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Karon tuk-tuks shoot for safety

By Chutharat Plerin

KARON Municipality is compiling a list of fares charged by tuk-tuk drivers operating in the Kata-Karon area in order to establish an agreed schedule of standard fares to be shown – and charged – in the popular tourist beach areas.

The draft schedule is the first step in a new campaign to build tourist confidence in local tuk-tuk drivers.

The goal is to have tuk-tuks carrying stickers featuring the set prices and the motto, “This tuk-tuk is safe to ride in”.

“Having tuk-tuk safety certificates is the idea of Phuket Vice Governor Nivit Aroonrat,” Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office Chief Teerayut Prasertpol told the *Phuket Gazette*.

“He saw many groups of tuk-tuks in front of hotels in Karon and he wants to bring them under provincial administration.

“We have assigned Karon Municipality to make this happen,” he said.



Tuk-tuk drivers in Karon may soon be required to be polite and safe.

Chief Teerayut explained that Karon Municipality is currently compiling a list of major Kata-Karon tuk-tuk rank locations and the fares charged by drivers working from those ranks.

“When we have all the information required, the provincial administrators can proceed with drafting the schedule,” he said.

“This is so we can start moving toward having standard rules to be adhered to in order for drivers to be issued a certificate, including the drivers being

dressed appropriately, being polite and driving safely.

“Only then can the drivers put the stickers on their tuk-tuks,” Chief Teerayut said.

The Phuket Transport Office and Karon Municipality are scheduled to meet on August 28.

“We’ll see then what the next step we need to take will be,” Chief Teerayut said.

In Patong, however, Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao knew nothing of this latest development.

“I have not had any reports of this idea yet, but I will look into it,” Col Arayapan told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

Mardlee “Bang Lee” Sawangpon, who acts as the apparent spokesperson for one of the largest tuk-tuk driver consortiums in Patong, told the *Gazette*, “Patong has not even started taking any similar steps yet.

“If I get the chance I’ll bring this up with Maj Gen Pekad [the superintendent of Phuket Provincial Police].”



Firefighters prepare to engage the blaze. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

Fire engulfs Patong Market

DAMAGES caused by a fire that swept through an undercover clothes market in Patong early Wednesday morning were estimated to be more than 50 million baht.

The President of Patong retail business club, Tossapol Rungruengpawan, said that more than 80 vendors and 116 shops were affected by the blaze that destroyed Koh Kaew Market, located next to the Jungceylon shopping complex on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road.

No injuries or deaths were reported.

The fire was reported to have broken out at about 3am. Firefighters responding to the call took about two hours to extinguish the blaze.

Market vendor Yanma La said he lost three shops valued at more than 4mn baht.

The 39-year-old Nepalese, who has lived in Phuket for more than 20 years, told the *Gazette* that he was doubtful about suspicions that the fire was caused by a short-circuit.

Many of the shops were not even supplied by electricity, he said.

Mr La said the blaze had left him in financial crisis.

“I’m broke. I just lost 1mn baht in new stock and my shops together costing 4mn baht,” he said.

Many other vendors have suffered the same, Mr La added.

—Atchaa Khamlo

Ambassador warns of tourism ‘landslide’

CRITICAL issues affecting Phuket tourism must be contained, or else the industry could “slide out of control”, the Dutch Ambassador to Thailand warned this week.

On his first official visit to Phuket, Ambassador Joan Boer on Monday asked Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha what he intended to do about the problems, specifically naming jet-ski rip-off scams and unscrupulous tuk-tuk drivers as the key culprits.

Likening the potential effect on tourism to a landslide, Amb Boer said, “Everything starts moving very slowly, but soon you have critical mass and things start moving out of control. And that’s what we have at the moment

“Just look at the number of complaints about jet-skis and the very unfortunate event two weeks ago when two boys got into big problems over 1,000 baht.

“That’s not good for us and not good for Phuket,” he said.

Amb Boer pointed out that Spain and Greece had suffered similar problems.

“That’s why they lost 30-40% of their tourists,” he said.

“In tourism, if there is no security and no predictability – then cheap prices will not help you at the end of the day,” he added.

Gov Tri told Amb Boer the biggest barrier to resolving such problems were entrenched local political figures with pow-

erful “support bases”.

