

# Phuket Gazette

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25 Baht



Mr Lin's body was found near the rocks at Kata Beach.

## Karon surf claims another tourist life

THE body of 27-year-old Chinese tourist Ruing Lin was found washed ashore Kata Beach last Saturday morning.

Mr Lin disappeared in heavy surf at Karon Beach just before sunset three days earlier.

"A hotel security guard found the body at about 5:30 am," said Karon Municipality Sea Rescue Center Chief Supachai Junphet.

"Mr Lin's identity has been confirmed and his family are communicating with the Chinese consulate," he said.

"I believe they plan to cremate his body - now being kept Vachira Phuket Hospital - in Thailand, and probably just bring his ashes back to China," he said.

Mr Lin disappeared at about 6pm while swimming with his parents and girlfriend.

He and his family apparently ignored red flags and entered the dangerous surf.

The drowning follows that of Australian tourist Jennifer Laidley, who disappeared in heavy surf at Karon Beach on July 5.

# Drownings prompt beach patrol boost

By Atchaa Khamlo

LIFEGUARDS have boosted their patrols on Phuket beaches to help counter the rising number of tourists needing to be saved from dangerous surf and strong rip tides.

The move also comes in the wake of two tourists drowning at Karon Beach in recent weeks.

Uten Singsom, head of the Phuket Lifeguard Club contingent assigned to patrol Kata-Karon, said his lifeguards were posting extra red flags in danger zones to warn tourists.

However, he added that many swimmers were ignoring the warnings and entering the surf.

"We rescue seven to eight people from rip tides every day at Kata Beach, and about the same number each day at Karon Beach," he said.

"We are doing the best we can. We are posting more red flags in danger areas and clearly marking where it is safe to swim with yellow-red flags.

"We are also continually asking tourists to move and swim in the safe zones, but many tourists ignore our warnings and go swim-



Tourists ignoring red flags at Kata Beach. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

ming where it is not safe," an exasperated Mr Uten said.

Tourists going swimming after dark is another key concern.

"Some tourists go swimming after 7pm, when it is dark and there are no lifeguards on the beaches. Last night [July 26], three Russians went swimming right where a rip current was marked with red flags, at about 7.30pm. It was the exact same spot where

the Australian tourist Jennifer Laidley drowned," he said.

Two of the swimmers that night were caught in the rip current.

"Luckily, we had not yet left for the night and a big wave pushed them up onto a sand bar, so we could get them back safely on shore in about four minutes... If the wave had dumped them in a channel, I am not sure they would be all right," said Mr Uten.

Considering the current dangerous trend for tourists going night swimming in dangerous surf, he said lifeguards now kept their emergency radios on at all times.

Local taxi drivers were also helping to keep a watchful eye out, he added.

"Taxi drivers working in the area at night will inform us by radio if they see anyone needing help. We have rescue equipment ready near our lifeguard stations so we can attempt a rescue if needed.

"But it is difficult - and dangerous - attempting a rescue in the dark," he added.

Mr Uten cautioned all swimmers to obey the warning flags and to swim in clearly marked safe areas. "The waves will stay strong right through until the high season arrives," he said.

In the meantime, the beaches will remain generally open, Mr Uten said.

"It's not possible to close the beaches as it would have a big effect on the vendors who rely on the beaches for their income," he added.

## Anchalee remains MP in waiting

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

RAYWAT Areerob on Wednesday confirmed that his seat as a Phuket Member of Parliament was endorsed by the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT) on July 21.

Meanwhile, fellow Democrat Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr had yet to be approved as MP for Phuket 1 constituency, he said.

"The ECT is investigating a complaint regarding an alleged balloting irregularity," he told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Various reports released earlier this week listed MP Raywat - but not Mrs Anchalee - on the list of approved MPs.

According to the ECT's website ([www.ect.go.th](http://www.ect.go.th)) as the *Gazette* went to press, 402 of the 500 MP seats had been approved, while endorsement for the remaining 98 seats were pending investigations into complaints of election law breaches.

State-run National News Bureau of Thailand last Saturday reported that the ECT aimed to endorse 475 seats in the lower

house as soon as possible.

That target, the report said, would enable the first session of Parliament to be held, and thus allow the process for the appointment of a prime minister to begin.

By law, the ECT has 30 days from election day to endorse candidates.

After that, the decisions whether or not to endorse candidates are to be handed over to the Supreme Court.

The 30-day window is set to expire on August 2.



Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr. Photo: Gazette file

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## This Week

### When it rains, it pours



More monitoring stations installed to help predict landslides. **Page 5**

### Business



Starbucks introduces its sleek new logo to Phuket. **Page 11**

### Livewire



Woody lets broadband ISP's duke it out for top honors. **Page 12**

### Food



Sam Wilkinson tries the wine dinner at Amari's Rim Talay **Page 15**

### History



Read how the revered Luang Anuphas created his legacy. **Page 17**

### Sport



An exciting Phuket Raceweek drew to a fitting close. **Page 41**

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# High-speed crash kills two foreigners

By Atchaa Khamlo

TWO survivors of the car crash near Central Festival Phuket that killed two foreigners early last Friday morning have been released from hospital care.

Staff at Vachira Hospital Phuket told the Gazette that Russian national Alena Klimova, 28, was released after stainless-steel pins were inserted in her left leg and her right leg was fitted with a radial gutter splint.

Ms Klimova suffered two broken legs after the car she was travelling in slammed sideways into a power pole.

Fawaz Mubarak, 25, also from Kuwait, suffered minor injuries in the accident and was released from hospital last Saturday.

However, two of their companions were not so lucky.

The driver of the car, Lithuanian Tamara Latvijas Rabo, 31, died instantly in the crash and Kuwaiti Waleed MHH Alostad, 37, the front-seat passenger, later died at Phuket International Hospital



Alena Klimov pinned inside the car. Inset: The wrecked Toyota Vios.

(PIH), said Police Duty Officer Kittiphum Tinthalang.

Police have confirmed that alcohol was not a factor in the accident. Capt Kittiphum said that Ms Rabo had not been drinking but was driving at a high speed

along a slightly downhill section of the road.

When she reached a set of orange "traffic poles" marking a U-turn area, she swerved, causing the car to spin before slamming into the power pole, he said.

## Student denies chicken drug drop

THE university student caught delivering KFC chicken laden with drugs to an inmate at Phuket Prison on Monday has denied the charges against her.

Sathiya Jindakaew arrived at Phuket Prison on Monday to hand the chicken pieces to prisoner Teerawoot Kaengkhan, who is currently serving a drugs sentence at the jail, said Phuket Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon.

"We found 10 *ya bah* [methamphetamine] pills and 0.99 grams of *ya ice* [crystal methamphetamine] in small tubes pushed inside the pieces of chicken," he said.

However, Miss Sathiya denied any knowledge the drugs.

"I had no idea there were drugs hidden in the chicken. A man asked me to bring the chicken to Teerawoot, who is my brother's friend," she said.

Chief Rapin said the case had been handed over to the police for



Sathiya Jindakaew (left) denied any knowledge of drugs being stuffed inside the chicken nuggets, held by Phuket Prison chief Rapin Nichanon.

further investigation.

Capt Tada Sodaruck of Phuket City Police confirmed to the Gazette that Miss Sathiya was charged with possession of *ya bah* and *ya ice* with intent to sell.

Prison Director Rapin said there were many instances of people trying to smuggle drugs and mo-

bile phones into the prison, either by throwing them over the prison walls or by hiding them among items to be passed to prisoners.

"Many visitors try to hide drugs in items to be handed to prisoners. We catch a lot of them, but some of them get through," he said.

## Hotelier dies after early morning sidewalk crash

SWEDISH hotelier Lars-Goran Salomonsson, 54, died early last Tuesday morning after sustaining injuries in a motorcycle accident in Patong.

Mr Salomonsson owned the Lars-Lita guest-house and restaurant in Patong with his wife, Lita.

After hearing the sound of a loud crash around dawn, witnesses found Mr Salomonsson lying in a pool of blood on the footpath of Soi Haad Patong near the Club Andaman Beach Resort.

Nearby was a broken concrete bench. His Honda Phantom motorcycle was lying on the road.

"A witness said that as my hus-

band was driving his motorcycle, a fast-moving van approached from behind and passed him closely. He probably saw the van in his mirror and was frightened and quickly swerved to the right causing his foot peg to hit the curb," Mrs Lita said.

This caused Mr Salomonsson's bike to be tossed, throwing him into a concrete bench and onto the footpath, she said.

Rescue workers rushed Mr Salomonsson to Patong Hospital. He was later moved to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Mr Salomonsson died at about 11:30am that day.



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HOLIDAY INN RESORT PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH



# Patong tunnel plan inches ahead

By Janpen Upatising

RESEARCH consultants tasked with conducting a feasibility study on the controversial Kathu-Patong tunnel released the planned route for the project on July 20.

The proposed route would start from Soi Bang Thong on Phra Barami Rd near the Go-Kart Speedway in Kathu, tunnel through the hills and connect with Phang Muang Sai Kor Rd in Patong, explained Anurak Srisawaeng, one of the study panel members.

Mr Anurak explained at the public meeting that the total length of the proposed route is 3.07 kilometers.

"The route from Kathu will start with a four-lane, ground-level road about 625 meters long.

"The road will lead to twin tunnels, about 1,600m long, through the Nakkerd Hills," he said.

"At the end of the tunnels, the route will continue on a 504m elevated road which will become a six-lane road connecting to Phang Muang Sai Kor Road," Mr Anurak explained.

Study project manager Pongchanit Chuwiruch said that public opinion will be taken into consideration, but the final deci-



The proposed tunnel will exit onto an elevated road bypassing Baan Mon.

sion will ultimately belong to the Ministry of Transport.

"Generally, projects do not need to have 100 per cent agreement [by all stakeholders] in order for construction to be approved," he said.

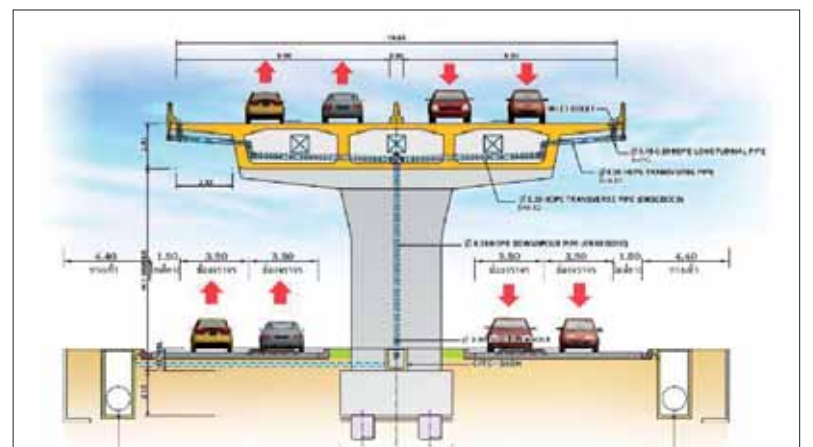
"But we definitely have to listen to opposition as well, and take suitable measures for them," he added.

One earlier concern had been safety and the need for evacua-

tion routes, a contingency now addressed with the tunnels showing exit passages for people trapped inside.

However, several local residents repeated their concern over receiving inadequate compensation for land needed for the project.

Regardless, Mr Pongchanit said, "If everything goes well, without opposition or obstacles, the tunnel could be completed within six years."



TOP: An artist's impression of the entrance to the tunnel, with U-turn. ABOVE: The plan aims to have extra lanes under the elevated road.

## Land reform checks stalls villagers claims

FEARS of land claims encroaching on protected forest land in Phuket have stalled local villagers being issued Chanote titles for plots they say they have full rights to.

About 200 residents from Patong, Kamala, Pa Khlok and Mai Khao appealed to the Phuket Governor on Monday to expedite their *Sor Kor 1* land deeds being elevated to Chanote status.

The villagers say they want to develop the land for their children, but the *Sor Kor 1* deeds they currently hold allow for agricultural use only, with no development of the land allowed.

Santi Sariya, subdistrict chief (Kamnan) of Kamala, pointed out that the villagers filed their applications two years ago after a policy laid down during the last Thaksin government.

The villagers, wanting to avoid court involvement, filed their applications before the two-year deadline, he said.

They have been waiting for news from the Phuket Provincial

Land Office (PPLO) ever since, he added.

However, Governor Tri Augkaradacha pointed out that many of the claims needed to be investigated to ensure the plots applied for did not extend into protected forest, and that at least five government agencies needed to agree on whether or not to issue a Chanote for any such plots.

Puchit Piddum, who took up the position of Phuket Provincial Land Office (PPLO) chief on July 19, said he needed time to look into the claims.

"Over the weekend, I looked briefly into the cases in Kamala. There are about 229 land plots being requested that still do not have land ownership documents issued.

"Most of the claims for plots in Kamla are either in reserved forest areas or adjoining them," he said.

"I have yet to look into the Patong claims," he added.

— Janpen Upatising

## Drug bust links to 'Bangkok Hilton'

POLICE made one arrest and seized over 17,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills in what they say is a major breakthrough in stopping a drug delivery chain from Bangkok to Phuket.

A provincial anti-drugs task force together with Border Patrol Police from Takuapa in Phang Nga arrested Prapan "Ae" Nammali during a sting operation in Saphan Hin Village last Sunday night.

A subsequent search of his house uncovered 17,300 *ya bah* pills and 150 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Mr Prapan, 36, told police that he collected drug shipments from "Mr Bas", who delivered them personally from Bangkok by bus.



Prapan (right) after his arrest.

The most recent delivery, his third shipment received, totaled 30,000 *ya bah* pills and one kilogram of *ya ice* with an estimated street value of more than five million baht.

Mr Prapan said he was hired as a distributor after police arrested "Mr Aod", who was found in pos-

session of 30,000 *ya bah* pills on May 12.

After he sold each shipment, Mr Papan contacted "Mr A", who he named as the ringleader behind the deliveries.

Mr A would organize for money to be transferred to Mr Prapan's bank account: 30,000 baht for each of the first and second shipments, and 40,000 baht for this latest delivery.

Mr Prapan said Mr A was currently serving a prison sentence at Bang Kwang Prison in Bangkok, also notoriously known as the "Bangkok Hilton".

Mr A is allegedly serving a drugs sentence following his arrest in Phuket in 2005.



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

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# Heavy rains trigger fatal trench collapse

A BURMESE migrant worker was buried alive at a Phuket construction site on July 25 when a large pile of dirt slid into the trench he was working in.

Min Hla Thein, 45, was working on a large drainage system at the Phuket Villa 5 project in Wichit when the landslide filled the 2.5-meter ditch, police said.

Phuket City Police Capt Somchai Nuubun arrived at the scene to find Mr Min's body placed in front of a backhoe next to the trench. His body did not have any visible injuries, he said.

Other workers were unable to dig through to Mr Min in time and he suffocated. Two of his co-workers had exited the trench only minutes earlier, Capt Somchai said.

Police suspect that recent rains contributed to the landslide, but are also investigating the contractor's decision to place piles of dirt alongside the trench.

The incident comes only days after new legislation came into effect to enforce stricter employer



Police suspect rains contributed to the landslide. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

liability when it comes to workplace safety.

For further details please see page eight for this week's *Taking a slide* editorial and pages four and five for the news feature on landslide early warning systems.

This issue is an increasingly important issue as the Thai Meteorological Department has predicted 18 to 22 days of rainfall – which could reach up to total of 400 millimeters – during the month of August.

– Yodsak Jarana

# Predicting

By Atchaa Khamlo and Steven Layne

CHANGES in climate and misuse of land have increased the risk of landslides in Phuket, Phang Nga and other provinces, the Department of Water Resources warned.

"In recent years, we have seen an increase in heavy downpours of rain focused on specific areas – not distributed over wider areas as in the past," Wiwat Sojoeiya, Director at the Department of Water Resources, said at a public hearing in Phuket Town on July 20.

"Housing and hotel construction projects on hilltops and near water sources are also contributing to the increased risk," he added.

The hearing was held to announce progress and collect feedback on the government's campaign to implement a nationwide landslide early warning system, a project that began in 2005.

Director Wiwat explained that the project's objective is to alert villagers one to two hours before a landslide occurs.

"After [automated] stations have been setup in areas at risk from landslides, rain and soil measurements are sent to hydrologists for further analysis.

"When a risk is determined, station officers will coordinate with local and relevant organizations such as the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) to organize a timely evacuation of the affected villages," director Wiwat said.

A booklet released by the DDPM lists two types of early warning stations. The first type is built near a water source – such as a lake or pond – and is designed to collect and analyze rainfall measurements.

Equipped with an automated

rain gauge, soil moisture sensor, thermometer, warning light, speaker set and an equipment cabinet, each station can service villages within a radius of about five kilometers.

The second type is setup at or near a bridge, along a stream or river and is designed to monitor water level fluctuations. Optimally, it can give up to three hours warning to at-risk villages downstream.

Its facilities comprise an automated water level measuring device, rain gauge, thermometer, equipment cabinet, warning light, speaker set and a water level indicator post installed near the station.


Other measurements collected at the stations include soil temperature and moisture levels. Data is forwarded via GPRS to the Water Resources Department in Bangkok, which serves as the national data collection and monitoring center.

Director Wiwat said, "The system automatically sends data to the monitoring center every 15 minutes. Our officers work on rotating shifts to closely monitor the data 24-hours-a-day, especially during the rainy season.

Local representatives are responsible for monitoring and maintaining equipment at the stations. In the event of equipment malfunction, they can inform us to come and fix it. We [Department of Water Resources] coordinate with the DDPM to train the local reps."

As for the primary warning mechanism, stations are equipped with a loud speaker and a three-light system: green, yellow and red.


"A green light means monitoring is in progress, yellow is to give warning to people to collect their important belongings in preparation for an evacuation, while red tells villagers to migrate out of the




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The DDPM can be called in to maintain early warning station equipment. Photo: Department of Water Resource



# landslides ahead of time



Villages set in valleys or low ground between mountains are particularly at risk. Photo: Department of Water Resource

## Phuket areas at risk from landslides:

Rassada  
Wichit  
Sakoo  
Mai Khao  
Cherng Talay  
Thepkrasattri

Koh Kaew  
Rawai  
Thalang  
Karon  
Kamala  
Chalong

area and up to a safe place as quickly as possible," Director Wiwat explained.

Analyses conducted by the department has identified 2,370 landslide-risk village areas nationwide, 40 of those are in Phuket and 58 in Phang Nga.

"1,567 villages are already under early warning coverage, while the other 803 – including a remaining 15 in Phuket, and 21 in Phang Nga – will be under coverage soon.

"This year, 268 data collection stations will be built to bring the remaining villages in 37 provinces under coverage," Wiwat said.

"Using a budget of about 155.6 million baht, the stations will be installed mostly around hillsides in the northern, western and southern regions of Thailand.

"However, our analyses is still ongoing. The number of risk areas across the country is expected to increase as a result of deteriorating ecological conditions," he emphasized.

"The project contract is due to expire on April 1, 2012. The [remaining] equipment and facilities will be ready by the end of this year, after which they will need to go through a test phase before being fully operational," he said.

Documents provided by the department show that there are plans to build three data collection stations with coverage of fifteen risk villages in Phuket.

The first station will cover seven at-risk villages in Phuket's Rassada, Koh Kaew and Wichit municipalities.

The second will be built in Rawai and the third in Sakoo municipality in Thalang, each will cover four villages.

Phuket's six existing stations

– which cover 25 villages – were built in Sri Sunthon, Karon, Mai Khao, Kamala – Cherng Talay, Thepkrasattri and Chalong-Wichit.

The documents also list 10 stations to be built in neighboring Phan Nga province, identifying 21 risk villages in the following districts: Koh Yao, Ta Kua Tung, Mueang Phang Nga, Tai Mueang, Takua Pa and Ka Pong districts. Phang Nga currently has 14 stations covering 37 at-risk villages.

"Before proceeding, we would like to get feedback and opinions from the people living in the risk areas as to achieve maximum benefit," Mr Wiwat told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"Actually, we would prefer to make improvements in [maintaining] ecology and water sources in forest areas to make the ground more firm to hold tree roots," he said.

"It is our opinion that a preventive approach would be more beneficial than an early warning system," he added.



