tel: 081-893 4006 (English). Email: [duncan@worthington.asia](mailto:duncan@worthington.asia)

## OFFICE MANAGER

Thai national. Excellent written and spoken English, smart appearance, good organizational skills. Experience in property rentals. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

## DRIVER NEEDED

Phuket Cable Ski Park needs a driver own car. Full day salary ++. Tel: 084-734 0122 (English), 085-474 7317 (Thai). Email: [phuketcableski@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketcableski@yahoo.com)

## HEADSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We are seeking qualified, dedicated and caring primary teachers to fill 2 positions by August 1, 2011. UK qualified and experienced with PGCE preferred. Tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612876. Please send your CV to [school@headstartphuket.com](mailto:school@headstartphuket.com)

## PADI INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

PADI Instructors needed. Tel: 076-293120, 089-872 2026 (English). Email: [info@scubacat.com](mailto:info@scubacat.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://www.scubacat.com/en/blog/dives/instructor-vacancy>

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Crew position available. Male or female, age 20-25.

- Must be a competent swimmer (diving experience an advantage), hard-working and flexible in working hours. May be away on trips for several days on end. Previous hotel housekeeping/hospitality experience/engine experience an advantage.

- Must be a good organiser, neat and tidy, punctual and pleasant. English language skills are preferable but not essential. A willingness to work and learn with the correct attitude will be considered more important than previous experience as training will be provided to candidates based on their level of experience.

- Salary: 17,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on capabilities and experience. Plus, medical and uniform allowance and generous holiday entitlements. Tel: 081-958 3488. Email: [dararatv@hotmail.com](mailto:dararatv@hotmail.com)

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### Shop Assistant Required

Paul Ropp Thailand Company Limited is now looking for shop assistants to join our team at the flagship store in Royal Phuket Marina. The candidate must have the qualifications listed below:

- Good English communication skills
- Good attitude and appearance
- Flexible and able to work under pressure
- Computer literate
- Thai nationality

We offer good salary and commission. If you have the neat above qualifications and would like to join our team, please send your CV to [pandhaj@paulropp.com](mailto:pandhaj@paulropp.com) or call us at +66(76)360859

### Professional Property Management Solutions



Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

#### Villa Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in property management and operations

#### Rental Operation Manager

- 3 years experience in reservations and holiday home rental operations

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- Good command of English language both speaking and writing
- Ability to demonstrate initiative and a high level of independence
- Good general computer skills

Positions available for Thai Nationals only

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.  
Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: [personnel@pipsphuket.com](mailto:personnel@pipsphuket.com)



### Career Opportunity



VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

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Interested applicants apply at:

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### MAID AND GARDENER WANTED

for pool maintainance with previous hotel experience. Rawai area. Tel: 081-797 7897.

### LOOKING FOR NANNY 8,000 BAHT

Young couple with an 11-month-old baby boy is looking for a live out nanny in Kathu, Phuket. Nanny should be Thai, between 20 and 40 years old and with previous experience in taking care of young children. Some English skills would be great but not necessary. Working hours are 6 days a week from 8am to 5pm. Main work is to take care of our baby boy. Only some light house cleaning work. Salary is 8,000 baht. Contact Khun Nadia. Tel: 087-474 1037 (English & Thai). Email: [bernd42@hotmail.com](mailto:bernd42@hotmail.com)

### PRIVATE VILLA ATTENDANT

Mom Tri's Villa Royale is set atop the headland of Kata Bay between two of the most beautiful sandy beaches on Phuket: Kata Noi and Kata Yai. We are currently seeking energetic and dynamic people to join our team. Three villa attendants required for the 'ocean wing' of our private 5-bedroom villa. Candidates should preferably be young, male & dynamic. Apply in writing with full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo. Tel: 076-333568. Fax: 076-333001. Email: [hr@villaroyalephuket.com](mailto:hr@villaroyalephuket.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.villaroyalephuket.com](http://www.villaroyalephuket.com)

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER REQUIRED

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time graphic designer to do the following tasks: website mock ups, logo design, book cover design and banner advertising design. We require that you speak basic English. Contact for more info. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: [dada@phuket-tours.org](mailto:dada@phuket-tours.org)

### KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

ELT is looking for a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced kindergarten teacher to start at Ban Maireab school ASAP. We offer 38,000-40,000 baht per month plus benefits. Email: [amydavies13@hotmail.com](mailto:amydavies13@hotmail.com)



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Call us 076-297-130 or send us your resume/cv (with recent photo) via fax to 076-296-688

### 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@ccblosshotel.com](mailto:sales@ccblosshotel.com)

### HOTEL STAFF REQUIRED

Thai nationals required in a Patong condominium project for the following positions: Reception, bookings & electrician. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a qualified native English teacher for children aged 18 months to 3 years. Great work environment and compensation. Send your CV to email: [phuketinternational@asia.com](mailto:phuketinternational@asia.com)

### Employment Wanted

#### BUTLER/HOUSE MANAGER

Professional head butler, 43, with extensive experience at Buckingham Palace and an internationally renowned Hollywood producer is available for work. Interested parties, kindly email enquiries. Email: [p.v.b.b@live.com](mailto:p.v.b.b@live.com)

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## PALLET LIFTER

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SEWING MACHINE  
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Sewing machine 'Taking TK-801' type. 3 years old, almost never used. Price: 10,500 baht. Tel: 081-956 0571 (English), 085-478 6494 (English). Email: customerservice@bayokcreation.com

## GLASS STORE FRONTS

Two sections of glass store front available to collect from July 25. 5,000 baht each. Approx 2 x (397x286) cm. Photos available. Tel: 076-246428, 087-274 6602, 081-787 9454. Fax 076-246428. Email: info@scansnax.nu

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Stock clearance. Gott & Blandat, Bilar, Djungelvrål, Snoren, etc. Tel: 076-246427, 087-274 6602 (English), 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-246180. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at www.scan snax.nu

## SEWING MACHINE

Sewing machine 'Taking TK-335' for sale. 3 years old, almost never used. Perfect for sewing leather and hard fabric. Price: 19,000 baht. Tel: 081-956 0571 (English), 085-478 6494 (English). Email: customerservice@bayokcreation.com

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Nice baby cot. Cost over 20,000 baht but needs a cleaning or a repaint: 3,000 baht. Cool Kids car seat: 1,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Email: jb@jbxel.net

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EQUIPMENT  
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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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-281 8883.

## 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).

Bar &  
Restaurant  
Equipment

## CAFE SHOP ITEMS

For sale. Tables, chairs, counter, meat slicer machine, Thai cooking gas stove, working table, glasses. Contact for details. Email: maxi-phuket@hotmail.com

## Bulletins

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings  
Mission Hospital - Phuket City  
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City  
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM

Green Man Pub - Chalong  
Tue, Thu, Sat 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront  
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)  
Tel: 086-8440460 SWE, 085-4647450 SWE

For info on other Thailand AA  
meetings inquire @ 02-23118300  
(for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org or  
email: info@aathailand.org

## SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Email: info@phuketiwclub.com

## SKIPPERS PUB QUIZ

At Royal Phuket Marina. Last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Happy hour and prizes. Tel: 076-360890-3.

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OpportunitiesMASSAGE SALON  
FOR RENT

Massage salon in Phuket Cable Ski Park for rent: 6,000 baht per month, all equipment included. Tel: 085-474 7317.

15-ROOM  
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15-room boutique hotel in Patong close to the beach and Jungceylon shopping mall. Lease for 9 years, rent 120,000 baht per month. Owner relocating. Asking price for sale 2.5 million baht. Tel: +971-50-244 2441, 080-474 0444 (English). Email: aahmed244@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.nicean dom.com

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BUSINESS

In the hospitality and tourism industry on Phuket. Tel: 080-789 4500. Email: christophe soula@yahoo.com

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FOR SALE

Good location on Viset Road. Halfway between Chalong and Rawai. Cheap rent, connected to shop and small furnished apartment, with living room, bedroom, kitchen, toilet and shower. Includes garden. Returning home, must sell. Tel: 081-538 5635 (English).