“We have our consuls’ meeting once every three months and tuk-tuks are one of the most pressing issues that need to be resolved. This has been an issue in Phuket for a long time. We cannot fix this problem in one step; it needs to be done little by little,” he said.



Ambassador Boer

“We have to accept that the problem involves people who are supporters of a local [“influential person”], so when we order them to do something to solve the problem, it doesn’t go very well – that’s why we have to do it step by step,” added the governor.

But some progress has been made, said Gov Tri, explaining that many jet-ski operators were being brought into the system, and hence under regulation.

Steps were also being taken to address other issues, he added.

“Parking is another problem. Some local people [in Patong] do not allow tourists

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This Week

No meth or mobiles, please



Phuket's prison chief targets meth and mobile smugglers. **Page 5**

Business



Starting from seed: the incredible story of CP Foods. **Page 11**

Livewire



Surprise results in unofficial 'Bang for the Baht' tests **Page 12**

History



Read how Bang Tao was brought back to life in the 80s. **Page 17**

Books



An insight into the mind of a mass murderer's mother. **Page 18**

Sport



FC Phuket finally wins a match away from home. **Page 41**

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No blockade as US Navy arrive at Deep Sea Port

By Atchaa Khamlo

MORE than 4,000 United States Military personnel arrived at the Deep Sea Port on Monday with no reports of transportation problems as they made their way to destinations around the island.

The USS *Boxer* amphibious-ready group – the USS *Boxer*, the USS *Green Bay* and the USS *Comstock* – are on a “goodwill” visit that will see its crew take part in community service projects.

Several times in the recent past, taxi drivers at Ao Makham blockaded the Deep Sea Port, preventing passengers from cruise ships and US Military vessels from venturing into Phuket. The drivers protested that local tour companies provided transport for the passengers who disembark at the port, leaving them with no work or income.

Taxi drivers and tour operators on August 16 signed an agreement to end the blockades. Under the terms of the agreement, the taxi operators and tour agencies serving the port are to have “equal access” to arriving passengers,



US Navy personnel figure out their next move at the Deep Sea Port.

with no more than a “10 per cent difference in share”.

The tour companies also agreed to inform the taxi cartel one day in advance when tours were scheduled to arrive in Phuket and how many passengers were expected – so that sufficient taxis would be available.

“There have been no more problems between taxi drivers and tour companies following the signing of the MoU. Everything is fine. The companies have been inform-

ing the taxi drivers about the situation,” said Wichit sub-district Deputy Mayor Chairat Kumban.

Many of the men and women of the amphibious-ready group booked tours in Patong and were transported by a pre-booked company. Cars were available for high-ranking officers and vans and buses for others.

“The ships informed us that they had their own transport, so we didn’t have any problems with that,” Mr Chairat said.

Sarasin Bridge ‘opens’ early

THE reinforced, raised and re-decorated Sarasin Bridge connected Phuket with mainland Thailand is now open to pedestrians.

“People are walking onto the bridge – and we’re not stopping them,” said Phuket Provincial Highways Office Chief Arun Sanae.

“They think that the bridge is now open because we have finished construction and all we are doing now is cleaning up and adding the final touches,” he said.

Built on a 378-million baht budget covering the construction of the now-open Srisoonthorn Bridge northbound off the island, the 44-year-old Sarasin Bridge underwent structural reinforcement and was raised to give 10 meters’ clearance for boats passing underneath.

The original bridge, completed in 1967, was named after Pote Sarasin, who served as head of



A workman adds the finishing touches to the Sarasin Bridge, which is now unofficially open to visitors. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

the now-defunct National Development Ministry.

Project engineer Dr Phattanapong Thonsuk of project contractor Italian-Thai Development Co told the *Phuket Gazette* previously that the Sarasin Bridge had suffered from years of salt-water corrosion and wear and

was replaced following concerns by the Highway Department about its structural integrity.

Mr Arun explained that Italian-Thai Development Co will hand over responsibility for the bridge after a final inspection on August 30 (Tuesday).

– Atchaa Khamlo

Critical issues place Phuket’s tourism future in danger

From page 1

to park in public parking spaces. If any tourists park in their areas, they damage the vehicles,” he said.

“But now we are solving the problem. We are finding areas for tourists to park. I have talked to the police and they are taking steps to resolve this issue,” Gov Tri said.

In gaining what he called “co-operation” from local people, Governor Tri made plain that his powers went beyond canceling locally-issued licenses.