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# Wind power heading offshore

By Janpen Upatising

KOH Lone School will receive their first free wind turbine in August thanks to a joint initiative by a Japanese manufacturer and the Phuket Provincial Energy Office (PPEO).

PPEO Chief Jirasak Tumma-wetch along with representatives from A-Wing Co Ltd, the Thai affiliate of the Japanese small wind turbine manufacturer, made the announcement at a meeting with Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak.

A-Wing set up operations in Thailand to lower production costs and better supply the ASEAN region with their products. The planned turbine has a production capacity of 1,000 watts and will be a step toward relieving Koh Lone, located off Phuket's southwest coast, of its electrical supply shortages.

"Each Koh Lone household currently pays about 2,000 baht a month to run their generator, but this only provides them with four hours of electricity per day. They are having trouble," Mr Jirasak said.

"We are drawing up a plan to request 18 million baht from the



The delegation from A-Wing (Thailand) explain the virtues of wind power.

Ministry of Energy and a Swedish fund in order to install wind turbines, solar panels and hydro-electricity generators on the island so that residents have access to a continuous supply of electricity," he added.

Mr Jirasak explained that one small wind turbine could generate enough electricity to supply a single household.

"This wind turbine can start generating electricity at wind speeds as low as 1.5 meters per second... I think wind energy can be harnessed to supply power for

streetlights and small hotels," he added.

Arine Thongsthit, business coordinator at A-Wing explained that the company is aiming to bring electricity to areas where there has been no previous supply.

"A-Wing International donated four 500-watt wind turbines to Koh Paluay in Surat Thani in February as part of the Ministry of Energy's Green Island project," she said.

V/Gov Somkiet expressed his support for the project, saying, "In the future, it will be possible



A-Wing donated four 500-watt wind turbines to Koh Paluay in February.

for people to use wind turbines to generate their own personal electrical supply, especially those who live in houses on hillsides or residents who live far away from main power supplies."

Big Buddha Hill was a potential site for the next wind turbine installation, Mr Jirasak said.

"Wind speeds there reach about six meters per second, which is quite strong when used for producing energy. I think we should support the temple with wind turbines because it is still relying on generators," he said.

## Dane's death 'accidental': Investigation

THE Danish man found dead at a Phuket hotel Tuesday last week likely died as a result of diabetes and heavy drinking and smoking, police said.

The body of 62-year-old Preben Thamsen Schmidt was found in the gardens of the Print Kamala Resort early in the morning. He had wounds to his face and arms and was last seen drinking in front of his hotel room at 1am.

Lt Col Anek Mongkol of Kamala Police said there would be no medical examination, as Mr Schmidt's wife is certain he died as a result of a combination of his illness and addictions.

"His wife said she has no doubts about his death being a result of behavior and the diabetes," Lt Col Anek said.

"Our initial investigation indicates that his death was an accident. He was drunk and fell," he said.

"We assume that the wounds on his face were caused by rocks or other solid objects when he fell off the [ground floor] walkway. We do not think this case involves violent crime," he said.

## Debt blamed for woman's suicide

POLICE believe an unpaid debt of 6,000 baht was the catalyst that prompted a 40-year-old woman to commit suicide last week.

Phuket City police responded to an early afternoon report last Wednesday, arriving at a home in Rassada to find Sangob Ratpan hanged by a scarf tied to water pipe in her bathroom.

"Ms Sangob's sister told us that three female friends of hers came to the room and asked for 6,000 baht she had borrowed," said Lt Col Ekkasit Pinkaew.

"They argued for a while after Ms Sangob was unable to pay, then the friends left. Her sister entered the room about an hour later and found a suicide note on a table and



Rescue workers recover Ms Sangob's body from the housing estate.

Ms Sangon's body in the bathroom," he added.

Lt Col Ekkasit explained that Ms Sangon was from Thung Song in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and that no wounds or signs of a struggle

were found in the room.

"The suicide note indicated that she killed herself to escape the 6,000 baht debt and other problems she faced.

— Yodsak Jarana

## Mother shoots child, self over hauntings

A POLICE investigation into a mother's suicide after attempting to murder her infant daughter took a bizarre turn when a "curse-cleansing" ritual was held at the local police station.

Last week, Siripat Kongkla, the 31-year-old wife of Nonthaburi City Police Officer Kongcham Kongkla, reportedly shot their five-year-old daughter using her husband's 9mm handgun before turning the weapon on herself.

Mr Kongcham said he was taking a shower when the incident occurred.

After realizing what happened, he rushed his critically injured daughter to the hospital and alerted rescuers to help his wife.

Mrs Siripat was later pronounced dead at the hospital while their daughter, Prapilai "Beam", was unconscious and in critical condition.

Police questioning of both Mr Kongcham and his neighbors of the Kongklas indicated that there were no apparent disputes or warning signs in the time leading up to the shooting.

However, relatives revealed that Mrs Siripat had been complaining about the police station's banyan tree spirit haunting her dreams.

The hauntings began when the family moved into police housing a month earlier when Mr Kongcham was promoted.

Mrs Siripat interpreted the dreams as warnings that something bad would befall the family



if they didn't move.

This led her to believe that the police station was cursed by past misdeeds and depression when she was unable to persuade her husband to move to their other home in Bang Bua Thong.

As her mental state deteriorated, she threatened to take their daughter and leave Mr Kongcham.

The revelations incited fear among the policeman's colleagues and other residents in the building. Nonthaburi city police officers took time off duty last Thursday to make mass offerings and perform rites to appease the revered guardian spirit.

Banyan trees are known as a sacred fig throughout Thailand and South Asia, believed to be the home of guardian spirits.

The trees are easy to spot due to the small shrines that are commonly attached to their multi-sprouted trunk.

Offerings are made to appease guardian spirits and bring good fortune, but any harm, misdeeds or evil acts – to the tree itself or occurring within its immediate proximity – are believed to have the opposite effect.

— Kom Chad Luek

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# Yingluck under fire over Cabinet selection claims

PRIME minister in waiting Yingluck Shinawatra has come under fire from critics who claim her family is deciding who will take seats in her Cabinet.

New opposition MP Chuwit Kamolvisit said the allocation of Cabinet seats was being dominated by Yingluck's brother Thaksin, another brother Payap Shinawatra and sister Yaowapha Wongsawat.

The accusations helped fuel the perception that Yingluck is the nominee of her

brother Thaksin, who once described his younger sister as his "clone".

"Instead of making colorful comments, just you wait and see my Cabinet first," said Yingluck.

She said the filling of ministerial portfolios would be vetted and approved by the Pheu Thai executive board, denying the involvement of Thaksin or other members of the Shinawatra clan.

Thai law states the Parliament must con-

vene its first meeting within 30 days of an election. It cannot convene until 95 per cent of MPs are endorsed by the Election Commission.

As of July 24, 402 of 500 MPs had been endorsed, with several key red-shirt leaders on Pheu Thai's party list yet to be accepted.

EC chairman Apichart Sukhaggonond said last week that he was confident the EC would make the endorsements in time.



SPOTLIGHT: Yingluck faces the media.

## Democrat 'star' faces corruption charges

DEMOCRAT Party star Apirak Kosiyodhin's campaign to become the party's next secretary-general has been dealt a blow after the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) filed graft charges against him and four other men.

The charges relate to the 6.68-billion-baht purchase of fire trucks and boats from Austrian firm Steyr-Daimler-Puch during Mr Apirak's tenure as governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. The equipment was reportedly worth only 3 to 3.5 billion baht.

Also facing charges are former interior minister Bhokin Bhalakula, former deputy interior minister Pracha Maleenont, former commerce minister Wattana Muangsuk, and former director of the BMA Fire and Rescue Department Pol Maj Gen Atilak Tanchukiat.

The NACC has accused the five men and the Austrian company of abusing power and colluding to arrange the deal.

Mr Apirak is accused of negligence for signing a letter of credit for the deal in 2004, despite knowing that the project was mired with irregularities. He stepped down as BMA governor in 2008 to take responsibility for the scandal.

The Supreme Court will decide on August 24 whether to rule on the case.

# Army chopper crashes spark spooky rumors

## AROUND THE nation

THREE helicopter crashes on the Thai-Burma border killing 17 people within nine days have left Thailand searching for answers – with the superstitious blaming the tragedies on angry jungle spirits.

The first accident happened on July 16, when a Huey (UH-1H) crashed in jungle in Phetchaburi's Kaeng Krachan National Park, killing five soldiers.

The chopper had been making sorties to take a team of soldiers and journalists hunting encroachers out of the forest.

Three days later, a Black Hawk, one of just seven owned by the Royal Thai Army, disappeared while on a mission to recover bodies from the first crash.

Hopes were high that those on the second mission were safe until July 22, when the wreckage of the Black Hawk was discovered. All nine passengers, including Channel 5 cameraman Sornchai Kongtannikul, were killed.

Then on July 24, a third helicopter crashed in the same area



Coffins of those who died in the Black Hawk crash are placed at Wat Thung Lad Ya in Kanchanaburi. Photo: The Nation

while attempting to retrieve bodies from the second accident. Three of the four soldiers on board were killed, bringing the death toll to 17.

"I am so sorry for what happened. Three more lives were lost," said Thai Army aviation commander Maj Gen Pitaya Krajangwong.

The first two crashes seemed to have been caused by bad weather, while the third resulted from a faulty tail rotor, he said.

Sgt Pattanaporn Tonjan, the

mechanic who survived the third crash, was quoted as saying that the two engines suddenly stopped working at the same time.

But some observers believe there is something more sinister at play, blaming the crashes on "bad omens".

"The guardian spirits here are very fierce," one local villager was quoted as saying.

The sequence of tragedies has put the Army on the defensive, with questions being asked about the safety of its helicopter fleet.

Army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha reacted angrily to media reports and academics who questioned the decision making of the Army's senior leaders.

He called on them to show responsibility for causing a drop in the morale of army aviation personnel.

Gen Prayuth attended the funeral in Kanchanaburi of Maj Gen Tawan Ruengsri, the highest-ranking casualty, among others. He traveled from Bangkok by road, instead of taking a helicopter.

## Crown Prince plane debacle rumbles on

THE debacle over the seizure in Germany of a Boeing 737 used by HRH Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn continues, after insolvency administrator Werner Schneider said he was considering impounding a second plane used by the prince.

The first jet remains impounded after a German court ruled it could be released only on payment of a 20-million-euro deposit. The Thai government refused to pay, continuing to argue that the jet remained the personal property of the Crown Prince.

Thai Attorney General Julasing Wasantasing said the Crown Prince had expressed concern for Thai people's feelings in the wake

of the seizure of the plane and asked the Thai government not to pay the deposit.

German tabloid *Bild am Sonntag* quoted Mr Schneider as saying he was "considering further steps, including seizing the prince's second plane."

Mr Schneider impounded the first jet on July 13 to try to force the Thai government to resolve a 30-million-baht debt to a now-defunct German firm. Mr Schneider argues that the plane is the property of the Thai government. The government insists it is the Crown Prince's personal property, arguing it was given to him by the Royal Thai Air Force in 2007.

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# Taking a slide

ANOTHER rainy season in Phuket, and yet another death from a landslide. The trench collapse on Monday that killed Burmese laborer Min Hla Thein came just nine days after new workplace health and safety legislation came into effect.

Among the main aims of the new regulations was to make employees legally liable for not following safety requirements laid down by law and company policy. Anyone in the construction industry would not have to look far to discover that when digging trenches in questionable earth, the first priority is reinforcing the walls to ensure that workers are not crushed by a cave-in.

Whether the lack of reinforcement of the trench walls will be unearthed by the "investigation" into this latest incident remains to be seen, but the news of a landslide-related death should not have come as a surprise. Phuket's safety record for landslides on construction sites speaks for itself.

Last year project foreman Thawisak Nukaeo and a laborer identified only as "Neung" died while – in a bitter irony – they were building a retaining wall for a resort under construction on Soi Sang Krasee off Nanai Road in Patong.

The other worker caught by the landslide, identified only as "Sorn", escaped death but was rushed to hospital for injuries.

In 2008, three Burmese were crushed by landslide at a construction site on 50 Pi Road. In 2007, a landslide off Nanai Rd Soi 9 left buildings hanging precariously while smothering a Burmese laborers' camp below, trapping an 18-month-old child. Luckily no one was seriously injured in that incident.

And earlier this month guests and staff at the Orchidee Residences in Patong escaped almost certain death when boulders hurtled down from a road construction project high in the hills above them, crashing into the building, uprooting trees and bringing tons of earth along with them.

And all this follows year after year of public warnings and landslide "preparedness" training exercises. How much more warning do we need to stop any more people from needlessly dying?

One common denominator throughout all these landslides over the years is that the first in line to suffer is the ubiquitous Burmese worker, the unsung hero of Phuket's construction boom. At least this year there seems to be something new: we have a person's name to report, not just a nickname or a no-name somebody who just paid the ultimate price for developing a "Greater Phuket".

Perhaps now with a new death fresh in people's minds, contractors might exercise more caution. Considering that building any resort or hotel in Phuket in less than six months would be a magnificent feat, the least contractors can do is to build the retaining walls and any other reinforcement barriers first and get on with the rest of the work thereafter.

Whether the island's scrupulous developers and contractors will start doing this as an "industry standard" – with or without any pressure from the authorities – remains to be seen.

– The Editor



## Monkey see, monkey do

*Re:Gazette online, Phuket pirates plea for sympathy, assert right to sell illegal goods, July 23*

If the law is not enforced, then there is no law. So, everyday illegal behavior becomes society's accepted standard.

If police suddenly start selective enforcement of the law, then the police are being unfair. Simple logic.

Thailand has never really had 'rule of law'. The basic reason is that the common people observe how a select few are above the law, so why should they do otherwise?

The Bob  
Gazette forum

### Letters to the Editor

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

payout or compensation for his family. These unfortunate people are well bottom of the food chain in Thailand.

It is a shame the tourists don't realize that the luxury resorts and villas are built off the backs of 'slave labour'.

People seem to care and complain more if it is mammals (dolphins) that are threatened!

Logic  
Gazette forum

However, if there were a natural or man-made disaster it is nice to know that the State Department can quickly look to see how many Americans may be in the affected area and to have a way to get in touch with them.

This would be something beyond the embassy itself, which may be swamped at the time.

Mike  
Gazette forum

### Heed the warnings

*Re:Gazette online, Foul weather stalls search for missing Phuket tourist, July 22*

When will they learn? There are red flags and lifeguards telling people to move away from the rips.

Karon Beach is one of the most dangerous beaches in Phuket. I sit at Kata Beach every day and see the lifeguards there risking their own lives but it doesn't seem to sink in with many people.

I am sorry for the loss of a life of someone holidaying in Phuket but I am afraid it will not be the last.

Bob Hop  
Gazette forum

### Love a feel good story

*Re:Gazette online, Japanese to power up Phuket offshore students, July 25*

This is absolutely wonderful. Perhaps the next generation will take where our energy comes from more seriously.

There is hope after all. We need more feel-good stories like this one. A tip of the hat to all involved.

More, please.

Dave Williams  
Gazette forum

### Light at the end of the tunnel

*Re:Gazette online, Plans unveiled for Phuket's long-awaited Patong tunnel, July 21*

Finally, it looks like something might happen to fix the road that leads to the number one tourist zone on the island.

I am still wondering why they spent all those millions on a 'Welcome to Patong' sign that adds no value to anything.

The millions of baht wasted on that should have been used for critically important things, improvement of the road surface high on the list.

Garry  
Gazette forum

### Treat thy neighbor as thyself

*Re:Gazette online, Phuket landslide kills Burmese migrant worker, July 25*

Burmese are seen as expendable. There will be no insurance

### STEPping up to help

*Re:Gazette online, US Embassy calls for Americans to STEP up, July 20*

This is not a new big brother service, just a new name. I have been living in Phuket for eight years and have been in the system for several years with no ill effects.

### The perfect crime

*Re:Gazette online, Phuket Police on lookout for panty bandit, July 21*

My girlfriend called the police when a man broke into our yard and stole her underwear. They did nothing and didn't see this as a serious problem at all.

This 'do-nothing' response happened a few times.

The police here are not helpful.

Kris  
Gazette forum

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# Needless concerns over carrying on

## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

MANY people surrounding me are concerned that many of Phuket's top officials, including myself, will be transferred to other provinces when the Pheu Thai Party has formed a new government. They fear this because I am not a member of the party.

As a government official I do not take sides with any party. My duty is to carry out the practical application of policies to the best of my ability.

I was promoted from District Office chief to Assistant Governor when the Thai Rak Thai Party, now the Pheu Thai Party, formed a government many years ago, and then to vice governor under the government formed by the People Power Party, which is another former incarnation of the Pheu Thai Party.

So, I believe that if each official does their best, they will receive fair treatment from whichever government is in power at the time. I have experienced enough success over the years to allow me to serve as Phuket Governor until I retire in October of this year.

The Pheu Thai Party raised drug issues during their recent election campaign. I am quite certain that the new government will focus on this following the successful drug policies of both Thai Rak Thai and People Power Party.

The Narcotics Control Board



Phuket Governor **Tri Augkaradacha** has seen many changes of government during his career and the shift in policies that comes with each. As his October retirement date nears, he speaks about the effects the new government will have on Phuket, the minimum wage increase and recent protests by pirated goods vendors.

has a special team at Suvarnabhumi Airport. They cooperate with drug enforcement bodies from many countries in exchanging information and to block drug trade routes.

It is now a concern that traffickers will use Phuket as a new point of entry into Thailand. I plan to set up a team at Phuket International Airport to stop this from happening. We will begin when the new government has finalized their drug enforcement policies.

Tourists visiting Phuket should not be concerned about this. The team will only check travellers who raise suspicion.

Tourism development should be another issue on the new government's agenda. I have already met with the Pheu Thai Party's economic team and discussed projects in Saphan Hin. They have asked for an initial report and aim to build a hotel, IT center and improve infrastructure to help develop Phuket to a standard that is equal to Singapore.

The economics team also con-

firmed that the budgets approved by the previous government for the Klong Phee Road project, Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) and the expansion of Phuket International Airport will remain intact.

These projects will take time because the budgets are not managed by Phuket officials, we only coordinate with the relevant offices. The Highways Department is in charge of the Klong Koh Phee Road project, the Treasury Department is responsible for the ICEC and the Ministry of Transportation is overseeing the airport expansion.

Moving on to the minimum wage increase, I think Phuket consumers will be the hardest hit by this change. At this time, the minimum wage is at a peak of 224 baht.

The new government should gradually increase the minimum wage to 300 baht over the course of four years, not all at once. This keeps their promise and gives businesses time to manage their costs.

# Bundle 'em up, return to sender

"HOW dare those conniving migrant workers steal our rights, identities and jobs – they need to be dealt with, pronto!"

This is the type of nationalistic sentiment that is perpetuated by both politicians and civilians alike.

It is not limited to Thailand either. A similar dilemma has spurred the ire of "patriots" in the United States where migrant workers are used as a scapegoat for everything from the low standards of education and health care to rising unemployment rates.

It's true that most employers in the US now prefer, if not require, applicants who can speak English and Spanish, and that schools and hospitals are struggling to accommodate the swelling population of alien children. Let's be fair, most Americans can't be bothered to do the back-breaking labor for the same wages and hours that immigrants are willing to accept.

Moreover, those who think that fundamental health and education services are exclusive rights to be determined by immigration status have a lot of catching up to do.

These points do beg the question, however, whether the livelihoods of Americans and Thais are really threatened by alien laborers.

Let's recall the underlying reason why there is even a demand for a migrant workforce in the first place. Does anybody really believe someone wakes up one day and has a revelation: "Today I'm going to cross the border and steal my neighbor's job, and while I'm

## Island View

By Thep Soula-wynne

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



Migrant workers are an integral part of society.

at it, I'll make sure my child goes to school and seizes opportunities from the local children too... catch me if you can!"

In reality, there is a reciprocal nature to the exchange. Profit-driven labor markets are dependent on long-hour-low-wage services. One cannot exist without the other.

It is those emerging from poverty who are most willing to provide these services – which locals are either unwilling or incapable of doing.

Shipping migrant workers and their children back to where they came from will not solve education and health care issues.