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

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 licence). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

BIG BILL AND IRA  
LOOKING FOR

Former RockHard managers looking for partner in new food venture. Tel: 081-086 2772 (English). Email: bigbillsdeli@gmail.com

## PATONG BEACH BAR

Apple bar is located on the beach side of the beach road in Patong. Big long bar, great location. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 088-178 4759. Email: ianker shaw57@yahoo.com

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GUESTHOUSE-BAR-  
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## BAR BANGLA ROAD

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BAR POOL HOTEL/  
RAWAI BEACH

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## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

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- Julapan Stationery (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Tel: 076-282403  
(Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

## PATONG

- Taurus Travel Tel: 076-344521-2  
(Aroonsom Plaza)
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Tel: 076-290468  
(Aroonsom Plaza)
- Deli Supermarket Tel: 076-342275  
(Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

## PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School Tel: 076-232398  
(Phang Nga Rd)
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369

## CHERNG TALAY

- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe Tel: 076-324313  
(main entrance road to Laguna Phuket)
- 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

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### Crossword puzzle:



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13			
S	L	A	B		T	R	O	V	E		A	D	D	S			
14	C	O	L	A		15	W	A	L	E	R		16	R	O	I	L
17	A	R	E	S		18	E	I	D	E	R		19	C	U	R	E
20	D	E	C	I	D	E	D		22	R	E	L	A	X	E	D	
				24	L	E	T				25	D	A	D			
26	27	28			29	N	S	A		32	N	E	E	33	34	35	
A	V	E	C		37	B	A	U	B	L	E		39	M	E	T	
40	P	A	R	A	41	L	I	N	G	U	I	S	T	I	C	S	
43	E	D	O		44	E	N	C	A	S	E		45	E	T	R	E
46	S	E	I	Z	E		48	E	R	E		49	E	A	S	Y	A
			50	I	R	S				52	V	O	W				
53	54	55			56			57	M	A	N	A	58	59	60		
F	L	O	T	S	A	M							G	A	U	R	
61	L	O	C	H		62	L	A	C	E	S		64	G	A	U	R
65	A	C	H	E		66	S	L	A	T	E		67	O	N	N	O
68	P	O	O	R		69	A	I	R	E	S		70	N	A	G	S



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Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

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# Voodoo and Miss Saigon win Multihull

By Neil Quail

THE fourth South East Asian (SEA) Property International Phuket Multihull Championship reached an exciting conclusion on Sunday with David Liddell's *Miss Saigon* winning the inaugural Corsair Cup, and *Voodoo* skippered by Ian Coulson taking the Firefly 850 One Design Class.

Performance Multihull Class (PMC) was an extremely tight contest over the three days.

On the first day, Paul Larsen skippered the Andaman Cabriolet *DaVinci* off to a great start, but Alan Carwardine's *Sidewinder* reduced the gap and led around the top mark.

As the winds died, *Sidewinder*'s lead disappeared, but *Miss Saigon* managed to pick up a breath of air which took her over the line in first ahead of *DaVinci* in second position.

Seven Fireflys began their challenge shortly after the PMCs got underway. Andy Pape in *The Frog* triumphed in race one with John Newnham's *Twin Sharks* close behind in second, and Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* taking third.

Consistent 8-10 knot rainless conditions on day two allowed Race Officer (PRO) Simon James to run three races and get the Regatta back on track after the previous day's weather problems.



MAGIC PERFORMANCE: *Voodoo* (right) was triumphant in the Firefly Class.

*Sidewinder* took line honors in all three races, but could only convert the final race into a handicap win. *Miss Saigon* won two races and placed second in race three, which put them in first according to the PMC points system when added to their first day victory.

A second and two third places for *DaVinci* earned them second overall. A second, third and first place from *Sidewinder* saw a good progression up the table, but that disastrous fifth place on the first day kept them in third overall.

Firefly 850 One Design Class day two saw *Voodoo* claim two wins, a third place, and hopes for an overall victory.

*Moto Inzi*'s first two races achieved only second and fourth places, but a victory in the third race drew them level with *Voodoo* on points.

*The Frog* placed fifth in the first race, but followed with two second places to earn a share of first with *Moto Inzi* and *Voodoo* in a three-way tie on 10 points going in to the final day's racing.