“If the police cannot do anything to resolve either of these two issues [jet-skis and tuk-tuk driv-

ers], I have the authority to contact the central government in Bangkok to request help.

“Bangkok can send people with the power to do something about the problems, even call in the military,” Gov Tri said.

Amb Boer appreciated Gov Tri’s sentiment, offering to act at the diplomatic level on any advice provided.

“I would be very happy to ask questions that come from the consular meetings – which we think are a very good idea – to the central government as well,” he said.

“Problems that play here may play out at another level,” Amb Boer added.



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HOLIDAY INN RESORT PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH

TAT targets timeshare use of logo

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has warned businesses and operators that it would consider legal action against those counterfeiting or imitating their seal and initials.

The move is intended to be a warning shot at illegal timeshare companies in Phuket.

The statement signed by TAT Governor Suraphon Svetasreni appeared on the TAT News Room site tatnews.org July 26, only weeks after the first meeting of a high-powered Phuket taskforce assigned to tackle the scamming of tourists by local operators.

Pamphlets handed out by some of the companies being investigated bore the TAT logo.

"The Tourism Authority of Thailand has its seal and initials in English and Thai registered with the Trademark Office, Department of Intellectual Property, as a service mark according to the Trademark Act B.E. 2534 (1991).

"Consequently, any persons who use the TAT seal and initials without permission from the TAT, including those who imitate the TAT seal and initials, are committing a punishable offence under the Act," the statement said.

"If it is found by examination or other means that there are any violators on the account against TAT under the Act, TAT is obliged to consider the pursuit of the case in a court of law. Please be informed accordingly," it added.

Under the Trademark Act B.E. 2534 (1991), the punishment for counterfeiting a trademarked logo can include up to four years in prison or a fine of up to 400,000 baht. Imitating a trademarked logo incurs a prison sentence of up to two years or a fine not exceeding 200,000 baht.

"The TAT has registered its seal and initials both Thai and English for a long time, but recently many tourism companies have used them or designs that look similar on packaging. These actions confuse tourists and discredit us.



Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban holds up one of the 'surveys' featuring a TAT logo used by a bogus timeshare operator on Phuket.

Tourists sometimes misunderstand that these companies are run by the TAT," said Bangonrat Shinaprayoon, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) regional office in Phuket.

"I would like to inform these companies that we will file a court case against them if we find any illegal use of our logo or initials. I would also like tourists to take note of what they see and deter-

mine whether a printed seal is authentic or not.

"Anyone who would like to use our seal and initials must ask for permission.

"If you have any doubt whether the company whose services you are using has permission to use our logo or initials, call us at 076-212213," she added.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat

Sukkaban, who is on the Phuket illegal timeshare taskforce, had his own views on how effective the threat of legal action will be.

"The registration of the TAT logo as a trademark will help the situation regarding illegal timeshare companies in one way but it isn't going to be a game changer. Progress in these situations take action and cooperation from many parties.

"The trademark is definitely useful, but the problem is that the TAT does not have the manpower to conduct ongoing checks regarding the legal use of their logo," Mr Chairat said.

Mr Chairat said that illegal timeshare operators was a politically complicated subject.

"I can only speak for myself when I say that it is wrong and I want to fight against it [illegal timesharing], but not everyone would agree.

"At the Tessabaan [municipal] level, people above me may not hold this issue as a priority," he said.

"It is an ongoing process. If the people of Phuket and Patong believe it needs to stop, they know my stance on it and can consider it at the next election," he added.

Expat deported over fraud charges in US

AMERICAN Roger Miller pleaded to the press that he himself was a victim of fraud as he faced immediate extradition to Florida this week for allegedly defrauding investors of US\$1.2 million in a failed real estate business named Rama Lama Mortgage.

"There were over 10 victims, most of them from the USA and Canada. Damages amount to over \$1.2 million," said Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak.

Mr Miller, however, alleged that two American partners in a company he started in 2007 took the invested money and disappeared.

"We planned to do a 140-unit condominium project on 7½ rai of land in Phang Nga. However, my partner Matthew Willie and I found out that we were left for



Roger Miller, facing extradition on fraud charges, says he was cheated by two American partners.

bust by two other partners in late 2008," he said.

"We trusted them, but we realized there was no money in the bank accounts," he said.