However, it just might free up a lot of jobs.

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

### Where can I play tennis in Phuket?

I would like to know where I can play tennis in Patong or elsewhere in Phuket.

There are courts at some big hotels but they are only available to guests.

If there are tennis courts available, what are the costs of using them?

Also, is it possible to find a tennis partner in Phuket?

I am looking for someone of reasonable skill but not a professional. I am still a beginner.

**Super Hero Patong**

**Benjawit Thongtan, president of Phuket Lawn Tennis Club (PLTC), replies:**

The PLTC operates six outdoor courts on Surin Rd in Phuket Town on behalf of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*).

The courts are open daily between 4:30pm and 9pm. Three of

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

Submit your issue at

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

which are reserved for lessons.

All-day use of a court for a non-member costs 50 baht.

Monthly membership fees cost 400 baht for men and 350 baht for women.

To become a member, Thai nationals must submit a head-shot photograph of at least 1x0.5 inch size and a photocopy of their national ID card. Foreigners must submit a photocopy of their passport.

Every member has to pay a 500-baht registration fee.

Tennis balls are available to members free of charge. You will only need to bring your own racket.

**Somchai Pitaksa-nguan, head of the Sports and Recreation Section of the Education Division at Phuket City Municipality, replies:**

Four tennis courts are available for public use at the Saphan Hin Sports Center, which is open daily from 6am to 9:30pm. The facilities are closed during New Year and Songkran holidays.

Two courts are used for lessons from 5pm to 7pm. It is best to come outside of these times as space is limited.

Monthly membership costs 250 baht per adult or 150 baht per month for people under 25 years old.

Annual membership costs 2,400 baht per year, or 1,200 baht per year for under-25s.

Members can use the courts for free. Non-members are charged 30 baht per person for all-day use of a court. Thai nationals and foreigners are charged the same amount.

There is no strict dress code for use of the tennis courts, but we do require that you wear sports sneakers with non-marking soles.

For more information, call Saphan Hin Youth Sports Center at 076-250163.

### One size fits most: public transport woes

Is there a minimum roof height requirement for *songthaew* (Thai-style open air public transport vehicles) operating regular routes in Phuket?

I was on the Phuket Town-Sarasin Bridge *songthaew* last week. The ceiling was very low and I had to contort myself just to get in.

Then, as we were going through the curvy section on Thepkrasattri Road in Sapam, I was trying to open a can of beer when we hit a huge speed bump. My head hit the wood ribbing and started to bleed, while my beer can started foaming all over the place, soaking my pants.

To add insult to injury, a bunch of high school girls thought this was amusing and started laughing at my plight. I don't understand

why the backs need to be so low. I don't believe it could have anything to do with air resistance. These box-like vehicles are about as far from F1 race cars as you will ever get.

**Somchai Huasaikul Kuku**

**A vehicle inspection officer at the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) replies:**

The minimum standard for the height of the roof of the passenger compartment is 1.60 meters.

I agree that it is too low for foreigners, but the roof height is considered appropriate for Thai people.

**Wanta Pummaraossukon, chief of the PLTO's Academic Department, replies:**

According to [the unwritten rules of] social etiquette, you are not supposed to drink alcohol or bring any foul-smelling objects, pets or other cargo that could bother fellow passengers onto *songthaew*. This applies to all kinds of public transport vehicles.



# Making room in Jungceylon

By Anand Singh

BUSINESSES and homeowners who are having trouble finding storage space now have the option of using a unique storage facility located in the compounds of Jungceylon shopping mall.

With a fire-resistant building equipped with advanced access systems, My Storage is the only service in Phuket that offers dedicated storage space for households and businesses. Robert Akerblom, general manager of My Storage, said that the idea for the storage facility came to him out of personal frustration.

"When we first came to Phuket we had a lot of personal belongings with us. After quite an extensive search for a suitable place to temporarily store our belongings, we found a local company offering storage. However, when we finally came back to collect our goods and move into a new home a number of months later, most had been damaged due to weather, water leakage and vermin," Robert explained.

Phuket's real estate sector has seen much growth in the last decade, with many new houses, villas and condominiums being built and rented out. According to Robert, the industry's continued growth has prompted new demand for storage services.

"A number of expats are relocating to Phuket, either temporarily, seasonally or



**PACK IT AWAY:** Until now, simple and inexpensive storage hasn't been easy to find in Patong.

permanently. Expats make up a large proportion of home renters in Phuket. Some of these foreigners, however, spend only a few months each year in Phuket," Robert explained.

"When they leave to go abroad, they often have problems with personal belongings. Some people store them in the house itself,

but many want to sublet their empty houses to other renters. Therefore they need a separate place for their belongings," Robert added.

In August 2010, My Storage rented a concrete building next to Jungceylon shopping mall and fitted it with 255 storage units of different sizes, ranging from one cubic

meter lockers to 25m<sup>3</sup> storage rooms. The main entrance to the storage units is accessible with a PIN code. The individual storage units are locked using the customers' own locks. Unit rental costs range from 995 to 16,250 baht per month, depending on the size of the storage area.

"Most of our customers so far have been foreigners, as expected. There are still quite a few Thais who are unaware of our service. However, we have only been open for a year and our services are gaining awareness not just from expats and home renters, but from businesses for inventory storage as well," Robert said.

When asked about security for the facility, Robert said that the company guarantees the safety of customers' belongings.

"It is our job to make sure that customers' belongings are safe around the clock. Our facility is fitted with state-of-the-art security systems, including an advanced access system, 24-hour CCTV monitoring and an intruder alarm system," Robert explained.

"If, for any reason, our customers' belongings are damaged or destroyed in our care, we will compensate our customers for the loss. For customers who rented out locker units, we are able to compensate up to 100,000 baht in damages. For larger storage units, we are able to compensate up to 500,000 baht," he added.

## PIMEX announces new boat show dates

THE Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) will be moved from its traditional post-New Year dates to a new slot from March 29 to April 1 next year.

The hosting venue of Royal Phuket Marina will, however, remain the same.

The new dates at the end of the high season mean that an exciting range of new boats from some of the biggest brands in the boating industry will be available for the

show, providing what will be the best in-water display in the show's history.

Exhibitors at PIMEX 2012 will have access to the thriving boating scene in Asia's favorite cruising grounds: Phuket and the Andaman Sea in Thailand.

Exhibition hall and berthing plans for 2012 have been posted, and bookings are open for prime locations in the exhibition hall and marina (subject to availability).

Following demand from the industry, the in-water display has been increased to cater for 60 vessels.

For bookings, contact Andy Dowden E: [info@phuketboatshow.com](mailto:info@phuketboatshow.com) or T: 081 892 7670 or Piyawan Songawas E: [piyawan.songsawas@informayachtgroup.com](mailto:piyawan.songsawas@informayachtgroup.com) or T: 089 890 9423 or Clare Wray E: [clare.wray@informayachtgroup.com](mailto:clare.wray@informayachtgroup.com) or T: 0065 6508 2459 for more information.

### PIMEX 2011 statistics:

- A 25 per cent increase in exhibitors
- Over 6,000 individuals participated
- 47 boats on display in the show
- US\$ 100 million of product on display
- US\$ 20 million in boat sales
- 92 per cent of exhibitors said they generated up to 15 new leads
- US\$ 620,825 of press coverage

## Phuket receives B3.6bn in BOI investment

THE upper-southern chapter of Thailand's Board of Investment (BOI) continues to sponsor more investment projects in Phuket. June this year saw BOI-sponsored investment in Phuket increase by 1.8 billion baht month-on-month, bringing the total investment in

Phuket for the first half of 2011 to more than 3.6bn baht, according to BOI statistics.

In comparison, during the same period last year, BOI-sponsored investment in Phuket reached about 1.7bn baht. Investment projects sponsored by the BOI

created 659 new jobs for Thais on the island during the first half of this year. In the same period last year, BOI-sponsored projects created 288 new jobs for locals.

Total BOI-sponsored investment in Phuket reached 3bn baht by the end of last year. This year, it has reached 3.6bn baht in the first half, or 62 per cent of total BOI-investment in the upper-southern chapter.

In June, the BOI sponsored a 150 million baht investment in the Phuket Air Catering Company. The company supplies packaged food to Thai Airways and other major airlines operating from Phuket International Airport. The company's expansion will create an additional 350 new jobs for Thais.

Since the beginning of this year, two hotel projects have been sponsored by the BOI. One of them is the construction of a 350-room hotel in Patong. The project is being headed by the Fisherman Harbor Company, with a total investment of almost 1.7bn baht.

The second project that has recently been announced is the construction of a 50-room hotel, located on Laem Nga Cape on Koh Sireh. The total investment approved for this project is around 1.8bn baht, but a source within Cape Nga Development Company said that the project is still in its initial planning stages and construction of the project has yet to begin. Once completed, the project should create up to 200 new jobs for local Thais in Phuket.

According to the BOI, the investment climate for the second half of 2011 should be even better than the first half. Throughout the upper-southern chapter, which includes Phuket and six other provinces, there are 22 projects that are still in the pipeline waiting for BOI sponsorship approval. The total investment for these projects is projected at more than 7.8bn baht. Most of the investment is within agricultural and service sectors.

— Anand Singh

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# Construction companies lament increase in wages

By Anand Singh

CONSTRUCTION companies in Phuket are bracing themselves for the nationwide increase in the minimum wage rate to 300 baht per day.

Many of Phuket's construction firms have voiced concerns that the wage increase, which is set to become mandatory at the beginning of next year, will adversely affect Phuket's construction industry, which relies heavily on cheap labor.

Khanicha Chamklang, general manager of Indo-Construction Thailand said that at the moment, the minimum wage in Phuket's construction industry is 221 baht per day. Should the wage increase be implemented, construction companies will see their labor costs rise by around 35 per cent.

"This is going to be a big problem for construction companies on the island. This is because contractors sometimes have to sign binding agreements with customers several months in advance before construction can go ahead," Ms Khanicha said.

"Before signing contracts with customers, including price agreements, construction firms have to take into account the cost of fuel, labor and raw materials.

"It is the duty of construction firms to anticipate slight changes in costs and factor them in when pricing," Ms Khanicha explained.

"However, such drastic increase in labor costs, from 221 baht to 300 baht per day is not



**RISING EXPENSES:** An increase in minimum wages will mean many construction projects will go over budget.

something that construction companies are prepared for. Because we cannot alter the contracts which have already been signed, many construction firms are going to face losses on existing projects that have already been started," she added.

Indo-Construction Thailand is a large constructor of condominium and villa projects in Phuket.

The firm has been operating on the island for more than five years. Ms Khanicha said that the increase in wages is going to lower profit-margins for Phuket's construction industry.

Much of the cost increase will likely be passed onto customers, leading to increased construction prices, which may hinder demand for new construction projects and negatively affect foreign investment on the island.

"Labor costs are likely to increase across the board, even for employees that currently earn higher than the minimum wage rate.

"This is because if we radically increase wages for the lowest income laborers, then more skilled laborers and employees are likely to demand a wage raise," Ms Khanicha explained.

"The increase in minimum wage is therefore likely to lead to a much higher increase in labor costs for construction firms in Phuket," she added.

According to an earlier report from the *Phuket Gazette*, the construction industry is the largest employer of low-wage laborers in Phuket. Most laborers working in the island's construction industry are alien workers from Myanmar, Cambodia or Laos.

As of April 2011, construction companies in Phuket hired 16,224 foreign workers, or around 51 percent of the total alien workforce in Phuket.

## New Starbucks logo reveal will be in Central



The new logo has no lettering.

COFFEE shop chain Starbucks Coffee will introduce a new branding logo at its Central Festival Phuket branch, and plans to introduce the logo nationwide.

"Starbucks at Central Festival will be the first branch in Phuket to use the new logo," said Starbucks Coffee Operation Director Somchit Vutiputanunt.

"The logo is more modern and simple and does not include lettering. Consumers will see the logo and know it's Starbucks right away," he added.

"We can not change the logo in all 143 branches nationwide at once. It will take many years and a huge budget, which has already been set. From here on, new branches being built around Thailand will use the new logo. Shops being renovated will also use the new logo."

The Central Festival Phuket branch recently reopened on July 21 after being renovated for a month. The new logo had not been put up at the time this newspaper went to print.

There are eight branches in Thailand's southern region, seven in Phuket and one in Ao Nang, Krabi. Phuket branches include five in Patong one at Central Festival Phuket and one in Kata.

— Atchaa Khamlo



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# Surprise island internet speeds

A little less than two months ago we changed the method for measuring internet speeds, as reported on PhuketInternetSpeed.com. Before that point, we were measuring international download speeds using a technique that was prone to caching – Internet Service Providers, using tools that are actually beneficial to customers like us, automatically bypassed the speed testing regimen. So we switched to a speed testing site that can't be cached. (To see the details of how and why we changed, start at [www.phuketgazette.net/computers](http://www.phuketgazette.net/computers) and look at the Live Wire columns for June 8 and 16.)

The results, at least to me, are stunning. Ready to bust some myths?

Based on this early data, True's Ultra 10 Mbps service – the one that uses Cable TV style coax cables and a technology known as DOCSIS (see July 7 Live Wire), gives the fastest all-around speeds on the island. I didn't see any significant benefit in Ultra 20 Mbps over 10 Mbps, but we don't have enough reports yet to say for sure.

Surprisingly, TOT's 5, 6 and 8 Mbps lines pull in next – but they all run international downloads at basically the same speed, so there's no reason to pay for a faster line. (TOT has just announced a marketing program called "Net Zing" that has lines at 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 Mbps. We'll be tracking those in the future.)

True pulls up the next couple of slots, with its 6 Mbps ADSL line garnering faster reported speeds than its 10 Mbps line. 3BB has fallen from its number one spot as the fastest service on the island, a couple of years ago, to dead last place. CAT's wireless EV-DO (which they call "3G" but, in fact, won't work with 3G phones or iPads) shows a respectable 1 Mbps. The new AIS

and True 3G services will both have a hard time keeping up with that pace.

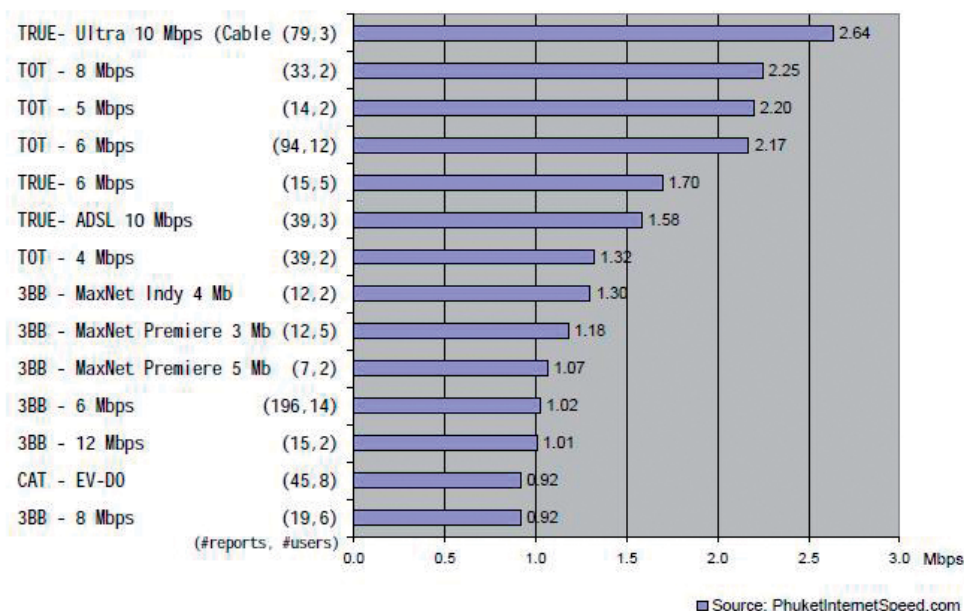
I intentionally excluded TOT's Fiber 2U service from the graph for two reasons. First, the numbers we're seeing would have skewed the graph so it would be impossible to read – as you can see at [www.PhuketInternetSpeed.com](http://www.PhuketInternetSpeed.com), Fiber 2U lines at 20 Mbps and 10 Mbps are running consistently in the 6 to 9 Mbps range, blowing everything else out of the water. But dig a little deeper and you'll also see people reporting outages, frequently, all over the island. Here's a typical comment: "I am very disappointed with the quality of the service. It only works now and then, and normally I have to request a download of a web page three or four times."

It looks like much of the problem with TOT Fiber 2U lies with the routers (you might call them "modems"). I'm hearing reports from many people that the standard-issue TOT Fiber routers don't work worth beans, but they can and will install better routers if you're insistent. By the time you read this, it's entirely possible that they've fixed the problem. We'll find out on the next speed summary.

A note on the methodology. Khun Roger, who's one of the regulars at the Sunday morning Computer Clinics, pulled the numbers together. We dropped any service that only has one person reporting the speeds. We also dropped the "zeros" – which indicate no service at all. TOT Fiber, 3BB and True all had multiple reported outages. Surprisingly, in spite of anecdotal evidence to the contrary, TOT ADSL service was pretty stable over the past two months.

And, of course, you have to keep in mind that international download speeds only tell

Average International Download Speeds June-July 2011



The latest internet speed report comes loaded with surprises. Values in parenthesis indicate the number of speed reports received, and the number of people who posted those reports.

part of the story. Caching, which wreaked havoc on the speed reports, is a good thing – it makes your internet faster. If you're using sites that have server farms in or near Thailand (including, perhaps surprisingly, Gmail/Google and Hotmail/Microsoft), these numbers don't apply. If you're downloading torrents, international download speeds only tell part of the story. Location can make a huge difference.

Most of all, this isn't a scientific study: it's self-reported, non-replicable and far from random. So understand that the numbers here are indicative, not definitive. That said, I think the numbers speak volumes.

If you aren't yet reporting your internet speeds, head over to [PhuketInternetSpeed.com](http://PhuketInternetSpeed.com) and sign up.

The more reports we get, the more accurate the information will be – and the more likely Phuket's Internet Service Providers will stand up and take notice. You're welcome to download the information on the site – there are easy ways to filter and download the data – and analyze it any way you like. It's a unique community resource and absolutely free with no strings attached.

To keep up on the latest Phuket internet news, drop by one of the Sunday morning Computer Clinics, and follow [@WoodyLeonhard](https://twitter.com/WoodyLeonhard) on Google+ (drop Woody an email if you need an invitation for Google+), or on Twitter: [@PhuketPC](https://twitter.com/PhuketPC).

## Putting yourself in the shoes of a money manager

### Some managers lack the incentive to earn you a positive investment return

THERE are many types of funds out there, and many types of fund managers. For simplicity, let's divide the managers into two camps: those who can consistently make money and those who can't.

If you place yourself into both of their shoes and consider the types of investment fund structures out there, you can learn a lot about which types of funds are likely to provide consistent returns.

Let's assume every money man-

ager wants to make as much money as possible. I know you are probably thinking: "Never. Money managers want to do a great job for their investors and protect their investors' hard-earned capital". But in this case, just give me the benefit of the doubt.

Consider that fund managers generally fall into two types, one where the majority of their income is received as an incentive fee for the profits earned by their clients,

### Retirement Years

By David Mayes

and one where there is no incentive fee and their entire income is derived as a per cent of the assets under management.

Next, let's look at the way the performance of these funds are compared. Strangely enough, the funds which don't charge incentive fees almost always compare themselves to a benchmark that has had many losing years, and will often proudly announce that it has "outperformed the benchmark by

x per cent" when, in fact, it has lost significant amounts of money.

Incentive-driven funds often use 0 per cent as their benchmark every single year, and they don't collect an incentive fee until they get their fund back above the highest value its ever been at, which is known as a *high water mark*.

Getting back in the shoes of a money manager, if you were to open a fund tomorrow, what type of structure would you set up? Well, assuming that you want to make the most money for yourself, the answer depends on how confident you are that you can earn a consistent profit.

If you can, you will make the most money out of an incentive-driven structure. If not, you'd probably just open up a mutual fund that is the flavor of the month so it will be easy to market, and hope to lose less than the index when the next bear market comes.

If one under-performs in the market, that fund can be scrapped in place of a new one. This, contrary to popular belief, is a widespread practice by the big banks.