With all to race on day three, PRO Simon James chose Island Course nine to decide proceedings. *Da Vinci* took a tack out to



GONE WITH THE WIND: *Miss Saigon*, winner of the Performance Multihull Class.

oblivion, but managed to recover on the approach to Bon Island while *Sidewinder* led the fleet around the course.

*Miss Saigon* could not be shrugged off and eventually picked up the handicap win to have their name engraved on the very first Corsair Cup. *DaVinci* placed second just three seconds ahead of *Sidewinder* in third place.

The Firefly contenders were given two chances to settle the final outcome on day three. In the

first race, *Voodoo* surged across the line ahead of Andrew Marshall's *Pink Lady* and *The Frog*, with only one minute separating the first five boats.

The second race saw *Voodoo* seal a resounding victory and become the undisputed champion while a second place for *The Frog* was enough to earn them second in the final standings. *Moto Inzi* battled into third place and was awarded third on the podium.


For detailed results and reports visit [W:acyc-phuket.com](http://W:acyc-phuket.com)

## SEA International Multihull Regatta 2011 Results

Multihull			
Yacht	Name of Owner/Skipper	Total	Overall Position
Miss Saigon	David Liddell	6	1
Da Vinci	Paul Larsen	12	2
Sidewinder	Alan Carwardine	14	3
Shanghai Baby	Neil Ayre	20	4
Nina	Grenville Fordham/Bob Mott	25	5
Fong Chin	Lee Eng Khiam	30	6
Silk Purse	Mark Horwood	34	7

Firefly 850 Sport			
Yacht	Name of Owner/Skipper	Total	Overall Position
Voodoo	Ian Coulson / Jojo Tayong	12	1
Pink Lady	Andrew Marshall	29	5
The Frog	Andy Pape	16	2
Twin Sharks	John Newnham	23	4
Land & Houses 88	Rob Meizer	30	6
Moto Inzi	Roger Kingdon	18	3
Mamba	Robert van Paridon	40	7

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# FC Phuket win five-goal cup thriller

By Neil Quail

A THRILLING five-goal encounter kept supporters from both FC Phuket and Sri Racha on edge when the teams met in Chonburi on July 13 to decide who would progress to the Toyota League Cup quarter finals.

Following the first leg 1-1 draw at Surakul Stadium on July 6, a game highlighted by a Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre penalty miss, Phuket traveled to Suzuki Stadium aware that a 0-0 draw would be enough to advance Sri Racha into the quarter-finals based on the away-goal rule.

Sri Racha's coach Dusit Chalermsoan said before the game that the pressure of sitting on a draw would be too great and his team would look to score and hold the advantage. It was imperative that Phuket score, and score first.

With substantial home support, Sri Racha were certainly the better side early in the

game. A cross from the left by Yodrak Namangrak gave Suphaporn Phompinit an early opportunity, but his attempt missed the target. Phuket's Kone Adama fouled Justin Moose moments later which earned the big Ivorian a yellow card from the referee.

Phuket had a chance of their own in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute when Niran Funtong's free kick from the right found Abdoul Coulibaly who sent his shot wide.

The second half exploded into life after just two minutes of play when Phuket's Ronnachai Jinakate barged his way from halfway to put Kone Adama through with a perfect pass. Adama made no mistake with his shot and watched as it ricocheted off the post into the goal to give Phuket the lead and a crucial away goal.

Seksit Srisai doubled Phuket's lead in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute, silencing the Sri Racha fans. The possibility of Sri Racha advancing with a scoreless draw evaporated in the space of three minutes, and was replaced by the



**AFTER EIGHTS:** FC Phuket put in a mint performance to reach the last eight of the Toyota Cup against Sri Racha in Chonburi. Photo Apinun Saithong

realization they needed to score three goals in less than 40 minutes.

Hope for a Sri Racha recovery was ignited in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute when Kroekrit Thawikan delivered a cross from the right and Phornsak Porntong drilled home his shot to put the score at 1-2.

The home crowd erupted with excitement when Aron Da Silva capitalized on a pass from Luis Eduardo in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute to bring the teams level at 2-2.