"Many investors called me and I always answered. I never hid from them. I didn't flee, I came here to try to solve the problem," he added.

Mass massage sets unofficial record

HUNDREDS of Phuket massage therapists lined Kata Beach last Friday morning ready to play their part in a mass Thai massage session that unofficially broke the standing world record.

A total of 584 pairs of hands worked in unison to rub and relax, surpassing the current official record of 232 pairs of hands set by "Tourism Victoria Australia".

An officer with the Ministry of Health explained that although many of the events – including



One of the tourists enjoys her foot massage.

those in Ubon Ratchathani and Phuket – had more participants than the current record, Guinness

World Records would be invited to attend the official attempt at the record in Bangkok later this year.

The Phuket event is part of the nationwide 'Nuad [Massage] Thai for World Record' campaign, said Dr Somchai Pinyopornpanich, director-general of the Ministry of Health's Service Support Department.

The last two "mass massages" will be in Surat Thani and Bangkok on November 17.

See page 22 for our photo special



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Drug tip-offs lead to four arrests, 6,000 pills

AN ANTI-drug squad in Thalang District, which covers most of the north of Phuket, nabbed four people for drugs on Sunday night, culminating with the arrest of an alleged dealer with more than 5,000 pills in the early hours of Monday morning.

The squad, comprising four Thalang Police officers and officials from the Thalang District Office, began the night's work with the arrest of an 18-year-old at a house in Moo 9, Thepkraassatri sub-district, at about 8pm.

The young man was charged with possession of four *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and handed to the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center.

In his statement, the teenager claimed that he bought the drugs from Somboon "Tuck" Pinit, 45.

The team moved to arrest Somboon, but while doing the rounds the officers arrested Chanchai "Eak" Phirom, 28, on the Na Nai-Pakrongcheep Road in



Drug suspects (seated, from left) Pongsathorn Mangka, Somboon Pinit and Chanchai Phirom at a press conference. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Thepkraassatri at about 9: 30pm.

Chanchai was charged for possession of three *ya bah* pills, with intent to use.

The team later arrested Somboon at a house in Baan Khanaen village in Thepkraassatri, at about 12: 40am.

Somboon was found in possession of 5,800 *ya bah* pills as well as a rifle with 25 bullets and 3,510 baht in cash.

Charged with possession of drugs with intent to sell, Somboon told police that he sourced his *ya bah* from Pongsathorn "Nui" Mangka, 40.

Somboon's statement led to the arrest of Pongsathorn in front of his house at Baan Suan Neramitra 3 in Srisoonthorn sub-district at about 4: 30am on Monday.

Pongsathorn was found with 50 *ya bah* pills on his person.

Rats! Now

Phuket Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon already has his hands full running the jail. Now he has to deal with rats loaded with assorted contraband being slung over the walls. The *Gazette's* Atchaa Khamlo reports.

FRIENDS of inmates at Phuket Prison are surgically implanting gifts of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and cellphones into the bodies of dead rats, which are then lobbed over the prison walls, the chief warden says.

"When I arrived in Phuket about three months ago, many mobile phones were being thrown in from outside the prison. We seized 10 to 20 devices a week, especially between midnight and 2am, when prisoners are in bed," Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon told the *Gazette*.

"To combat the problem, wardens now conduct checks of all risk areas, inspecting any questionable objects before releasing the inmates from their sleeping quarters," he added.

Friends have used a wide variety of missiles to sneak contraband into the facility. In the past, these have included unremarkable items such as footballs, old slippers and empty containers for lotion, powder and milk.

Due to higher rate of interception, however, the smugglers have turned to using dead rats.

Mr Rapin admits that the "dead rat deception" initially enjoyed some success.

"Before we didn't notice plastic-wrapped cell phones and drugs

inside the bodies of dead rats. Some of the prisoners' duties include general cleaning and disposal of dead rats into trash bins, so they arranged for visiting friends to implant the rats with mobile phones and then collected them," said Chief Rapin.

"We later noticed a surge in the number of dead rats being found, so we examined one

carefully and found a mobile phone and accessories wrapped in plastic inside the rotting carcasses," he said.

Heightened security at night initially prompted the people to begin throwing the rats over the walls in broad daylight, but once the wardens recognized dead rodents as potential containers for contraband the gig was up.

"Once we were onto them we were able to confiscate seven or eight mobile phones in a

single day," he said.