Having an incentive-driven structure is, however, no guarantee either. In fact, it often leads to fund managers taking excessive risks. Plenty of research into a fund manager's overall strategy is recommended, including the leverage they use and the markets in which they trade.

A long track record, while no guarantee, is much better than investing in an upstart manager with no experience. A properly-diversified portfolio can further protect you from any one fund manager's mistakes, and can be offset by the continued success of the other managers in your portfolio.

David Mayes MBA is a resident of Phuket, Thailand, and provides wealth management services to expatriates throughout the region of Southeast Asia. He can be reached via email at [david.m@faramond.com](mailto:david.m@faramond.com)

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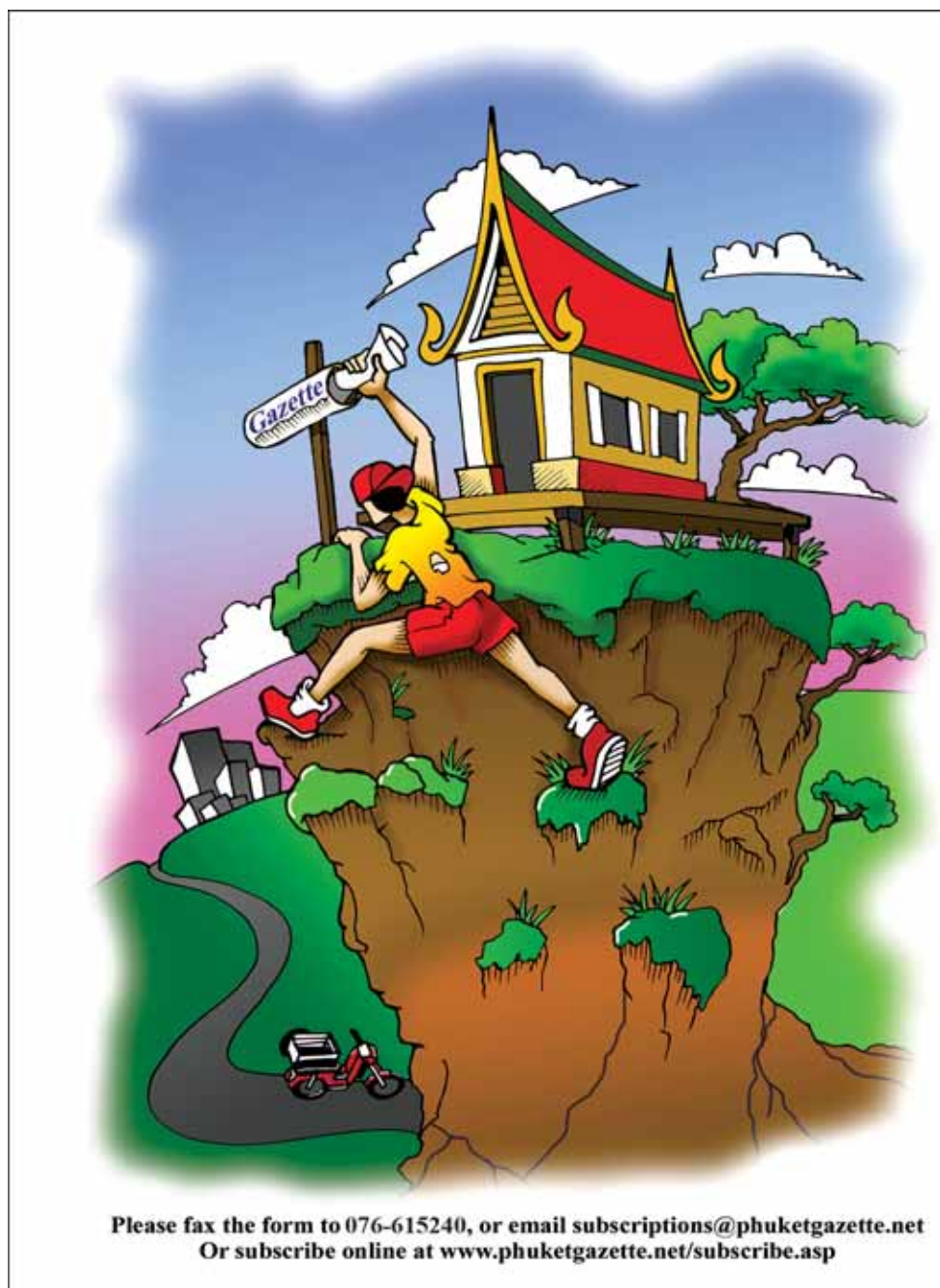


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# Culinary delight at Amari

THERE was a decidedly cigar-laden Germanic presence last Friday evening at the Rim Talay restaurant in Amari Coral Pearl. The get together was organized to showcase Executive Chef Thomas Vanderlieb's culinary chops along with the wines of Julien Barthe of Francois Lurton Wines, a fine-wine exporter with 70 labels sourced from five different regions worldwide.

Prompting pre-dinner tipsiness, a crisp Argentinean Chardonnay is served to the assembled guests.

*Rim Talay* means 'by the sea' in Thai, and the setting is nothing short of fabulous. We're allocated seats and swiftly tuck into stuffed quail-on-herb salad with bacon vinaigrette. The perfect-textured and delicious appetizer is served in a bowl made out of ice, which although inventive, is somewhat difficult to eat from. This is accompanied by a fruity Spanish white wine, which has a character and body to rival Penelope Cruz.

A trio of oyster, sole and monkfish follows – washed down with a French Sauvignon Blanc. The salty tangs of the seafood troika cleverly counterpoint the white wine. The wine also begins to break down barriers between neighboring diners, who are discovering that they enjoy the same music, and that the world's a fine place with a belly full of wine and lashings more to come.

A lentil soup with a fillet of rabbit portents a rather noisy late evening organ recital, but luckily Chef Thomas has gauged the cooking time just right, and the Portuguese dish is helped along by a red wine from the same country, with cloudy hints of port in its make up.

If a bathroom break is in order, you'll be in for a pleasant surprise, since a blindfolded person could easily find their way to Rim Talay's restrooms purely by following the gorgeous and heady scent of lemongrass that exudes from them.

Next on the menu, is a vegetable sorbet



WINE LOVERS: Steven Roberto (left) with Michael Vorderleitner and his wife.



Rungsai Intarasuk (left) with Chef Thomas.

consisting of tomato granite infused with herbs, served in another orb of ice. Those boys and girls in the kitchen have been busy overnight, that's for sure.

The climax of the

evening arrives in the form of slow-roasted beef tenderloin, forest mushrooms, a celery puree and potatoes. This peerless dish is crowned with an Argentinean red from Mendoza, a wine-growing region on the eastern slopes of the Andes; a place where I once timidly asked a wine grower for a sample of his wine and, as he handed me a 10-liter carafe, he laconically



CREATIVE AND FUN: appetizers.

added, "Is that all you need?" Mendoza stands out in my travels as the place where I have tasted the best and the worst wine in my life.

But this wine's a winner – a deep-red 2004 vintage with great legs, body and delivery – a fitting companion to the tender meat and clever pure arrangement. But wait; all is not over.

Warm Münster cheese pear, goat cheese strudel and baked brie with a Chilean



IN THE KITCHEN: Chef Thomas Vanderliebs.



Beef Tenderloin, forest mushrooms and potatoes.

Carmenere red, caps what has been an interesting, warm and friendly and frankly... an all-out Bacchanalian experience. The most amazing part of the experience was that it cost only 1,150 baht.

Judging by the amount of empty bottles placed to the side of the restaurant, I'd say we got through a king's ransom-worth of the stuff. Now that is truly value for money.

## Great pizzas and prices

THE courage of independent restaurant owners who risk it all on a venture is admirable. Equally, those who have risen through the ranks of a corporate structure to make a stamp on the hide of the behemoth, also inspire admiration.

But what about a mixture of both? Philip Seiffert is a man who has been there and done that corporate thing, and is now totally independent, recently taking over and reopening Pizza 2000 on 'upper' Karon Road.

Pizza 2000 is an unpretentious restaurant with simple decor and atmosphere – a fan-cooled place that delivers tasty and fresh Italian and German dishes prepared by Chef Goong. Philip, from Hanover, is keen on delivering the best quality at the lowest price.

Happily, he succeeds in his goal, not least because during his "market research" he dined at pretty much every noteworthy restaurant in Phuket and imparts an almost Holmes-like interest in the other island culinary ventures.

For all that, or maybe because of that, Pizza 2000 has a modest, yet alluring menu consisting of Italian dishes – pastas, lasagna and pizzas – with Teutonic touches such as wiener schnitzel. And there are some nifty German beers to boot.

We dine on a glorious lasagna al forno (190 baht) and various pizzas – all excellently prepared – and all within the 190-199 baht price range. Pizza 2000 is popular with local hotel patrons who find the prices and quality irresistible. Our meal is washed down with red wine – also attractively-priced. To be base, one can get sloshed here for the same price as buying a long-opened, two-glass serving of a Californian wine at a five-star hotel. And the food deserves equal merit.

Considering we ordered at the same time as three other tables and were served at the same time as them, there must be some magic going on in the kitchen. And, Khun Mek, who was our server, couldn't have done a better job.

– Sam Wilkinson



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# Brush film fest a must

By Bruce Stanley

THE upcoming film and music festival month at Brush on Kalim Beach may well be one of Phuket's best kept secrets. Starting August 1, the art restaurant will be host to screenings of films from Hollywood veterans and up-and-coming members of London's art circles in addition to music performances from local talent.

This is good news for those who enjoyed last year's international film festival, which was a huge success. A recent graduate of Phuket's British International School (BIS), Zac Underwood, has gathered a



Producer and Director Zachary Underwood.

group of local friends and art students from London to make the type of film that has recently become an internet phenomenon. Sweded films, invented by French filmmaker Michel Gondry, are short parodies of popular movies made on a small budget by amateurs.

Gondry introduced this new film genre to YouTube when he made a sweded film based on his 2008 feature film, *Be Kind Rewind*. The movie was about a movie rental

business where all the films were accidentally erased and the staff and their friends made brief copies acting out the roles. When asked what kind of films they were, they coined the now viral term "sweded", on the basis that the movies were allegedly from Sweden. This remake trend has spread all over the world, becoming a cutting-edge cultural film phenomenon in the USA.

Zac graduated from the International Baccalaureate program at BIS in 2009. Last year he enrolled at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design in London where he completed the foundation course which would allow him entry into the Bachelor of Arts program.

"It was a remarkable time meeting and working with young artists from all over the world. I had been painting here in Phuket and working with two-dimensional media, but when I got to London my view of the art world expanded," Zac said.

During Zac's time at Central St. Martin's, he took breaks and explored galleries in England, Sweden and Portugal. It was also



Charles Hue Williams (left) and Kritsada Chok as Alan and Mr Chow in *Still Hungover*.

during this time when he was introduced to the world of film.

"I discovered Michel Gondry who made *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, and some very exciting music videos. His body of work is very quirky and crafted. When I discovered his sweded films, I became intrigued about making one myself," he said.

Zac returned to Phuket with some fellow London art students and after seeing *Hangover 2*, they decided to make their own short sweded version called *Still Hungover*.

"The beauty of making a sweded film is they can be made with unsophisticated technology and a modest budget. You can even make a sweded film on a good cellphone. We had a Canon digital camera and 2,000 baht which allowed us to make 90 minutes of film which we will need to edit down to 90 seconds," he added.

*Still Hungover* was made in various locations around Phuket including the night market, the Underwood factory on the Bypass Road and in an elevator at Big C.

Zac will be presenting his film as part of movie month at Brush. Also included in the program will be the launch party of Jim

Newport's new CD *Wanted Man*, which he will perform with the Colin Hill band on August 13. Jim is an Emmy-nominated production designer of both film and television. In a career spanning 40 years, he set the look for films as *Bangkok Dangerous*, *Brokedown Palace* and for TV series, *The Shield* and *Lost*. He will show five of his feature films at Brush from August 8 to 14.

Another screening will be the premier of *A Song of Freedom*, a film made by Hollywood veteran Ed Vaughn who has made Phuket his home for the past few years. Ed worked in Hollywood for 25 years, primarily on television productions. He trained at Universal Studios and is a member of the Director's Guild of America. With a locally written screenplay and actors including some Chalong policemen, *A Song of Freedom*, captures scenes of local life.

"Ed has made a beautiful movie. The photography alone lures the viewer into the story and challenges them with the sometimes harsh reality of local life," said Jim Newport.

*A Song of Freedom* will premier August 15 to 22 during movie month at Brush.

## Step into Central's elixir of childhood

YOU feel 20 years younger by simply visiting a department store.

In an enterprising leap of imagination, Central Festival has

dedicated the bulk of its fourth floor exclusively to cater to every whim and fancy of a child. But it has turned out to be a place

where no accompanying adult can fail to enjoy an instant sense of rejuvenation.

Once empty, this enormous space has now been transformed into a celebration of childhood. As you enter, the pink, green and blue walls and a bonanza of multi-colored shades hanging from the ceiling put you in a light mood, unlike most adult shopping centers.

Shouts of joy and shrieks of wonder fill the place amid various scenes of pure innocence.

Children speaking in many languages squat on the floor greedily



The Spy

By Sai Lap

opening boxes of toys.

A young girl pulls her father by the hand towards a frilly frock by Eliane Et Lena. A boy drags her mother excitedly to the Hot Wheels display.

Like a child, you marvel at the bounty of brands, the infants accessories section alone carries 60 of them.

The children's wear section is

not far behind, with names such as Cotton Kids, Potato chip and Pumpkin Patch.

The swimwear collection is dominated by Speedo and Platypus while the shoe department prominently displays Oshkosh and Disney Princess.

The Hello Kitty section has everything from furry animals to bags and watches.

As the sparkle in the eyes of a little girl looking longingly at a Baby Alive doll tugs at your heart strings, you take a few sprightly steps closer to the toy section. Nostalgic brands, such as Lego and Scrabble, sit alongside absorbing newer items from Kiddo and Zhu Zhu Pets.

Moving the children's section from the basement to this spacious floor has even cheered up the staff. They greet you with friendlier smiles than ever.

Maybe there's something contagious about children's happiness?

Leroy Robert "Satchel" Page, the American baseball legend once said: "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?" Well, even if you can't forget how old you are, a visit to this wonderful floor will make you feel a lot younger, at least for a while.

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# Tin man with a heart of gold

## Looking Back

By Anand Singh

THE Hongyok family have one of Phuket's most prominent and prestigious names. They have made their mark as a successful business family and established a strong presence in local politics. The Hongyoks are indeed a big part of Phuket's inspirational history.

Luang Anuphasphuketkarn is the member of the Hongyok family whose life story resonates the most. The local nobleman of Chinese descent was the son of Tan Chek Ut, a Hokkien Chinese immigrant who settled in Phang Nga province during the 19th century.

Luang Anuphas was born in November 1888 and given the Chinese name Tan Chin Guan. He was schooled at Wat Monkolnimitr, an important Buddhist temple in Phuket Town, during his early years and taught by the revered monk Wisutti Wongsajarnyanmanee.

At 14 years old, Chin Guan was sent to China to study the Chinese language. When he returned, he took an active role in the family's tin mining business, which at that time was managed by his brother Chin Hong.

In 1913, during the early reign of King Rama VI, the 'Surname Act' was passed, which mandated all Chinese immigrants in Siam to adopt Thai surnames. That same year, the king also passed a law that allowed Chinese immigrants to receive Thai citizenship.

Tan Chin Hong, who was the eldest in the family, chose to use the Thai surname 'Hongyok', which translates to 'Phoenix'. Chin Guan, his younger brother, also used the new surname from then on.

After working with the family for some time, Chin Guan left to set up his own tin mining operation. In a joint venture with his friends, he purchased a high yielding opencast mine. However, he soon realized that the business would not provide the vast returns he had expected.

Chin Guan spent a lot of time researching different mining methods in order to improve efficiency. When he learned that a new mining method, known as gravel pumping, was becoming widely used in British Malaya, he traveled there to study the technique. Chin



A model of a 20th century opencast tin mine at Phuket Mining Museum.

Guan then introduced the process of gravel pumping to his Phuket mine in 1927.

Still, this new technique did not yield the results he wanted. Undeterred by previous failures, Chin Guan began to tweak the gravel pumping system he had in operation. He replaced the reciprocating diesel engine that powered the pump with a generator that was commonly used on ships. The modification paid off, and in time it proved to be a cost saver.

Chin Guan decided to use the generators to build a new power station for his mine. He formally opened the refurbished mine in January 1930. The opening ceremony was presided over by Prince Paripatra Sukhumbhand, Prince of Nakhon Sawan.

To commemorate the occasion, the prince named the mine 'Muang Chaofa', which in Thai means 'prince's mine'.

In 1931, in recognition of his charitable work, Prince Paripatra granted Tan Chin Guan the noble

title of Luang Anuphas Phuketkarn. Despite the successes of his mining businesses, Luang Anuphas was still determined to adopt better mining techniques and improve efficiency. He made frequent trips to Penang, which was one of the most advanced tin mining centers in the region during that period.

In 1938, as his Chaofa mine became more successful, he bought a dredger in order to mine tin offshore in Phang Nga Bay.

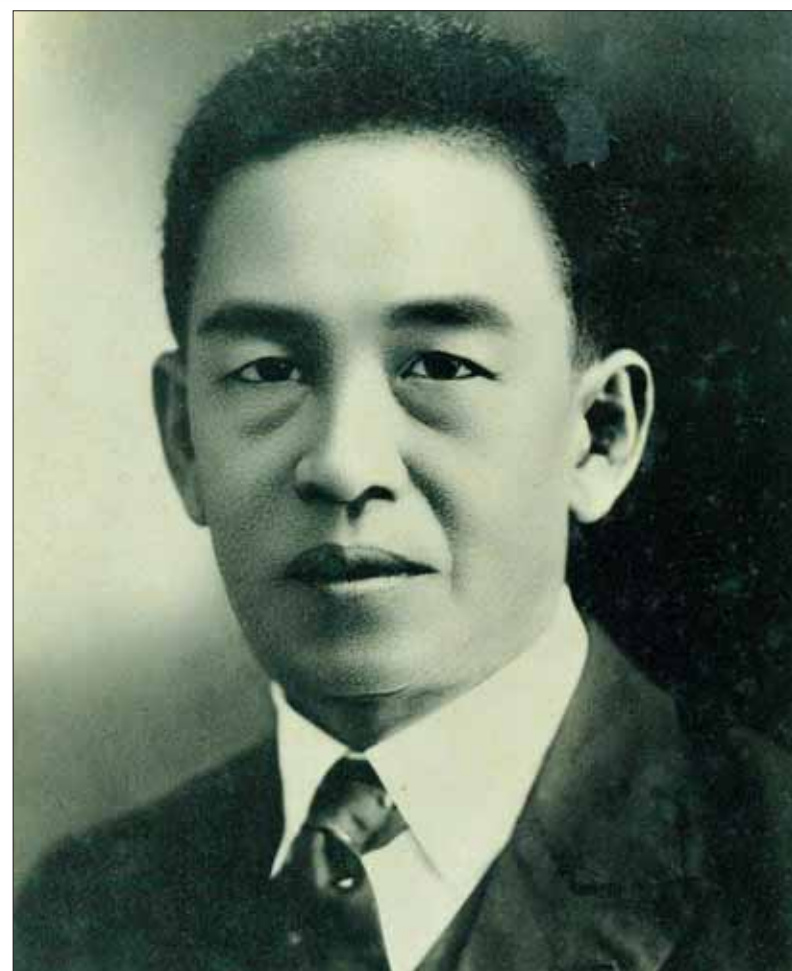
Luang Anuphas also tried his hand at a number of other related businesses. He established a smelting plant, a sawmill, a lumber mill, a rice mill and an ice plant to support his mining operations. He also

established a brewery and several rubber and coconut plantations.

Up until the Second World War, nearly all of his businesses were proving highly successful and he had amassed a fortune for himself. In Malaya, many Chinese business people even called Luang Anuphas the 'Lord of Tin'.

In 1939, he founded Anuphas & Sons and distributed the company's shares to his wife and children. Today Anuphas & Sons has grown into a group of companies, operating petrol stations, real estate projects, several car dealerships and a golf course in Phuket. The company's strong presence on the island is a tribute to its remarkable founder.