Phuket still had the advantage with two away goals and allowed Sri Racha to move forward in search of the win. The visitors soaked up the pressure, waiting to prey on any mistakes from the Sri Racha side who was desperate to score. In the 93<sup>rd</sup> minute Phuket's patience paid

off. Using his strength to bundle Sri Racha defender Robert Diego off the ball, Adama sent a shot screaming past their goal keeper Lucas Daniel to steal victory in the final moments.

A 3-2 score on the night gave Phuket a 4-3 aggregate win over their Sponsor Thai Premier League opponents and moves them into the quarter-final where a Toyota League Cup semi-final berth beckons.

Coach Sompong Wattana was delighted with the win and felt confident that if they kept this is form, they could beat any team in the Thai League.

Phuket's next league match against Ratpratcha FC is on July 30 at Mahidol Salaya Campus. Kickoff is scheduled for 4pm according to *Siam Sport*.

## Sheffield football clubs for sale in Bangkok bar

AN UNDERCOVER investigation has revealed that the United Kingdom's two Sheffield-based football clubs were touted for sale in the back room of a Bangkok bar.

A group posing as Indian and Chinese businessmen were reportedly offered ownership of Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday by Thailand-based football investment fund London Nominees.

Channel 4's *Dispatches* program secretly filmed the meeting in Bangkok's Manchester United bar. Those involved included Former Thailand football manager and former Sheffield United manager Bryan Robson, who was seen as advising the London Nominees representative.

United, who were said to be

open to a takeover, were offered by Bangkok Manchester United bar owner, Joe Sim, to the undercover team as the 15 million main deal in the one-hour program.

Sheffield United Chairman Kevin McCabe's son Scott McCabe was pictured with Sim and members of the consortium on the pitch at Bramall Lane.

United confirmed they had met Joe Sim of London Nominees Football Fund as a potential buyer.

"We can only strongly repeat what was said by director Scott McCabe in the *Dispatches* program. The potential for any deal died a death," a representative insisted.

"Our owners, as good custodians of the Blades, would always insist that any potential sale of the club would be the subject of full

due diligence checks. They are as concerned as anyone about the concealment of football club ownership and the issues of dual ownership. The McCabe family have a great love and affection for the Blades and will always have the long-term interests of the club at heart," they added.

"As far as Sheffield Wednesday is concerned the content of the program is irrelevant. The timeline of the investigation was March this year. Wednesday was taken over by Milan Mandaric in December last year," a Sheffield Wednesday spokesman said.

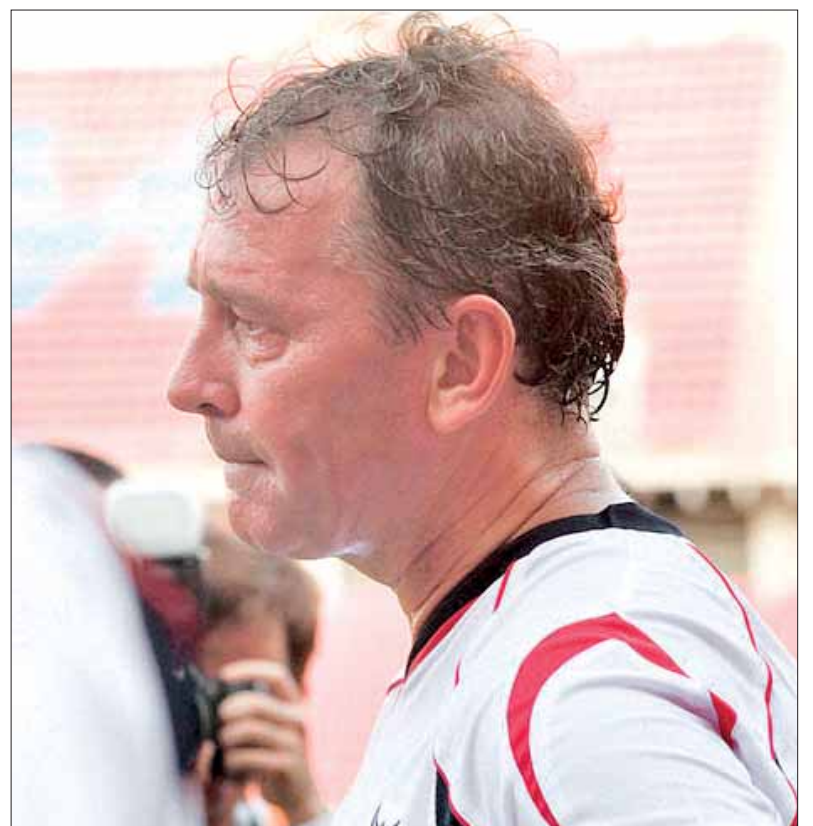
The program reported Sim as being the real power behind the fund and an alleged close contact of Sir Alex Ferguson and Mohamed bin Hammam, the man who tried to go for FIFA's top job, but was suspended pending an investigation into alleged violation of FIFA financial regulations.