Confident the confiscation rate is now 100 per cent, Mr Rapin said those responsible have had their cases forwarded to Phuket City Police.

The heightened security is just part of the ongoing effort to keep *ya ice*, mobile phones and other contraband outside prison walls, he explained.

"We have set more security, which includes examining our own officers and prisoners as they come in and out of the facility on court appearance days and thorough inspection of visitors.

"Police also conduct inspections of the prison during the day and the Department of Corrections has provided us with five metal detectors," he said.

"We also continue to conduct inspections of their sleeping quarters. Three months ago, such inspections could yield several tens of seized devices, but now the figure is down to just one in 10 days," he said.

Mobile phones have become an important form of currency



"We later noticed a surge in the number of dead rats being found, so we examined one carefully and found a mobile phone..."

— Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon

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they're smuggling drugs

among the Phuket Prison population.

"A mobile phone you can buy outside for about 1,000 baht goes for over 10,000 baht inside," he said.

Prisoners caught with mobile phones or drugs have to face four to six months tacked on to their sentences, which typically range from 10 to 20 years for the drug offenders who make up the majority of the inmate population.

They also lose the possibility for early release under a Royal Pardon, such as the reprieves granted on Father's Day, because such pardons are granted only to prisoners who exhibit good behavior.

Prisoners who continue to be caught with contraband will be transferred to high-security prisons in Greater Bangkok, he said.

"It's such a pity for them," Chief Rapin said.

Even those prisoners who manage to keep mobile phones have problems using them.

"New electrical conduit is being installed because our prison is quite old. It was built 111 years ago. Some of them surreptitiously tap into available cables in order to recharge batteries," he said.

"In the future, we plan to have total CCTV coverage inside the prison, which will make it impossible for them to use the phones without being seen by us," he said.

Setting up a system to block all cell phone signals on prison grounds is out of the question.

"We cannot set up a blocking system as it will unfairly affect other cellphone users in the area. Such a system can work only at a facility such as Khaobin Central Prison [in Ratchaburi], which is far



Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon holds up a metal detector used to find smuggled contraband, which is snuck into the prison using increasingly inventive methods, most recently rats. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

away from nearby communities.

"However, we have already ordered technology capable of detecting cell phone signal transmissions and we expect it to arrive soon," said Chief Rapin.

"Most problems in Phuket Prison are still about drugs and mobile phones, but it's good none of our officers have been implicated in any of these cases. Everything that comes into Phuket Prison is checked. Even if they can pass the first check, they cannot pass in subsequent searches by prison officers," he said.

Recent events have also con-

vinced wardens of the need for better scrutiny of gifts given to prisoners by visiting friends and relatives, he revealed.

"On July 25, one student was arrested after trying to smuggle in *ya ice* worth 10,000 baht inside a bag of fried chicken. Had it not been intercepted it could have fetched tens of thousands of baht on the inside," he said.

In another case, officials opened some suspicious boiled cockle shells to find that the visitor had meticulously removed the meat from the inside and replaced it with a package of *ya bah*

(methamphetamine) pills before sealing it with glue.

Ya bah was also once seized from a delivery of *raad na* (fried noodles with a savory sauce), said Mr Rapin, whose previous work included years with a special drug unit assigned to different prisons in the capital.

If visitors persist in smuggling drugs into the prison, the prison will have to reconsider current regulations that allow prisoners to receive gifts of food, he warned.

"I would like to ask friends and relatives of prisoners not to bring mobile phones and drugs. The

friends may be able to get away, but the prisoners will be examined and get into trouble later," he said.

Chief Rapin said the current population of the prison is over 1,400, which is over seven times its original design capacity of just 200 inmates.

On August 18, there were 1,259 male prisoners, including 66 foreign males, and 200 females, 13 of them foreigners.

"Most of the foreigners are Burmese caught working illegally, while the others are there on murders and drug charges. Meanwhile, the [low security] Bang Jo Prison in Thalang has 61 inmates," he said.

The numbers can swell quickly, such as after immigration sweeps that result in 300 Burmese workers at a time arriving for a one-month stay.

"We try to move them to the others prisons, but we can't until they receive their final verdicts. Right now, about 90 per cent of inmates' cases are still being heard in court," said Chief Rapin.

Convicts sentenced to over 15 years are typically transferred to larger facilities in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Surat Thani, he said.