The recently opened road link-



PHUKET'S FIRST MOGUL: Luang Anuphas founded Anuphas & Sons.

ing Phuket Town to Kathu district was named Muang Chaofa Road, to commemorate Luang Anuphas' Chaofa tin mine.

A renowned philanthropist, he performed extensive charitable work for Phuket's poor and underprivileged. He donated land for the construction of the Baan Suan Mapraw School in the Mai Khao sub-district in Phuket's north. The school has since been renamed Hongyokbumrung School to honor its patron family.

Luang Anuphas also donated land in Kathu for the construction of a Buddhist temple, Wat Anuphas Krisdaram, and donated another plot of land in Phuket Town for the construction of the Mission Hospital.

Luang Anuphas had nine chil-

dren, many of whom were notable figures in Phuket's political scene. His eldest son, Wirat Hongyok was elected as president of the Phuket Provincial Council and later served as Mayor of Phuket Town. Wirat-Hongyok road in Phuket honors his name.

Lt Phummisak Hongyok, one of Luang Anuphas' grandchildren, is also a well known businessman and politician. He served as the Mayor of Phuket Town and presided over its transition from 'town' to 'city' status.

In October 1962, Luang Anuphas Phuketkarn fell ill and passed away at the age of 74, leaving behind a large business empire and a legacy as one of Phuket's most prominent historical figures.

Many Chinese business people called Luang Anuphas the 'Lord of Tin'... A renowned philanthropist, he performed extensive charitable work for Phuket's poor.

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# Another Bangkok caricature

MANY expatriate writers publish a good first novel about Bangkok. After that, the rest tend to get worse and worse. Such is the case with John Burdett who wrote an entertaining first novel entitled *Bangkok Eight*. The plot was outrageous but fast-paced and Burdett's sense of place was superb.

The second, *Bangkok Tattoo*, carried forth his main characters Sonchai Jitpleecheep, a former monk-turned-honest-police-detective; Colonel Vikorn, his venal, but charming superior, and Nong, Sonchai's mother who runs a bar in the Soi Cowboy area, and conceived Sonchai from the first of her many liaisons with foreign men.

In *Bangkok Tattoo*, however, the author has given the narrator, Sonchai an insufferably superior tone. He directs his remarks toward a nameless farang, which is good as a tool that explains a lot about Thailand, but also bad because everything about the West is horrible and the only true wisdom resides in the smug persona of Sonchai.

His third novel, *Bangkok Haunts* (Corgi Books, London 2008, 329pp) deserves some credit for a sharp opening line: "Few crimes make us fear for the evolution of our species. I am watching one right now."

What he is watching is a snuff film in the company of his good friend and FBI agent Kimberley Jones, who describes it as "five point seven megabytes of distilled evil".

Both are reduced to tears, Sonchai more so since he was once in love with the victim, Damrong, a hooker from his mother's bar.

It turns out that Damrong is nearly 30 years of distilled evil, and woe betide the man who falls in love with her.

"She wasn't a woman, she was a disease, a disease that infected the blood of half the men she ever serviced," Sonchai observes.

Besides Sonchai, these include Daniel Baker, Damrong's American ex-husband who has degraded her into pimp and pornographer; Tom Smith, a high-powered British lawyer; and an all-powerful Sino-Thai banker strangely named Tanakan (the Thai word for "bank").

They are the immediate suspects in the snuff film which appears to involve The Parthenon – an exclusive sex club. Others include a hi-so advertising executive Kosana, his ladyboy and artist girlfriend Pi-Oon and the Parthenon's mamasan, Nok. These last three are bumped off early.

Helping Sonchai with his investigation is his assistant Lek, who is a ladyboy with ambitions to become a transsexual. Improbably enough, the FBI agent Kimberley Jones falls in love with Lek amid much tortured blather of how hard it is to be a single woman in the hideous moral sump-hole of America. Here's a sample, addressed to Sonchai:

"You think the Western mind is some Frankensteinian product of botched religion and a bunch of ancient Greek pedophiles, the same unholy combination of schoolboy logic, lust for blood and glory, we-know-best, and destroy-to-save that slaughtered three million in Vietnam, most of them

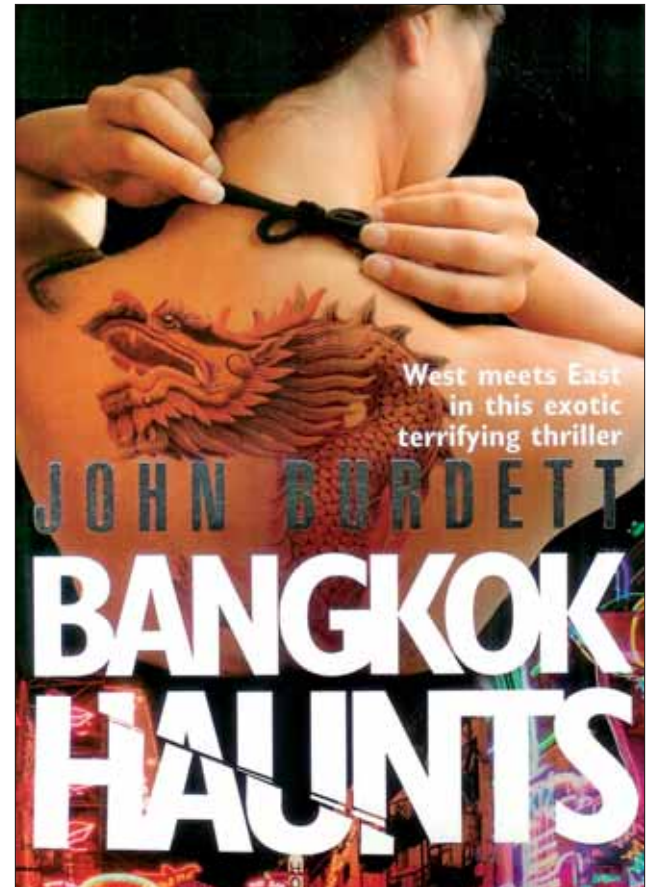
women and children, all in the name of freedom and democracy, before we ran away because it got too expensive. Right?"

And here's a sample of Sonchai: "We are tiny figurines hanging from the charm bracelet of infinity."

There's also a mysterious monk who is seen haunting internet parlors on Soi Nana and who finds pretexts to give the three big fish in the snuff film's plot – Baker, Smith and Tanakan – bracelets made of elephant hair.

Sonchai undertakes a side-trip to Phnom Penh to investigate the suicide of the American porn star, Stanislaus Kowlovski, who was Damrong's murderous partner in the snuff film. Another diversion takes him to Damrong's home village in Khmer-speaking Surin to learn how the sordid details – incest, child prostitution, Khmer black magic – of how she became so evil. Except for the love of her younger brother, there is absolutely nothing good about Damrong. Even Hitler liked dogs.

Readers stagger onward to the climax in a borderland wilderness, a witless farrago of kidnapping and murder, former Khmer Rouge automatons laughing maniacally, the



BKK BASHER: A trash-fest about Bangkok's underworld.

transmigration of a soul from one body to another, and a murdered elephant – intertwined with yet more clunky paragraphs of pompous exposition.

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# Linda Overman

LINDA Overman is the Area Director for Six Senses Spas, overseeing operations at the Evason Phuket and Hua Hin, the Six Senses Spa at Koh Yao Noi, and the Elite Spa at the Soneva Kiri resort on Koh Kood.

Each month, she travels between the spas, designing programs, training staff and ensuring that Six Senses standards are maintained.

She came to Phuket in 2002 with her husband, Marcus, who had accepted a job in the sailing industry. She wanted to work as a massage therapist but was immediately recruited to manage the Evason Phuket's spa program.

Linda was born in Australia, on the south coast near Sydney.

"I've always been interested in health and beauty, since I was in school. I became an aerobics instructor and took an apprenticeship to become a hair dresser and beautician, creating the opportunity to expand into the world of health and healing."

After she finished her training in 1991, Linda spent a couple of years in the Whitsundays working at a luxury resort on Hayman Island. She enjoyed her work and was accepted into a two-year resort management trainee program.

She then traveled to the Med where she worked in resorts on the Greek Islands. Then came a stint in London, as Supervisor of Front Office Operations at the Mandarin Oriental.

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

"I enjoyed the front office and the guest contact, but after they put a spa into the hotel I was always exploring spa products and therapies."

She left London and spent her winters at a five star ski resort at Mt Blanc, and in 2001 she returned to Australia to study spa therapy.

"I enrolled at Nature Care College and worked at Essential Therapy Spa on Milson's Point. My program included aromatherapy, reflexology, crystal healing energy, holistic counseling and massage. These are many of the services I've developed at the Six Senses Spas."

When Linda started managing the Evason Phuket, she discovered that her guests were mostly interested in relaxing therapies such as massage and body treatments. She now finds that the demand is more for preventative treatments and therapies that enhance both the body and state of mind.

"We have many special therapists with varied talents and healing abilities, so we are able to offer Tai Chi to meditation to Feldenkrais to energy healing, using the services of trained healers who live on the island."

In addition to managing spa programs, Linda has spent the past nine years helping to develop spa products that have no chemicals or preservatives and that are not tested on animals. Currently, she is helping to develop a complete line of all organic spa products with Six Senses Skin Care.

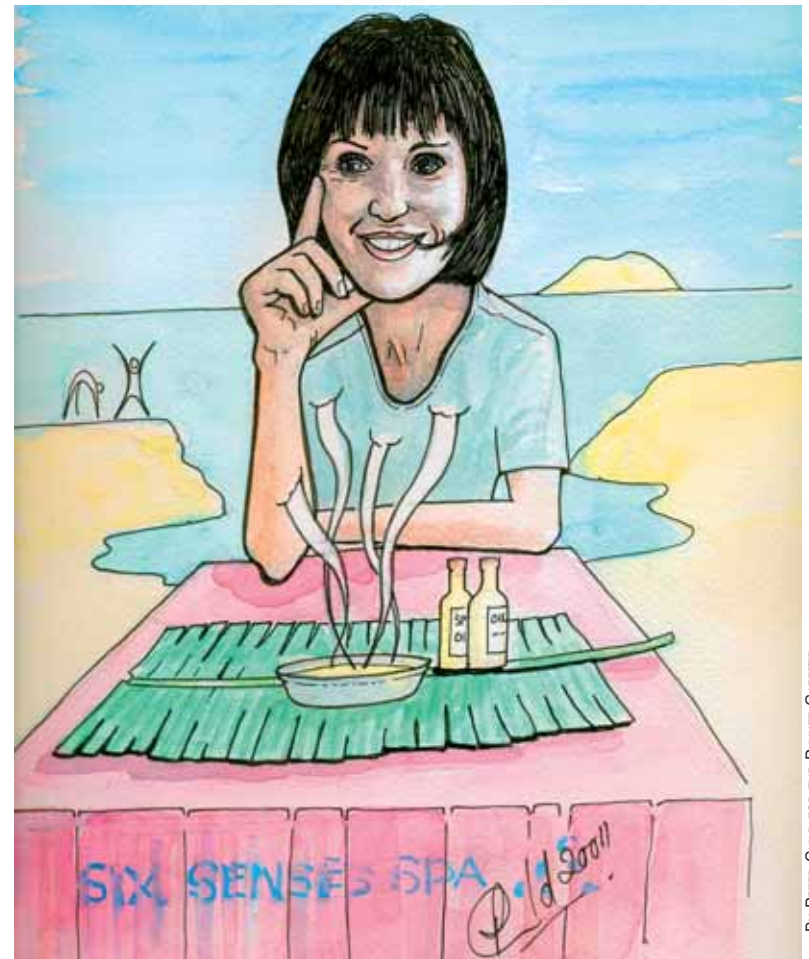
She has also been working at the Six Senses Sanctuary spa on Koh Naka Yai where guests spend extended time working on personalized detox and healing therapies.

"We have an Australian trained naturopath doctor who consults with each guest to determine a treatment program for cleansing, diet, and exercise. The program includes fitness instructors trained in holistic healing."

Recently, she has been working with Eithad Airlines for Six Senses to provide spa products that are used on board flights and in their first class lounge at Heathrow Airport.

Linda's personal health regimen includes a philosophy of living in the moment and taking advantage of the best of Eastern and Western therapies. She enjoys three coconuts a day, yoga and pilates, and long walks on the beach. She is also the happy mother of Tyler and Summer, both born since she came to Phuket.

"I invite Phuket residents to visit our beautiful spa at Rawai. They can email us for our residents' menu or check the Evason Phuket Spa page at [www.sixsenses.com](http://www.sixsenses.com).



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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- ◆ This contest is open to all Thai students aged 14-18 years
- ◆ 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 31, 2011**
- ◆ The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 15 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.

**WRITERS FROM SOUTHERN REGION CAN SEND THEIR ENTRIES VIA E-MAIL TO:**

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**For more information,** please contact Khun Jane at 076-273555  
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## JUDGING PANEL FOR SOUTHERN REGION

- ◆ Steven W. Layne, Contributing Editor of the Phuket Gazette
- ◆ Nanthapa Pengkasem, Columnist for the Phuket Gazette
- ◆ Narong Promjitta, Director of BMS Events Organizer

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THE NATION



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### July 11 to August 5. TSLC Kids Summer Camps

From 9am to 12.30pm, let your kids enjoy sports and adventure at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club's (TSLC) kids summer camps. Children from 7-14 years old can join the fun with a wide variety of sports to choose from. Activities from football and swimming to nature walks and trekking will be combined in the camp. The camp's aim is to develop self-esteem, confidence and leadership qualities in the children and encourage them to "be the best they can be". It is run by professional, internationally accredited specialist instructors. Half day: 600 baht (either 9am to 12:30pm or 1:30pm to 5pm). Full day: 1,000 baht, five days: 4,000 baht. Contact Giles at T:076-336000 E:tslc@than.yapura.co.th or visit W:thanya.pura.com.

### July 11 to August 19. Learn to Swim at TSLC

From 9am to 6pm. This comprehensive program helps develop a wide range of skills to ensure that children are competent in all strokes, water safety and survival. Qualified instructors will teach classes in all six levels of our program. We recommend group lessons for most children learning to swim. However, for those requiring individual attention, private classes can be arranged. Dates and Pricing: July 11 to August 19. From Monday to Friday. 45 minutes sessions between 9am and 12pm, or 4pm and 6pm. 200 baht per class per person. Contact Kevin Lai at



After six years since their last visit aboard the MV Doulos, the crew now aboard the MV Logos Hope will be returning to Phuket, bringing with them more than 5,000 books as part of their "global mission to serve humanity". The Logos Hope is twice as large as any previous vessel operated by German-based charity GBA Ships, including the Doulos, which visited Phuket in 2006. The 132-meter Logos Hope will drop anchor at Phuket Deep Sea Port in Ao Makham on August 17. "The ship will be here for two weeks, and will be open to visitors from Tuesday to Saturday between 10am and 9pm. On Sunday and Monday, from 2pm to 9pm. In addition to maintaining the huge library of books, the volunteers on board stage cultural events to educate and entertain visitors. There will be a nominal cost for entry. During the 2006 visit of the book fair, the fee was 10 baht per person. The fair will set sail on August 28 for Penang, Malaysia, where the ship will remain from August 29 to September 27. Pictures are available on the Phuket Gazette's Facebook page W:facebook.com/PhuketGazette.net or visit W:omships.org.

T:076-336000 E:aquatics@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

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

11am to 8pm at the Convention Center, Rajabhat. The Phuket Construction Materials & Tools Exhibition 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 de-

sign 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 30-31. Live Blues at Roxy Bar Phuket

Are you missing good quality Live Music? Tired of DJ things? Same songs in every single place you go? Well, we have great news for you! One of the finest Rock & Roll and Blues bands, 'Bangkok Travelers', will hit the stage on July 30 and 31 from 9pm to 1am @ Roxy Bar in Phuket Town. Free entrance, very welcoming atmosphere, good food and reasonable prices. Come and join us for a great night! Roxy Bar is on Phang Nga Road, opposite the On On

Hotel, next to Bangkok Bank, in Phuket Town. Contact Nuno at T:081-3970033 E:nuno@roxybarphuket.com or visit W:roxybarphuket.com.

### July 31. Sunday Night Sundowner

From 6.30pm to 11pm. A simple mix of great music, great food and great company. Come along to one of the finest locations on Phuket with its stunning views across Chalong Bay and end the weekend on a high with the upbeat rock, pop, and country fusion of 'Tropical Rhythms'. Heineken Draught (300 ml): 60 baht. Gordon's Gin: 99 baht. Smirnoff Vodka with tonic, coke, or soda: 99 baht.

Bacardi Rum: 99 baht. House wine (red or white): 99 baht. We also have a FREE PRIZE DRAW for all attendees - you might well leave with more than you came with! Contact Charlie Maurer at T:089-7285304 E:chef@friendshipbeach.com or visit W:friendshipbeach.com

### August 5. 'Friday Night Relax' at Friendship Beach Resort

From 6.30pm to 11pm. A simple mix of great music, great food, and great company to help you unwind after a week of busyness. Come down to one of the finest locations in Phuket on Friendship Beach Resort with its stunning views across Chalong Bay and relax to the ambient sounds of Rob Davies whilst enjoying one of a selection of drinks at special promotional prices. Heineken Draught (300 ml): 60 baht. Gordon's Gin: 99 baht. Smirnoff Vodka with tonic, coke, or soda: 99 baht. Bacardi Rum: 99 baht. House Wine (red or white): 99 baht. We also have a FREE PRIZE DRAW for all attendees! Contact Charlie Maurer at T:089-7285304 E:chef@friendshipbeach.com or visit W:friendshipbeach.com.

### August 5 and 19. Curry Fridays

From 7pm to 11.30pm, Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa present "CURRY FRIDAYS" twice per month. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet. Selections include all-time favourite 'Chicken Tikka Masala', very hot 'Mutton Vindaloo', juicy Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry, Chickpea curry and much more... served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. ALL YOU CAN EAT for only 449baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservation at T:076-286464 ext 4 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

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DREAMTIME: Rob Azzopardi and crew placed third in IRC 3 Racing class.



QUANTUM FUSION M: Scott Duncanson and his crew.



TAKE A BOW: Remington took first in IRC 3.



YOUNG MEN: Twin Sharks celebrate third in Firefly class.



TOP FIVE: KuKuKERchu finished fourth in IRC Racing class.



Team Premiere and Baby Tonga in action.



Baby Tonga. Photos: Mia Gillow and Six Senses Phuket Raceweek.



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PARTYING WITH FRIENDS: Susan Usher of Lady Pie and Sharon Martin.



BEAUTIFUL SMILES: Emma Whitehead and Tiffany Kibblewhite.



TEAM PREMIERE: Great racing and a great win means a great night out.



Paul Larsen (far left), Grenville Fordham of Image-Asia (centre) and Ricco Yueng of Gybe (far right).



AHOY THERE: Tessa and Su Saunders.



HAVING A GAY TIME: Julia Camorri.



TEAM DA VINCI: Certainly not a motley crew.



SOLID ROCK: Big Bamboo. Photo: Dean Noble

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## The Impossibly Possible Quiz

### General Knowledge

1. How many dots are there in total on a pair of dice?
2. In a game of chess, what is the only piece able to jump over others?
3. At which racecourse are the Derby and the Oaks traditionally run?
4. A A Milne is most famous for creating which bear?
5. Which two colors are Dennis the Menace's jumper?
6. How many red balls are used in a game of snooker?
7. How many sides does an octagon have?
8. Which famous film marked the first appearance the character of Dorothy Gale?
9. Who played Jerry in the film *Jerry McGuire*?
10. How many strings are on a violin?
11. Who was the lead singer of The Police?
12. Which part of the body would be treated by a chiropodist?
13. What was the hunchback of Notre Dame's name?
14. Which animal is associated with the beginning of an MGM film?
15. Which actress played the title role in the 1990 film *Pretty Woman*?