At one point the investigative team also proposed that Robson would have to be manager of Sheffield Wednesday for any deal to go through.

However, one voice said off camera "no problem". "That would be difficult. I am now working as a global ambassador for Manchester United," Bryan Robson said.

Later, Robson and his associate said that Sheffield Wednesday has gone now and that they were taken over six months ago.

The London Nominees group



**SHEFFIELD STEAL:** Ex-Thailand football manager Bryan Robson is allegedly involved in the sale of two football clubs. Photo: Government of Thailand

later denied it was offering ownership of two clubs – against Football League rules – but said it was offering an investment in a group that would put funds into the clubs.

Barnsley FC were also mentioned in the program when an investigator discovered the club was registered to Oakwell Holdings. Confusing matters was the fact that all Barnsley shares are reg-

istered to a Manchester solicitor who said he did not own the club, but could put the investigators in touch with the people who were.

Greg Clarke, Chairman of the Football League admitted he is not confident that he knows who the owners of every club in the Football League are, and said the complex ownership structures of many clubs made that virtually impossible. *Source: The Star*

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# Pariwat shines in America

By Neil Quail

Pariwat Pinsawas, 14, from Phuket claimed a share of second place in the Callaway Junior World Golf Championships at Riverwalk Golf Club in California, United States, earlier this month.

A two-under-par third round of 70 secured Pariwat a final score of 211, and joint-second place in the 13-14 year age category with two other players: Americans Danny Hopoi and Corey Shaun.

The three young golf stars each finished on five-under par for the tournament.

Zecheng Dou from the US was the outright winner of the tournament. His consistent play earned him an eight-under-par 208 final score, three shots ahead of the trio in second place.

Pariwat deserved to stand alone in second having not exceeded 72 in any of his three rounds. Twice he shot under par: 69 on the first day, level par 72 on the second day, and birdies on holes 15 and 16 earned him a score of 70 in his last round at the San Diego course.

Hopoi shot an exceptional third round of 67 after a two-over-par 74 on the first day and 70 on the second. Shaun was slightly more balanced than his compatriot, card-

ing 69, 73 and 69 on respective days.

Another Thai player, Thanyathorn Saengpongnapa, placed ninth with a final score of 216. A disappointing finish for the youngster after he blew away the field in the first round with a stunning eight-under-par 64.

Well-known Phuket golfer Prachuab Subcharoen is Pariwat's grand uncle and coach.

"His mother, father, family and friends are very pleased with Pariwat's performance at these Junior World Championships. This was a great experience [for Pariwat] and he has learned a lot from playing against the best young players in the world," Prachuab said.

Prachuab had initially set his protege a target of finishing in the top three, and with this success the young golfer has returned to Thailand and joined the national squad at a training camp in Khon Kaen.

British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter is a close friend of Prachuab and also a co-ordinator for the foreign youth players in the south of Thailand qualifying events, for which he generates sponsorship.

Martin is also involved in golf through his company, Phuket Concierge, who are distribution partners for Fenix, apparel



**TWO'S COMPANY:** Pariwat (left) with Thanyathorn at the Riverwalk Golf Club.

sponsor of the Thai Golf Association.

"Pariwat's team and supporters are thrilled by his performance in the Junior World Championships.

"He has been justly rewarded for all the hard work and dedication he has given to his chosen sport. There is serious belief he has a very bright future ahead of him," said Martin.