"Even though we continue sending them to the other places, newly arrested people are always arriving. All of the prisons in the south are full, so we try to use the available space as efficiently as possible, such as by building two sleeping levels for them," he said.

"No matter how many people are sent here by the court and police, we have to accept them all. We need to manage every aspect of the prison on our own," he said.

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HRH grants specialist medical care for three

By Janpen Upatising

HRH Princess Chulabhorn Valayalaksana on Tuesday granted much-needed specialist medical care to three Phuket residents who would otherwise not receive the treatment they need.

Princess Chulabhorn arrived at Baan Sapam Mongkol Wittaya School in Koh Kaew, just north of Phuket Town, at 2:30pm in support of a free mobile medical clinic being held there under the Princess Mother's Medical Volunteer Foundation.

The foundation is renowned for providing free general healthcare and critically needed medical services to people who otherwise could not afford it.

"One patient received at the clinic suffers from Retinoblastoma [a cancerous tumor of the retina]. That patient will be treated at Siriraj Hospital [in Bangkok]," said Phuket Provincial Health Office chief Sak Tanchaikul.

Another patient, diagnosed with leukemia, will be sent for treatment at the Chulabhorn Research



A volunteer (right) listens intently as one of the many people who turned up seeking medical help explains his needs. Photo: Janpen Upatising

Institute at Chulabhorn Hospital in Bangkok.

The third patient, who has extra digits on each hand and foot, will also be sent to Chulalongkorn Hospital for treatment, Dr Sak added.

The foundation, established in Phuket since 1975, is currently supported by more than 1,000

doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other volunteers in the province.

Dr Sak explained that 117 people received medical checkups at the clinic.

"Thirteen will be given hospital treatment. Some may be referred to Siriraj Hospital or Chulabhorn Hospital in Bangkok," he added.

Ex-policeman shot dead over 1.8 baht

A GAS station attendant shot dead a former policeman in Chanthaburi province – in an argument over 1.8 baht.

Inspector Badin Khongkhan of Makham Police Station received a report of a shooting murder at the gas station on the main road from Chanthaburi to Sa Kaeo Road around 10pm on August 21.

At the scene, police and local rescue workers found a crowd of people gathered around the body of Lt Col Phalangphon Phakdi, a 58-year-old former police officer at Police Region 2 Headquarters.

They also found Col Phalangphon's black Volvo sedan parked next to one of the gas pumps at the station and three bullet casings on the ground.

Prasong Mikhwan, an attendant at the station, told police that the dead man had arrived at the pump in his car and been served by one of the attendants, named only as "Mr Ken", age 37.

Col Phalangphon had asked Mr Ken for 600 baht in gas, but Mr Ken accidentally pumped an ex-



tra 1 baht and 80 satang into the cop's Volvo.

The request infuriated Col Phalangphon, who got out of his car and started waving his arms in the air and shouting angrily at Mr Ken.

Mr Ken became angry himself and stormed off behind the gas station.

He returned holding a .38-caliber pistol and shot Col Phalangphon three times – twice in the shoulder and once through the cheek.

He then got on his motorcycle and fled.

Sathaporn Amornratsuchat, the Superintendent at Makham Police Station, said police would hunt down Mr Ken, describing the crime against a former public servant as "outrageous".

– *Manager online*

Swede robbed of B1mn on first day in new home

A COUPLE have reported their house being burgled – and losing valuables totaling about one million baht in the process – within 24 hours of moving into their new Phuket home.

Lars Gustav Torsten Lindgren, 57, told the *Gazette* that he and his 35-year-old Thai girlfriend bought their new home, located in Chalong's sleepy Soi Baan Klang, off Chao Fa West Rd, last Wednesday.

"We spent Wednesday night next door and we left the house to get some food at about 5pm [on Thursday]," said his girlfriend.

"We came home about an hour later and found a wooden stick lying at the front door. Lars unlocked the security door and rushed inside to find his bag was missing," she added.

Gone with the bag were a gold necklace, a gold bracelet, three gold rings, a

mobile phone and Mr Lindgren's passport.

The mosquito screen on the security door was broken open.

The couple believe the thief used the stick to break through the mesh and reach through the door to retrieve the bag, which was sitting on a counter just a few meters from the door.