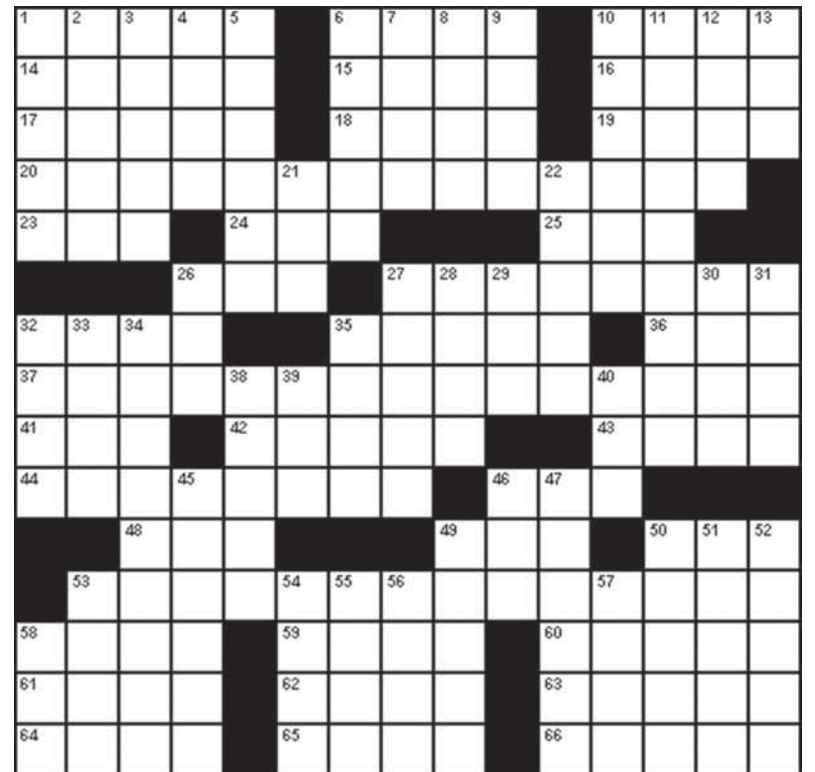
Quiz answers on page 39

### Across

1. Colorado resort town
6. Ditto
10. Get ready
14. Ball girl
15. K-6
16. I could -- horse!
17. Diarist Nin
18. Wander
19. Some DVD players
20. Police forces
23. 100 square meters
24. "Hold On Tight" band
25. Baseball bat wood
26. Chart
27. Secure position
32. Slammin' Sammy
35. "The dog ate my homework," e.g.
36. Narrow inlet
37. Quietly and informally
41. Author Umberto
42. More or less vertical
43. Devices for fishing
44. Live feed of CNN, e.g.
46. Delivery room docs
48. Anger
49. Be in debt
50. Belief system
53. Letters
58. City near Phoenix
59. Glimpse
60. Semi-automatic pistol
61. Came down to earth
62. Trail mix
63. Rice - - -
64. Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
65. Clockmaker Thomas
66. Sacred song

### Down

1. Fiber obtained from a banana plant
2. Spanish Mister
3. Flat surface
4. Some Ivy Leaguers
5. Lipton competitor
6. -- = Croatian
7. Baseball family name
8. Repast
9. Anarchist Goldman



10. Suffer destruction
11. Horse bred for racing
12. Greek letters
13. Ballet step
21. High mountain, as found in central Europe
22. Rate
26. Fannie - - -
27. Rest on the surface of a liquid
28. Hog sound
29. Japanese sash
30. Light air
31. 24 hour periods
32. Hard fatty tissue
33. A single time

34. Lateral curvature of the spine
35. Iowa city
38. One on track?
39. Clean air org.
40. Young - - -
45. Book boo-boos
46. Have
47. Mad confusion
49. Pizazz
50. Gold bar
51. Part of an act
52. Reason for a raise
53. Honeycomb unit
54. Ova
55. Plum-like fruit
56. Harbor
57. Basic monetary unit of Greece
58. Avril follower

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.  
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Puzzle solutions on page 39

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



August is a period for Leos to quietly move forward – slow progress is better than no progress. After a hectic time in July, your energy levels could use some topping up and a short trip is highlighted around the middle of this month. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead should enjoy closer relationships with family members in the coming year.

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



As August commences, the astral atmosphere encourages Virgoans to put some things right in their lives. This week, a fire sign would like to be forgiven for words spoken in the heat of the moment. If this situation is a romantic one, the stars suggest that the relationship will never be plain sailing. Those who are single are likely to get involved in a holiday romance. The number six can be lucky this weekend.

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



The stars suggest that Librans could be easily led towards temptation this week. An offer concerning finances should be viewed through a magnifying glass before you accept. There are

signs that your impatience may lead to regret as August progresses. In the realm of romance, an air sign with the reputation of being a butterfly is ready to lead you up the jungle path.

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



Scorpios who are stuck between a rock and a hard place where business is concerned should find answers this week. The stars suggest that conflicts can be solved as August commences, but this will require permanent compromises to be made. In the realm of romance, your interest in an earth sign may clash with their plans to relocate. The number seven can be lucky this weekend.

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



Opportunities will abound for those born under the sign of Sagittarius during August. You will need to put trust in others and the stars advise that water signs will be more compatible to work with. A potential romantic involvement with an earth sign is predicted to go pear-shaped, but some Sagittarians will be over the moon to hear that an air sign is interested. The number one can bring good fortune this weekend.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

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



Your patience is about to bring rewards. Capricorns who have been struggling to keep up with the competition in the world of work are forecast to have a breakthrough this week. A friend who has been taking a long walk on the wild side benefits from your calming influence – Sunday is the most auspicious day for an honest conversation. Best days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. The number five can be lucky this weekend.

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



An earth sign is hot on your heels and this wake-up call should not be ignored this week. There are signs that Aquarians need to put some serious effort into a work project before they miss the boat. Where romance is concerned, it would be best to keep your feelings to yourself until another air sign gives a clear signal.

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



The stars predict that Pisceans will be more open to change during the month of August. Those who feel as though they have been swimming upstream lately are forecast to make easier progress. An air sign could encourage you to make sensible decisions where finances are concerned. Cutting your losses where a property matter is concerned is forecast to be the best solution. The number eight can bring good luck this weekend.

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



The pressure to make more money could interfere with your creativity during August. Arians are advised to stay focused on what will bring happiness and not get too caught up in the rat race. Your ability to have fun is infectious – this weekend will be filled with social activity. Romance with another fire sign is overshadowed by a clash for control in the relationship.

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



There is strong focus during the first half of August on people close to you. Another earth sign can help Taureans to see the light this weekend where a personal prob-

lem is concerned. The stars suggest that hot gossip involving a close friend should be taken with a pinch of salt. Lucky days for romance are Saturday and Sunday. The number two can bring good luck this weekend.

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



Geminis' ability to look on the bright side should help them to navigate around a few problems this week. There are signs that a business-related disagreement will demand your attention on Tuesday or Wednesday and this may involve renegotiating contracts. Property matters become better starred during the second half of August – delay serious commitment until then if possible.

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



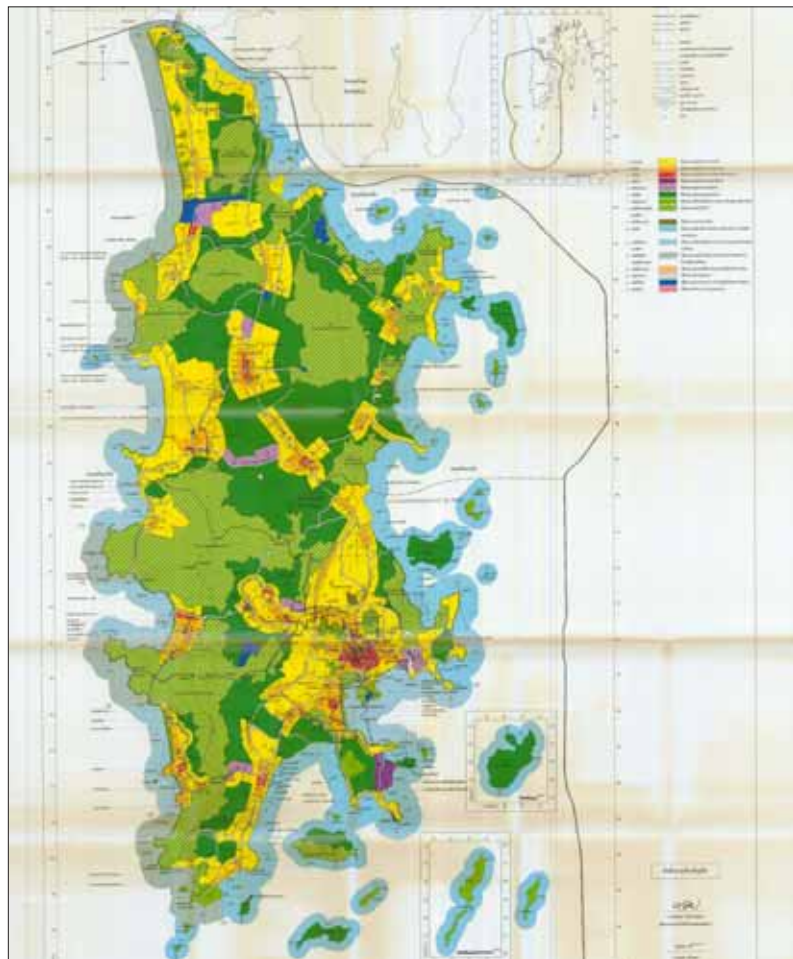
Cancerians are forecast to be living life to the full during August. The stars predict a busy social time, with little chance of creeping back into your shell. Expect a broken hearted fire sign friend to come crying on your shoulder this weekend. Your words of consolation could include a gentle reminder that this person didn't learn a lesson from the last experience. The number five can bring good luck this weekend.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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

## New zoning includes beaches and islands



NEW ZONING REGULATIONS: Stricter controls govern land use in Phuket.

NEW zoning regulations governing land use in Phuket came into effect on July 7. Legal firm Baker & McKenzie issued an English language summary and an analysis of the new regulations, which both alter and expand on the previous regulations that were set in 2005.

The most notable changes made in the Ministerial Regulation to Implement the Phuket Province Town Planning Regulation BE 2554 (2011) are an increase in the number of types of land utilization zones from 13 to 16, as well as stricter controls governing land use within each type.

The additional zones allow governance of the small secondary islands that are part of Phuket province but were not included in the 2005 regulations.

The new zones include empty land for environmental preservation, tourism and fishery (shown in blue on chart), empty land for recreation and preservation of coastal environment (blue with white stripes), and empty land for preservation of natural resources and coastal environment (blue with brown stripes).

"Practically, the changes will

have the most effect on the islands surrounding Phuket and coastal land within the province. The effects on residential areas will be minimal," Vongsagorn Noonchookan, chief of the Department of Public Works And Town & Country Planning office in Phuket, told the Phuket Gazette.

"The old regulations did not cover the beaches and land on the small islands.

Now they cover the entire province. In fact, the new regulations are what will allow the planned convention center to be built in Mai Khao, which was not possible before," he added.

Under the previous regulations, the percentage of land permitted for purposes other than that prescribed in its zone was applied to each individual land plot. The 2011 regulations now stipulate that these percentages apply to each zoning area.

Percentages themselves have fallen, becoming more restrictive on what land can be used for within each zone type. For ex-

ample, 15 per cent of commercial and high-density residential zones (red) can be used for purposes other than those allowed under the regulation. This is down from 70 per cent in 2005.

Residential and commercial use of rural and agricultural areas (green) have become more restrictive. The rules now cover loopholes that may have previously allowed for waterfront construction. Structures and storage on environmental and forestry reserves (light green and green with white strips respectively) are also governed more strictly than before.

Baker & McKenzie have recommended that all developers carefully consider these new regulations which govern all types of development and land utilization to ensure their projects adhere to Thai law. Consultation should be sought even if land or construction permits were acquired before July 7.

— Phuket Gazette

**'The effects on residential areas will be minimal.'**

— V. Noonchookan

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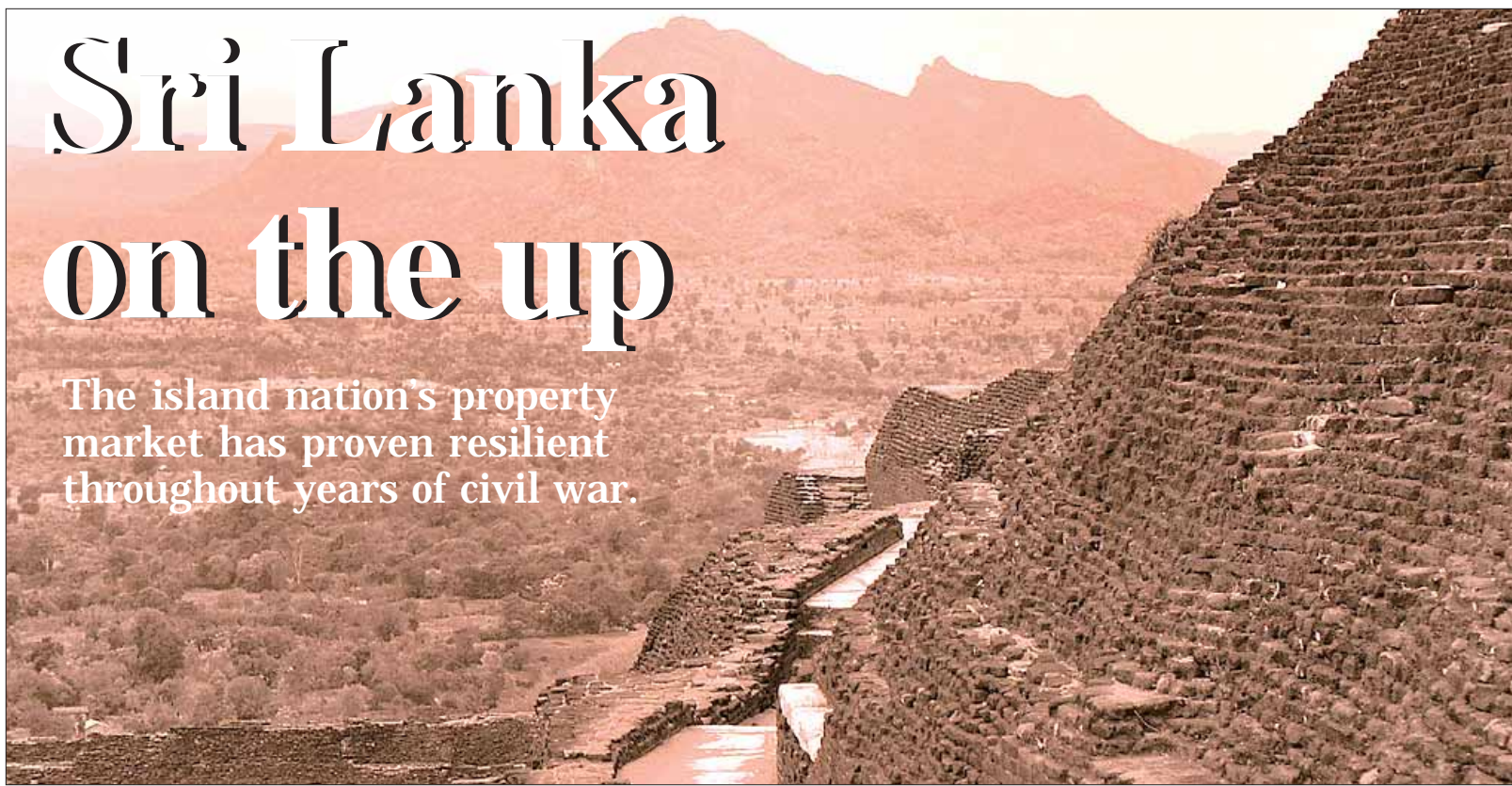
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PROPERTY



# Sri Lanka on the up

The island nation's property market has proven resilient throughout years of civil war.



**BARREN NO MORE:** Sri Lanka is experiencing a surge of investment in their slow but steady property development. Photo: Yotut

IT'S been two years since the well-documented Sri Lankan civil war ended. For over two decades the Tamil Tigers were regular fixtures on the world's evening news.

Time travels fast in today's world and I've just returned from a "boots on the ground" visit to the island where I explored the emerging property market.

Truth be known, resort villas have been a fixture on the southern end of Sri Lanka for over 20 years now, coinciding with the emergence of the sector in Bali and Phuket. While the country lacked the critical mass or scale of the Southeast Asian counterparts, it did attract a similar market of upscale early settlers from Hong Kong and Singapore. Owners were typically British long-time

expats, who were familiar with the region and often held top positions at multi-national firms or were wealthy entrepreneurs.

There remains an intrinsic link between the three destinations through the influence of legendary designer Geoffrey Bawa on modern-day tropical villas.

Needless to say, dropping Bawa's name in Colombo with a respectful hushed tone always lends credibility through what has become an iconic brand legacy.

The southern coastline has been a long-term tourism and property magnet. Starting with resorts a short distance from the capital city, Negambo and Bentota quickly be-

came key areas to develop. Today these are legacy markets, not unlike Phuket's own Kata and Karon areas. Older hotels define



**Property Watch**

By Bill Barnett

the market-place, which is popular among long-haul European tourists

who come and bask in the sun.

Next stop is Hikkaduwa which is famed for its surf and gathers a large contingent of board riders from around the globe, highlighted by Australians who have been coming for years.

Further away, the historic old city of Galle carved out a niche with its historic Portuguese links, similar to Goa, Penang, Malacca and Hoi An. With a scenic harbor, fort and gateway to long stretches of beaches, today the area serves as the hub of resort-based real estate.

Trek down the coast and you find what is termed the "golden mile", in Thalpe, with villas and hotels dotting the beachfront. Traveling the south, much of the terrain and access is similar to Phang Nga's Natai area, where the close proximity between the main road and the ocean allows ideal resort home lots to be constructed utilizing minimum land parcels. It's all about the location here and living on the sea.

Further along are Weligama, Matara, Dickwella and Tangalle. This is the growth area for both hospitality and property in the short to medium term and the main focus of current development. A new toll road which is set to link Colombo and Matara by the end

of this year will cut travel time in half and is a lead indicator of growth.

If you think Sri Lanka is about roughing it, think again. There are two Aman resorts, Amangalla and Amanwella, which have helped lure the chain's famed 'Aman junkies' over the past few years.

Rounding out the area is the emerging "second city" of the country, Hambantota. Home to the current president, the region is seeing a massive influx of investment especially from mainland China. A new deep-sea port has been built, while an international airport that will cater to overseas markets and provide direct flights debuts in 2013.

Other key developments include a new international convention and exhibition center coming on stream before the end of the year and Hong Kong's Shangri-La group is building a mixed-use resort and golf course. I often write that 'airlift' remains a key catalyst for a positive forward trend, and the new airport is a leading demand generator.

Luxury estates are just in their infancy in the country. The one I visited in Mirissa named Nisala was designed by Hong Kong architect Jill Cheshire and is a leading example of overseas investors coming in and purchasing ultra villas.

Expect new hospitality-led residence launches by Six Senses through a joint venture and another by a Shanghai-based hospitality firm later this year on the southern coast.

While it is still early days for Sri Lanka and the market lacks many of the perks and benefits of Phuket, it is increasingly appearing on the global property radar. An attractive retirement visa package is offered by the government, which is spurring interest.

Perhaps, after the decades of fighting, there is a new sense of optimism for our Andaman Sea neighbor.

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

## In brief...

### Thai developer marketing east coast homes

THE Phanason Group has brought a 142-unit project to market on the East coast's Laem-Hin area.

Pricing for the resort-style residences, aimed at the domestic and midscale sector, ranges from 6.1 million baht up to 18mn baht. Seaview units are also available at the Phanason Resort Laem-Hin, and the initial tranche of homes will be completed by the end of this year.

Phanason has developed more than 20 projects over the past ten years in Phuket and Bangkok.

### Hainan Island set to challenge Phuket and Bali

CHINA'S Hawaii-style Hainan Island is gearing up to become a major beach destination in the Asian region.

According to Lodging Economics Spring 2011 Update there are currently 60 hotel projects with an astounding 25,431 rooms in the development pipeline. This amount of new rooms equates to over 50 per cent of Phuket's total existing inventory.

Eighteen of these new hotels will open between now and the end of next year.

With gaming on the horizon and a flock of international brands operating, expect the destination to be increasingly competitive in the next few years.