Pariwat's qualification to represent Thailand at the Callaway World Junior Golf Championships began when he played in the Southern Region Tournaments of the CAT-TGA Junior Golf Ranking events.

Although only Thai children can represent their country at international level, these golf tournaments are open to all nationalities who live in one of Thailand's southern provinces.

The first event of the CAT-TGA Southern Region for the 2011- 2012 season will be held at the Rachaprapha Dam Golf Course in Surathani Province from August 13 to 14.

For details, contact Martin Carpenter at [mcarpenter@fenixgolf.com](mailto:mcarpenter@fenixgolf.com) (English) or Prachuab Subcharoen at [nuch.pakjak2@hotmail.com](mailto:nuch.pakjak2@hotmail.com) (Thai).

## New tennis academy program at TSLC



**COURTING THE FUTURE:** Thanyapura tennis academy facilities.

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) has announced Travis Bertram of leading tennis management company Peter Burwash International (PBI) as their new tennis director.

Bertram brings his considerable experience in club, junior and elite level coaching to TSLC. Under coach Bertram, the tennis program for the remaining months of 2011 will include ladies tennis mornings, children's training camps and evening clinics.

After retiring from professional tennis in 1975 Burwash founded PBI, a tennis management company that operates in 32 countries. PBI's original concept of "taking tennis to every part of the globe" has since become one of providing opportunities for people who have a passion for tennis and travel.

Burwash is a United States Professional Tennis Association master professional and has coached many players, including Venus and Serena Williams, and Greg Rusedski.

TSLC's Tennis Academy will host regional and international tournaments, while teams and individuals from the world of tennis are expected to use the facility for training purposes. Regional teams and other tennis clubs will also use TSLC for training and weekend breaks.

The TSLC facility holds six Plexicushion courts, the same as those used for the Australian Open. Facilities also include a grandstand with seating and a retail facility with tennis racket stringing service available.

— Neil Quail

## CONGRATULATIONS



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# Return of Raceweek

AS THIS newspaper went to print, the countdown was on for the opening event of Six Senses Raceweek – also known as “The Best Regatta” in Asia, according to Asia Boating Awards.

Hundreds of world-class yachtsmen and women were on Phuket ahead of the opening-day races on Thursday.

Over four days, crews will test themselves in challenging waters off the Evason Phuket in Rawai.

Neil Pryde on *Team Premier* will use the regatta as a springboard to claim early points in the Asian Yachting Grand Prix (AYGP) circuit.

But he will face stern challenges from David Ross on *KukuKERchu*, Mark Mizner on *Babe*, Ben Copley on *Katsu* and Scott Duncanson on *Quantum Fusion M*.

The Multihull Class welcomes Paul Larsen who is taking a break from his current attempt on the outright World Sailing Speed Record in Namibia. Paul will skipper *DaVinci* which will be sporting a brand new set of Quantum racing sails.

Dee Caffari, takes the responsibility of Yachting Ambassador for the event. The round-the-world yachtswoman and record holder will also race with Grenville Fordham on the Andaman Cabriolet, *Nina*, which won the regatta on its first outing in 2009.

The Franke Yacht Chef's Cooking Competition will hold special interest when seven culinary experts who normally prepare their feasts on the water will cook against the clock. Their furiously prepared fare will be judged by the celebrity chef duo of Chef Fang and Chef Faifoo of Channel 5's *Krua INDY* fame.

For full coverage of all Raceweek results, see next week's issue of the Phuket Gazette.

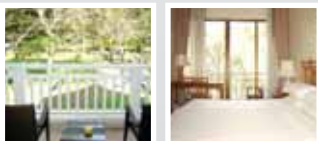


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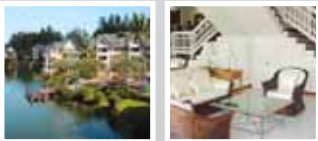
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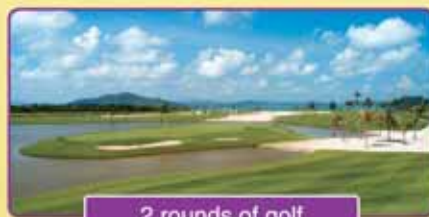
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