### Conrad and InterContinental Samui opening dates

KOH Samui hotels are enjoying a resurgence in hotel operating metrics to date this year.

Two banner international hotels are set to open their doors in the second half of the year. Conrad will debut on September 1, and Justin Phillips has been announced as General Manager.

The project impresses with unique food and beverage outlets, and stunning views over the picturesque Five Islands.

Arnaud Girodon, former General Manager of Indigo Pearl, is now heading up the InterContinental in nearby Baan Taling Ngam.

The hotel is closed for a US\$ 30 million upgrade with Thai design icons P49 handling the creative side.

Opening is set for December 5, and will see the room count increase from 77 to 81 keys.

Expectations are also high that an international chain will soon be appointed at the Gurich Resort – formerly Langham Place – in Lamai.

– Bill Barnett

## LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

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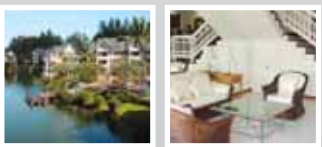
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- Thai freehold

#### 2 Allamanda 1-Bedroom Suite THB 6.5 M



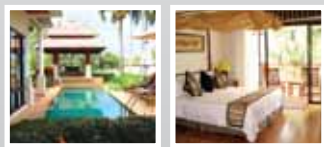
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#### 3 Allamanda Duplex THB 12 M



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#### 4 Laguna Links THB 25 M



- 2-storey 4 beds Townhomes
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- fully furnished • private pool

#### 5 Laguna Homes THB 37.88 M



- 4 beds 3 baths Residence
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# Buyers: better safe than sorry

## Property Legal By International Law Office

WHEN purchasing property overseas, many buyers are in fact making a large investment subject to laws and local practices that are more or less unknown to them.

Therefore, a buyer should always seek the advice of seasoned professionals who are intimately familiar with the applicable laws, local customs and regulations before deciding to buy – and certainly before signing any documentation or making any purchase payments.

Once a buyer has found a property that they wish to purchase, they should immediately retain legal counsel to perform all necessary due diligence regarding every legal matter relevant and important to ensure safe property acquisition.

Depending on the type of property the purchaser is considering, the professional services of land surveyors, property inspectors, engineers, accountants and the like may be required to ensure that the buyer's interests are professionally represented in all matters relating to the transaction.

A buyer's legal counsel should be able to make such referrals or may employ other such



**STAYING ON TOP OF THINGS:** Hiring pros makes all the difference in the world. Photo:andrewrennie

professionals whose expertise is necessary or desirable to the transaction at hand.

When employing the services of any professional, a buyer must be comfortable with the level of subject knowledge, experience, and expertise of the person or firm to be employed. Further, and just as important, a buyer must be satisfied that any professional

working on his or her behalf is fully independent and has no conflicts of interest. Professional advice should always be sought from persons or firms that have no relationship to the seller.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, buyers often choose to rely on advice that's given by people who do not solely represent the buyer's interests. Clearly, advice

provided by any professional who has a conflict of interest is suspect at best, and may prove irreparably damaging at worst.

To avoid such situations, all professionals used to provide any services for the buyer must be dedicated solely to the buyer's interests, wholly unrelated to the seller of the property, and have no conflicts of interest that may give

rise to even the mere appearance of impropriety. The all too common mistake of relying upon advice given by the seller or those related to the seller in any way, shape or form, has led to the financial downfall of many unsuspecting buyers.

Everyone contemplating a property purchase or investment in an unfamiliar location or within an uncertain business environment must go the extra mile to insure their interests.

Such buyers need to take a proactive approach towards research, including networking with others who may have been in a similar situation at one time.

While no real estate purchase comes without some degree of risk, these [risks] can be minimized. A buyer who rolls up his sleeves and does his homework, and is well represented by competent and independent counsel, as well as other necessary professionals, will always have chance in their favor.

So when buying a property abroad, refer to the old adage: "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

*This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd. Contact Michael Greth, Consultant E:michael@ilo-phuket.com or T:076-2221915 for more information.*

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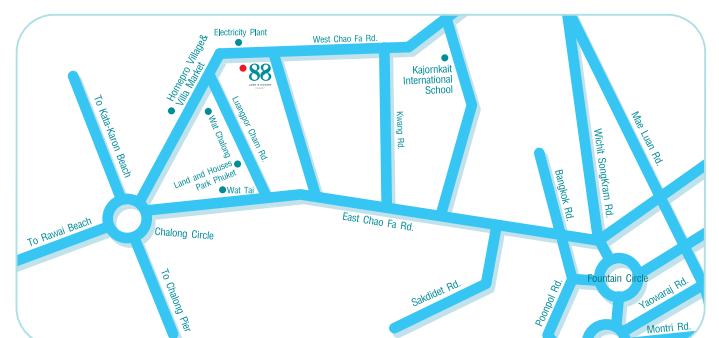
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**WATERING GUIDELINES:** Eve (center) soaks the earth, not the leaves. The *adenium* and *euphorbia millii* (left) require little water, while the *colocasia* and *anthurium* (right) require more.

# How much is too much?

ESTABLISHING a dialogue with readers is always gratifying. A recent query from reader Tony Jeffs reads: "One question that has always bothered me is about underwatering versus overwatering. How do I know when a plant is suffering from one or the other?"

In answer to his question, much depends on the circumstances. Variables such as soil conditions, seasonal variations, the type of plant, and whether it is planted in the ground or a container come into play here.

Pots are a special case so let's tackle them first. The first rule is

when they need watering, always give them a good long drink. Once water comes through the bottom of the pot and fills the saucer, you know that the deepest roots have been saturated. Such watering will encourage bottom root development.

Try not to let the pots get completely dried out. If they do, the soil will become hard, and nearly impenetrable. This is more likely to happen with clay soils than with sandy soils.

One solution is to make holes in the soil with a pencil, so the water can penetrate the soil and be absorbed. You can check its state by pushing a finger into the soil. If your finger comes out dry, then watering is the order of the day. Some containers, such as terracotta or coir (coconut fiber) allow more rapid evaporation, and in the dry



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

season these plants may need watering on a daily basis. The tell-tale signs will be wilting and drooping of the foliage. In extreme cases, the plant will collapse.

Overwatering is also a common problem, and in the case of container plants it's often responsible for fatalities. In this case, the water accumulates, especially in glazed or plastic pots that have poor drainage, and the sodden root system literally drowns. To detect this problem, watch for yellowing leaves.

It's more likely for root-rot to happen to potted plants that prefer a dry environment – plants that are accustomed to a desert-like natural habitat. Two of Phuket's most popular potted plants are the *adenium* (desert rose) and *euphorbia millii* (crown of thorns).

Besides their intrinsic good looks, they are popular because they are low-maintenance shrubs that require relatively little water.

You should know these characteristics: what kind of soil you have, which parts of the garden are drier and which are more moist, and which plants require a lot, or a little, water. Plants from naturally damp environments, such as heliconias and most varieties of zingiber will only thrive if given regular supplies of water. The same goes for those fleshy herbaceous plants such as *dieffenbachia* and *agloanema*, and all those shade lovers from the rainforest understory such as *philodendrons*, *anthuriums*, *caladiums*, *spathiphyllums* and *colocasias*.

Be especially mindful of small or newly-transplanted plants – almost all of them will appreciate a daily watering.

There is one golden rule for watering: Never water in the heat

of the day lest you traumatize the plant. If you do, droplets of water form on the leaves, and act as tiny magnifying glasses, resulting in scorched foliage. So soak the earth and not the leaves. Morning is the best time to water because the plant has all day to absorb the moisture. While evening watering is okay, the practice means that moisture may stay overnight on the leaves and encourage mildew.

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

## Tip of the week

### Automatic watering systems

SINCE Phuket has frequent dry spells, a watering system is essential for your garden.

One suggestion is to use sprinklers which spray in a fixed pattern, or rotating sprinklers that spread water over an extensive circle of ground. These are especially useful if you have large areas of lawn. They also ensure a fairly even distribution.

Irrigation systems can be installed with a system of pipes extending – usually at, or just below, surface level – to all the key areas of the garden. Usually these systems have valves which control water usage, and spray heads set at intervals along the pipes. Simpler versions called "drip emitters" have small holes in the pipe at regular intervals.



*adenium*  
(desert rose)

Photos: Andres Rueda, blumenbiene, Shirshad, Suchart Changate, Rameshng, graftedno1

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**Phuket Gazette**  
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\*Source: Google



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### LAND NEAR PIA

Chanote-titled 1730sqm plot in a development estate with underground electricity and security next to Mission Hills golf course. Price: 2.79 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

### LUXURY HOUSE FOR SALE

Or rent in Rawai Nai Harn. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maidrooms, big swimming pool. Land: 656sqm. Sale: 11 million baht. Long-term rent: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-397 1835. Website: phuket-house.yolasite.com

### BAAN SAIYUAN VILLA



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

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One bedroom apartment for sale with Alamanda Golf Course view. Renovated to the hotel's standard. Tel: +65-91-115 7254. Email: bgevens@singnet.com.sg

### COCONUT ISLAND SEAVIEW LAND

Chanote title, road access, 10 meters to the beach. Tel: 081-085 6715. Email: surlamer05@yahoo.com

### 3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



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

### 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

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

New 16-room guest house with restaurant for sale in central Patong. Contact Gluy. Tel: 089-866 9733 (English & Thai). Email: perped58@gmail.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

### SEAVIEW THAI HOUSE

Classic Thai seaview house for sale called Baan Ayodhya de Phuket. Unit A price: 29 million baht. Unit B price: 16 million baht. Nice and peaceful surroundings similar to Chiang Mai but more with Andaman seaview. Please contact Pym. Tel: 084-307 3422 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-555111. Email: thureewan@gmail.com

### 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

### KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



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

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE



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

### LOVELY NEW KATA CONDO 3.9M

1 bedroom, bathroom, 2 aircon units, European-style kitchen, pool, parking and view of the Big Buddha. Contact Phil for more information. Tel: 087-393 5462 (English & Thai). Email: philippew2001@hotmail.com

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE THALANG

This 3-bedroom house is perfectly located near the new Lotus, and only 20 mins to Phuket International Airport. Ideal buy in this very popular, growing area of Phuket. The house has everything you need and is good value for money - only 3.5 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, large fitted kitchen, satellite TV, cable TV, phone (land line), ASDL Internet and parking. Private and secure, the home comes fully-furnished. Tel: 089-394 2981 (English & Thai), 082-974 8359 (English). Email: sales@thailandproperty.com For further details, please see our website at www.thailandproperty.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

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bangtao area. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

### 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

### 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

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New condo. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

**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.

**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

**BEACHFRONT CONDO**

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 9.7 million baht. Also available for rent. Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos please email to jihshand@gmail.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

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

**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

**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 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.

**SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE**

In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Keaw. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.4 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

**TOWNHOUSE IN PATONG**

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

**2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG**

Sea view. 50 Pi Road, 49sq wah. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished. Chanote. Price: 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

**HOUSE & FURNITURE**

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

**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.

**NICE PLOT**

Urgent sale. Behind Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo Area). 1,364sqm. Original price: 7.2 million baht. Now: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

**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.

**SURIN BEACH**

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

**NICE HOUSE 88SQ WAH**

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

**URGENT SALE!**

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

**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

**THE ROYAL PLACE CONDO**

Samkong area. Freehold. 46sqm. Quiet corner unit, with 2 balconies and 1 bedroom. Includes gym and pool. Fully furnished. Price: 2.75 million baht. Tel: 081-083 0460.

**3 BEDROOMS WITH JACUZZI POOL**

New house. 280sqm with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. 3 minutes to Layan and Bang Tao Beach. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English), 085-887 7414 (Thai). Email: ricosta@gmail.com

**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.immobiliien.0.html

**SOLID INVESTMENT**

Big villa also designed as 3 apartments. 1. 170sqm 2. each 85sqm with huge pool in green area in Patong. Everything brand-new and top quality. Best deal on Phuket. Must see. Mountain views with huge trees in garden. Price: 18.9 million baht = 40,300 baht per sqm. Tel: 084-441 9786.

**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

**THE BEST PROJECT**

Close to nature. Prices range from 5.4 million to 7.4 million baht. "The Grove" By Khirithara Village Co., Ltd. Tapsakea, Prachupkhirikhan. Includes club house and 24-hour security.

- One-story house with 2 bedrooms and two-story house with 4 bedrooms.

- Built-up area: 148sqm. Land size: from 560sqm. Tel: 081-018 3311. Fax: 032-815151. Email: keree\_thara\_kae@hotmail.com See our website at www.kt-village.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

**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

**2.3MB NAI HARN LAND**

For sale. 400sqm. Flat land, with road, electricity and access. Freehold. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.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

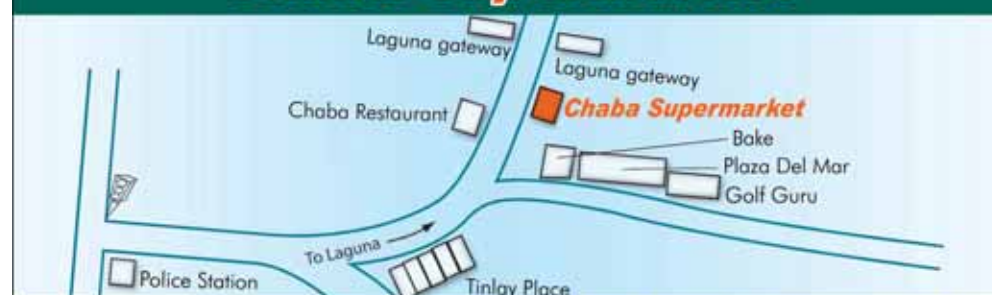
**SUPER CHEAP, PATONG**

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**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

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## Properties For Rent

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Phuket Town and also available close to central, cable TV, internet, security, swimming pool, gym. 15,000 baht to 20,000 baht PCM. Can also supply motorcycle and truck. Tel: 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chris palmer56@gmail.com

### POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, with Internet, cable TV and security. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

### RENT OR SALE

New house, Supalai Hill. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Long-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-649 1218.

### LARGE POOL VILLA RAWAI

3 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon throughout. Secure garden, fully-furnished, good road access, electric gate. Price: 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-533 7669 (English), 087-470 9257 (Thai). Email: gregors@ttmaxnet.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: cape heights@yahoo.co.uk

### PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

Short or long-term lease. Free cable TV, WiFi, maid, pool and gym. 5 minutes to town. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

### PATONG TOWER CONDO

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

### 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.

### NICE HOUSE FOR RENT

Just 5 minutes walk to Nai Harn beach. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big sala, swimming pool. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. For long-term rent. Tel: 081-397 1835. Website: www.phuket-house.yolasite.com

### LONG-TERM RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished. House near Chalong Bay. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

### HOUSE WITH 4 RAI GARDEN

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with guest bungalow in Thalang for long-term rent. Price: 29,000 per month. Tel: 081-343 0777.

### 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

### 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

### 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: ningkantassit@gmail.com

### 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

### PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



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

### 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

### CHALONG HOME

Good value 2 bedroom home with ADSL, aircon and cable TV. Tel: 089-652 1473 (English). Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

### CHALONG BEACHFRONT HOUSE

Furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, with Internet, cable TV, pool. Rent: 13,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

### 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.

### 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

### 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 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.

### 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

### POOL VILLA FOR RENT

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

### PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

Rent: 16,000 baht on long term. Visit our website at www.johnshoneymoonsuite-phuket.ch

### 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

### 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

### 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: saranyu2001@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.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSES

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http://panwagreen.weebly.com

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### ACCOUNTANT

English-speaking accountant experienced in Express program needed. Tel: 076-620193, 081-968 2017. Fax: 076-620194. Email: [info@mobilepooldoctor.com](mailto:info@mobilepooldoctor.com)

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New and innovative marketing company is seeking a graphic designer to join our young, dynamic and rapidly growing company on a permanent basis. Skills required: Adobe CS4 or CS5 Design Premium and HTML (not compulsory). Tel: 087-387 4771. Email: [dada@phuket-tours.org](mailto:dada@phuket-tours.org)

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### TV CAMERAMAN WANTED

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### NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHER

Native English teacher required to teach children aged 3-6 years old, must possess a degree and TEFL certification. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: [info@cravensnurseryphuket.com](mailto:info@cravensnurseryphuket.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.cravensnurseryphuket.com](http://www.cravensnurseryphuket.com)

### COOK

Cook wanted to learn how to cook foreign meals. Some English is a big advantage, interest in the work is a must. Tel: 087-273 6427 (Thai), 086-268 8061 (English). Email: [schendl@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:schendl@loxinfo.co.th) For further details, please see our website at [www.weissbie.randwine.com](http://www.weissbie.randwine.com)

### COOK NEEDED

Italian restaurant needs a female cook. Salary 10,000 baht plus service charge. Tel: 076-343019. Email: [info@casajip.com](mailto:info@casajip.com)

### SALES PERSON

Looking for sales person with good written and spoken Indonesian. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-620193, 081-968 2017. Email: [info@mobilepooldoctor.com](mailto:info@mobilepooldoctor.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)

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1 Thai booking staff, Chalong office, Phuket

For the accountant the following qualifications are needed:

- Able to speak and write English
- Minimum 2 years of working experience with accounting
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- Knowledge of official papers as work permits, TAT license and related company papers will be an advantage.

For the Thai booking staff the following qualifications are needed:

- Knowledge of the English language
- Knowledge of the dive business
- Knowledge of hotel locations on Phuket
- Knowledge of working with a computer
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Interested candidates are welcome to Email a resume immediately. We will then call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Chalong: Phone: 076-383052  
Email: [info@scandinavian-divers.com](mailto:info@scandinavian-divers.com)

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Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

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## All positions require

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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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- Knowledge of German language
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## Qualifications:

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- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

## Salary &amp; Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
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Interested applicants apply at:

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- To agree individual and team sales targets with Southern Regional Manager.
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- Liaise with Assistant Branch Manager about the process with the policy administration, underwriting and accounts departments to ensure that all applications and payments are processed correctly before the policy is issued.
- 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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## Articles For Sale

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### MOVING SALE

Last few items! 5-piece Root furniture set, canoes, bed frame, TV stand, washing machine, speakers, flower pots, Penn reel w/ rod. Tel: 087-282 5008. Email: katafrog@hotmail.com

### MOVING SALE

CAT CDMA Internet Device – 1500 baht, Oven (H: 32cm / W: 53cm / D: 32cm) - 1,000 baht, Office Chair - 800 baht, Shelves - 600 baht each or 1,000 baht for both. Tel: 084-629 3471 (English). Email: daoulasc@gmail.com

### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE 2

30 glass shelves, brackets, scrub, bed, cashier table, nail table, 2 massage chairs, auto machine, electric paraffin machine, many other items for massage and beauty parlor. Tel: 086-281 8883.

### IPAD1 WIFI 32GB

Good condition. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@gmail.com

### JACUZZI FOR SALE

Mobile spa in good condition, used only for 1 year. Price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-667 1637 (English & Thai).

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Tomex TM-951 cake mixer with dough hooks. Converts to hand-held for mixing sauces or drinks. Two high-quality cake pans (heart shaped). 1,950 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@aenyim.com

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  - Hanabashi electric stovetop cooker: 500 baht
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- Tel: 082-804 5506. Email: brettssouth@gmail.com

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### CAFE SHOP ITEMS

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## Bulletins

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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  
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For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3)  
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## Business Opportunities

### DIVING COMPANY FOR SALE

2 work permits. Fully equipped. Price: 80,000 baht. Urgent deal. Tel: 084-838 3158 (English). Email: talal@bwdiving.com

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

New 16-room guest house with restaurant for sale in central Patong. Contact Gluay. Tel: 089-866 9733 (English & Thai). Email: perped58@gmail.com

### RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Fully equipped. Five-star location. Karon Beach. No key money. Contact Pam. Tel: 081-810 5559.

### GUESTHOUSE WITH RESTAURANT

Located in the center of Kata, 5 minutes walk to Kata Beach. Wonderful guesthouse with many customers for sale. Includes a big, refurbished and fully equipped restaurant and many rooms, all of which are furnished and have aircon and hot water, and some with a jacuzzi. Chanote title included. Price: 25 million baht only. Tel: 085-789 5701 (English & Thai) Email: chanisara.guesthouse@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-guesthouse.com

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### LAUNDRY FOR SALE

Laundry with 2 bedrooms and apartment. Price: 280,000 baht. Please contact Ya. Tel: 086-952 9654.

### RENT PATONG CONDO

New, 46sqm, furnished apartment with pool and security. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@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). Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

### RAWAI/POOL GUESTHOUSE



5-year lease. 1.4 million baht or 480,000 baht yearly rent. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, with WiFi, cable TV, 5 motos. 300 meters from beach. No key money. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

### BAR POOL HOTEL/ RAWAI BEACH



5-year lease: 3 million baht (\$100,000) or 800,000 baht yearly rent. No key money. Bar, pool, hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, WiFi, cable TV. 60 meters from the beach. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

### MASSAGE SALON FOR RENT

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### LOOKING FOR A BUSINESS

In the hospitality and tourism industry on Phuket. Tel: 080-789 4500. Email: christophe.soula@yahoo.com

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### BAR FOR SALE

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### BIG BILL AND IRA LOOKING FOR

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### PATONG BEACH BAR

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### BAR BANGLA ROAD

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**PATONG**

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

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- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

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## SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

## Crossword puzzle:



1	A	S	P	E	N	6	S	A	M	E	10	P	R	E	P
14	B	E	L	L	E	15	E	L	E	M	16	E	A	T	A
17	A	N	A	I	S	18	R	O	A	M	19	R	C	A	S
20	C	O	N	S	T	21	A	B	U	L	A	R	I	E	S
23	A	R	E	24	E	L	O	25	A	S	H				
				26	M	A	P	27	F	O	O	T	H	O	L
32	S	O	S	A				35	A	L	I	B	I	R	I
37	U	N	C	E	R	38	E	M	O	N	I	O	U	S	L
41	E	C	O			42	A	P	E	A	K			N	E
44	T	E	L	E	C	A	S	T			O	B	S		
				48	I	R	E				49	O	W	E	
53	C	O	R	R	E	54	S	S	P	O	N	D	E	N	C
58	M	E	S	A				59	G	L	O	M			
61	A	L	I	T				62	G	O	R	P			
64	I	L	S	A				65	S	E	T	H			

## Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. 42
2. Knight
3. Epsom
4. Winnie the Pooh
5. Red and Black
6. 15
7. Eight
8. The Wizard Of Oz
9. Tom Cruise
10. 4
11. Sting (Gordon Sumner)
12. Feet
13. Quasimodo
14. Alion
15. Julia Roberts







# Six out of six for Pryde's Team Premier

The Best Asian Regatta reached its exciting conclusion last weekend. Competitors tacked and gybed their vessels in the waters off the Evason and Bon Island for honors at the Six Senses Phuket International Raceweek. The races were thrilling and the parties were a perfect release after a hard day of sailing.

By Neil Quail

*TEAM Premiere* with Neil Pryde and his crew are the 2011 Six Senses Phuket Raceweek regatta IRC Racing class champions.

Conditions over the four days of racing were as expected; changeable at worst, exciting at their best – offering great sailing and the chance for many of the finest racers in Asia to compete for honors at the 'Best Asian Regatta of the year'.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, Grenville Fordham of the events organizer Image Asia, said he was extremely proud of this year's regatta.

"It has been four days of incredible racing, and five nights of great parties and socializing with all the participants, spectators and sponsors. We made a few alterations to the schedules which have worked very well and we're already looking forward to the 2012 event," he said.

This was Pryde's second visit to Raceweek, having finished as runner-up to Ray Roberts' *Evolution Sails* in 2009 by a single point.

Roberts, the reigning Asia Yachting Grand Prix (AYGP) circuit title holder, did not register for this year's Phuket event, effectively handing Pryde a great opportunity to take early points and a good lead in the AYGP, if of course he could fend off his other Raceweek rivals.

Determined sailing over three days from the crew of *Team Premiere* gave them overall victory in IRC Racing series with 15 points and a clean sweep of six wins in six races.

With the series bagged, *Team Premiere* did not compete in the fourth and final day of racing, leaving Ricky Pointon's *Jing Jing*, Ben Copely's *Katsu* and David Ross' *KukuKERchu* to slug it out for second and third positions.

*Jing Jing* eventually took second place from *Katsu* with less than a minute separating them in each of two very exciting final races using corrected time.

After an uncertain start to the series, Mark Chapman's *Piccolo* triumphed in IRC 2 class with a total of just nine points from Cdr Pornprom Sakultem's *Royal Thai Navy 4* on 17 points, and *Team Sea Bees* with Rob Meiz placing third on 19 points.

Two first-places on day four secured IRC 3 class for Jim Ellis on *Remington*, with Jim Kane on *Linda* in second place. *Linda* came close to losing the runner-up position to Rob Azzopardi's *Dreamtime* by finishing fifth in the final race.

Enjoying time away from his attempt to break the world sailing speed record in Namibia, Paul Larsen on *DaVinci* seemed to have employed his recent experiences with a trio of opening wins in Multihull class. Alan Carwardine on *Sidewinder* picked up the gauntlet



OUT OF SIGHT: Twin Sharks (left) and Voodoo (right) in their battle for Firefly 850 class. Photos by Mia Gillow

handed to him, and responded with five back-to-back victories to take the series. A solid performance from David Liddell's crew on *Miss Saigon* earned them third position.

The Firefly 850 Sport class went down to the wire when Ian Coulson and Clarence Tayong's *Voodoo* claimed victory in the first race of day four while Peter Dyer's *Team Land and Houses* could manage only third spot. A final showdown in race eight ended with *Voodoo* in fourth, but *Team Land and Houses* placed first to take the overall title. Third position in the series was won by John Newnham's *Twin Sharks*.

Competition for Classic honors played out in classic style with the series lead changing hands between the two protagonists each day, until Mark Myking's *Idiom* defeated Khun Bao's *Seraph* in the last race to earn overall victory.

The *Phuket Gazette* is a proud sponsor of the Best Asian Regatta.

For full racing results and images from Raceweek 2011 visit [W: www.phuketraceweek.com](http://www.phuketraceweek.com)



PRYDE OF PLACE: Team Premiere en route to victory at Raceweek.

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# FC Phuket ejected from Thai FA Cup

By Neil Quail

FC PHUKET put in a solid performance in their third-round FA Cup match against TOT SC, but were unable to stop the Thai Premiere League team from advancing on a 1-0 scoreline.

This match was the very first match to be played at TOT's new stadium. The home side automatically qualified for this stage of the competition while Phuket earned their position with a 7-3 demolition of Bangkok Christian College Football Club on June 15.

TOT dominated for the opening minutes of the match, but Phuket had

the lion's share of scoring opportunities throughout the first half.

Kone Adama narrowly missed an opening score for Phuket when his header looped over the crossbar from a Niran Funtong corner in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute.

On 30 minutes, Phuket's French goalkeeper, Jonathan Matijas, kept his team in the game with an outstanding save. A 25-

yard strike looked destined for the top right corner, but Matijas flung his right hand high, and clawed the football away.

Adama turned provider for Funtong in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute, but the TOT goalkeeper got down well to keep Funtong's half-volley out.

Thirteen minutes into the second-half, Adama crossed from the left to Sarach Yooyen, who weaved through several defend-

ers before blasting a shot high over the bar.

TOT began to put more pressure on the visitors as the clock ran down to the final 10 minutes.

On 83 minutes, TOT fans celebrated the

first goal at their new stadium when Cheick Abib Fofana was given a free-header from a Wichan Nantasri corner. His finish justly punished Phuket for dreadful defending.

Two minutes later, Phuket looked to have equalized when a hopeful shot by Seksit Srisai ricocheted off a post into the path of Kone Adama. His thundering re-

**'We were able to hold our own against a strong opponent...**

**It's alright that we lost today, we still have our Toyota Cup and division one league matches to focus on next month'**

**— Coach Sompong**



IVORIAN CONTINGENT: Kone Adama, Abdoul Coulibaly, Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre. Photo: Apinun Saithong

tort found the TOT net, but the referee's assistant had his flag raised for offside. Protests from players and management were unnecessary as at least two Phuket players failed to get back on-side before Seksit's first shot at goal.

Somchai Subpherm, coach for TOT said that he was relatively satisfied with his team's performance. "The team followed our game plan. I'm glad we were able to record a win in the first match at our new stadium," he said.

Phuket coach Sompong Wattana said that he was proud of the team's performance.

"We were able to hold our own against a strong opponent from the premiere league today, so I can confidently say that everyone played to their limits. It's alright that we lost today, we still have

our Toyota Cup and league matches to focus on," he said.

As this edition of the *Phuket Gazette* was going to print, FC Phuket were making their official (July 27) announcement of five new additions to their lineup.

Jonrak Pakdee and Hossian Nussim will join Phuket's defence from Bangkok Glass FC and TTM Phichit FC respectively; Jonathan Matijas previously played for Amiens SC in France's Ligue 2 and is stepping in as goalkeeper; Boubacer Issoufou is a midfielder moving from Muangthong United; and Nitipong Limsuwan joins the defence from Nonthaburi FC. Some of the new players have already begun playing and practicing with the squad.

Phuket's next league match is against Rajapracha FC who are seventh in division one – two

places above Phuket. The game is an away fixture at Mahidol Salaya Campus and kickoff is scheduled for 4pm on July 30.



PROUD: Sompong Wattana.

## Thailand promotes futsal to the world

The coach of Thailand's national futsal team and 10 of his players held a futsal clinic for Phuket children last weekend at Saphan Hin sports gym.

Coach Jose Maria Paza Mendez and his team taught futsal techniques to a group of 50 local students on Saturday and Sunday from 4pm to 5.30pm.

The Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) hosted the event as part of the Thailand to the World project to promote two international sporting events which will be held in Phuket in the coming years: the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2012 from November 2 to 18 and the 4th ASEAN Beach Games from November 14 to 21 in 2014.

SAT Phuket Office Director Wirat Patee said, "this was a good chance for Phuket youth to practice with a professional coach and players of the Thai team. This



ON THE ROAD AGAIN: Coach Jose Mendez (center) with a few of the Thailand Futsal squad.

road show will attract the attention of people in each province to let them know that Phuket is going to host two international sports competitions soon."

The clinics are also being held in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Suphan Buri and Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

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# Game for the love of tennis

Travis Bertram, 30, from Seattle, USA is the new tennis director for Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club. Speaking to the *Gazette*, Travis talks about his hopes for tennis in Phuket.

By Neil Quail

## What drew you to tennis?

My parents used to play a lot of tennis in the 80's, and my younger brother got into it first. We started watching Wimbledon and the professional game caught my interest. I liked the variety of styles because it reminded me of snowboarding and how each snowboarder has their own signature style.

## Did you play any other sports?

I enjoyed all sports growing up including basketball, soccer, Tae Kwon Do and skateboarding, though my dream was to be a professional snowboarder. I was really into snowboarding and skateboarding. I fell when I was snowboarding and dislocated my shoulder and hip and so I was told not to participate in any sports because of the nature of my injuries. I had to be really careful.

## What was the first competition you won?

My first tennis tournament win was in mixed doubles in college. My friend and I won the open division. I always enjoyed mixed doubles because of the male/female dynamic and I thought it was fun to play mixed sports.

## Any memorable matches you have played in or been coach for?

I've had many memorable matches but it's always the ones you lose that you learn from the most. Winning is such a fleeting moment. Two that stick out. I had to play my best friend in the quarter finals of an open tournament. I had never beaten him. With a swollen shoulder and ankle I lost to him 6-4, 6-4. I only lost by four points, but it will be my most memorable because I fought hard, pushed my injuries aside and used my tactical skills to push the match when I could have defaulted.

## Where has your tennis career taken you?

I played for the tennis team in college (Western Washington University) and got a job at a local tennis club stringing rackets, booking courts and eventually became a certified tennis instructor. After college, I discovered Peter Burwash International (PBI) and made it through their rigorous 450-hour training program. During my training I worked with an ATP and WTA coach for a month while we trained some of the top ITF junior players. After that, I became the Head Pro at Carmel Valley Ranch in California, and then became ten-

nis director at The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay, also in California. I also worked at Four Seasons in Costa Rica and in Punta Mita, Mexico for holiday seasons. Before coming to Phuket, I was the executive junior tennis director at the Willingdon Sports Club in Mumbai, India.

## What are your hopes for Tennis in Phuket?

I hope to run a successful program at Thanyapura by satisfying the needs of our members. I want tennis to be one of the social hubs of the club. The hope for junior tennis is for the kids to learn how to enjoy tennis first. From there we will get avid players that are thinking of a competitive future. Obviously I will also be hunting for talent.

## Any future talents?

We have several players that are showing a lot of potential. I am really impressed with the athleticism of all the kids. Several kids had never touched a racket at the beginning of the month and now they are already playing points. It's certainly one of the fastest progressions I've seen. The children of athletic parents are the ones I'm really keeping my eye out for.



**BASLINE:** Travis Bertram hopes to find new tennis talent in Phuket.

## Any plans for competitions here?

We have two ITF tournaments on the books and planning several more.

## How important are tennis academies?

They are crucial for the game's growth. Sadly, there are only a few good tennis academies in the world. The academy environment is key because of the element of competition. Competing against peers is vital to the mindset of any athlete. Junior tennis players not only need to train hard but they must learn a variety of subjects from stroke production to strategy as well as basic knowledge of the game.

## What do you think of Phuket so far?

We came to Phuket in April this year to see the TSLC site and we fell in love with Phuket.

My wife Kelsey and I both love the laid back lifestyle, and especially Thai food. It's a treat to go to the local street markets. Thanyapura is such a highlight. It's so cool to be in an environment like Thanyapura's because it's really a haven for athletes and I'm excited to share what I've learned. When I go to work I feel like a kid going to the playground.

For more information visit [W: www.thanyapura.com](http://www.thanyapura.com)

# Golf Guru wisdom

NORTHERN Ireland's Darren Clarke successfully beat the weather at the 2011 Open Championship scoring 68 on the first two days, and carded 69 and 70 for the closing 36 holes which gave him a three-shot victory.

Weather and tee-times are the biggest factors in making or breaking a player's chances of getting into a winning position. The last two days are exceptional because the leaders all play at the same time, and consequently play through the same conditions.

So why did Darren Clarke win on this particular occasion?

His ball striking from tee to green was outstanding. He putted well, and he rode his luck on more than one occasion. With 116 putts in total, or 29 putts on average per round, it was a solid all-round performance. He played every shot with 100 per cent commitment regardless of the consequences,

as highlighted by his approach shot that bounced over the bunker, onto the 10th green!

In essence, sometimes it's better to go for it even if we crash and burn. Remember, fortune favors the brave. So the next time

you play, take that golf shot on and know that it will go one way or the other: good or bad. Don't get stuck in the middle. If it is your day, it will all be good.

See you on the golf course. E: [martin@thegolfguru.com](mailto:martin@thegolfguru.com)



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# Surf's up

QUICKSILVER Thailand Surf Competition 2011 is already making waves on the Island and hopes are that the renowned international event will grow Phuket's surfing culture.

"This year, the event will become one of six ranked competitions in the ASEAN Surfing Championship held in Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

More than 100 surfers have already registered for the competition. Overall, about 300 surfers are expected to compete in the games which will have four classes: long board, short board, women, and a master's category for those over 35 years of age.

Surfers from many different countries will be challenged by the waters and waves off Phuket including USA, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore.

To further promote the event, the Quicksilver Surf House opened this week on the ground floor of Jungceylon near the entrance to Silang Boulevard Hall and will remain open until the end of September.

Surf House staff will also distribute information about the third Quicksilver Thailand Surf Competition 2011 to be held in Patong from September 21 to 24 in front of Phuket Graceland resort. Surf House staff can also suggest places and times to surf, as well as help beginners join a surf school in the area.

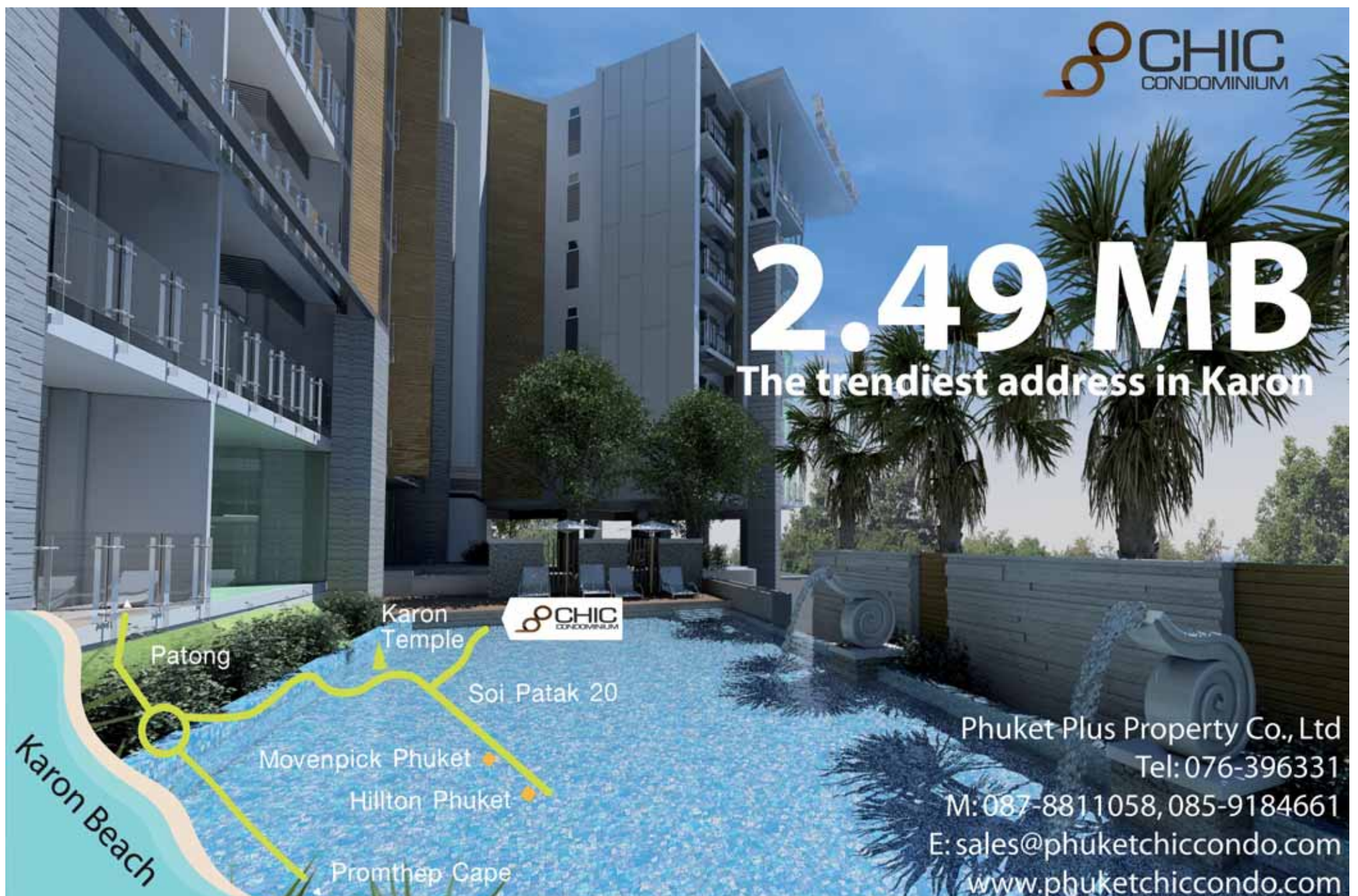
The event will also include a "surfing festival" with a fashion show, a surf show by a famous international surfer, a surf clinic and games on the beach. On the last night of the event there will be a live concert on the beach.

Quicksilver will also co-operate with the Phuket Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Center to organize a sea grass planting event for the surfers near Pa Khlok.

To register for the competition or for more information, visit: [w.quicksilverthailand.com](http://w.quicksilverthailand.com), [w.thaisurfrider.com](http://w.thaisurfrider.com) and [w.surfingthailand.org](http://w.surfingthailand.org)

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are proud to sponsor of this event.

— Photo courtesy of Quicksilver



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