They also found that the girlfriend's handbag, which was sitting beside a window, had been emptied of her ATM and credit cards, some "important documents" and cash, and her bank book.

The mosquito screen on the window, which had security bars, had also been broken open.

"I've been in Phuket three times and I really like it, so I bought this house," said a downhearted Mr Lundgren.

The couple transferred the money – 10



The quiet street has not suffered break-ins for years, say neighbors.

million baht – to buy the property on Wednesday. "The house is very nice and quiet; that's why we chose it, but somebody was probably watching us. It's just bad luck," he said.

"I lived in Australia for 32 years and I was supposed to run a property business here in Phuket as I used to work in real estate.

"Now I have to stay in the house for awhile to organize everything as we will sell this house," Mr Lundgren said.

The couple now plan to move to Bangkok.

Mr Lindgren said he had not had time to take out home and contents insurance.

Chalong Police are continuing their investigation into the robbery and the embassy has been notified of the passport loss.

Sujintana Roll, 49, who lives next door, told the *Gazette*, "My house used to get broken into, but that was many years ago. This area hasn't had any robberies since."

– *Atchaa Khamlo*

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Mother reclaims 'Ramadan'

THE mother of the baby reported found abandoned last Sunday night has presented herself at Patong Hospital and is now reunited with her one-month-old son, named Ramadan.

Kamala Police Duty Officer Somnerk Dumkeaw said, "It was a misunderstanding. The baby boy was not abandoned."

He explained that the single mother had an argument with the family who had let her stay with them while she was heavily pregnant with Ramadan and she had her two-year-old boy to care for.

She moved out of the house in Kamala but agreed to leave Ramadan temporarily as it was raining at the time.

"After the mother had left, the family learned that Ramadan had a fever. They contacted local



Baby Ramadan is now reunited with his mum. Photo: Wichai Witthawat

tambon chief Santi Saraya. The chief called the Kusoldham Foundation for help," he added.

"Ramadan's mother presented herself at the hospital [Monday] morning," said Capt Somneuk.

"The baby still has a fever, so he is still at the hospital as is his mother," he added.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

UN urges action on trafficking

THE United Nations Special Rapporteur on human trafficking has urged the Thai government to do more to combat the trade and protect the rights of migrant workers.

"Thailand faces significant challenges as a source, transit and destination country," said Joy Ngozi Ezeilo on Monday, following a 12-day fact-finding tour of the country.

"The trend of trafficking for forced labour is growing in scale in the agricultural, construction and fishing industries," she added, urging the government to cooperate with neighbouring countries more effectively in preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

Ms Ezeilo commended Thailand's enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2008, which meets international standards, but warned implementation of the law remains weak and fragmented.

During her trip, Mrs Ezeilo heard the bitter stories of Burmese migrants who had come to Thailand with high expectations, only to be sold into slavery.

Ye, a Burmese man who had been told he would be paid 4,200 baht a month, was forced to work on a

AROUND THE nation

fishing boat for free, after being told he would have to pay off debts incurred in bringing him here.

Ye told of migrants who, exhausted and unable to continue working, were simply pushed into the sea. He said he felt hopeless and hated the captain of the boat.

Finally, however, Ye was able to escape. He said he could never forgive the captain. He wanted all Burmese thinking of coming to Thailand to hear his story, so they could be spared the same fate.

Sanda, a Christian Chin woman, was trafficked by a Mon couple to work at a construction site in Thailand, only to find herself working without pay in the fishing industry and sexually enslaved.

Sanda had to gut about 50 kilograms of fish per day for the couple, but never received payment. They said her wages were taken to cover fees paid to "buy"



Ms Ezeilo said Thailand needs to do more to combat trafficking in the fishing industry, among others. Photo: AFP

her, and for her rent, which was 600 baht per month.

Every night when she returned to the room, Sanda said she fought the Mon man, who demanded sex. Essentially a sex slave, she fears she

may have been infected with HIV.

Sanda was held for one month by the couple before another Mon man "bought" her from the couple and helped her escape. They later married. Sanda and her husband

now work at different construction sites, earning 200 baht each per day.

"There is no law here," Sanda said, adding that she did not want any more Burmese people to come to Thailand and suffer as she has.

Man kills family in crazed axe rampage

A MENTALLY ill man butchered his mother, father and older sister in a horrific killing spree that has shocked residents of his village in Nan province.

Songkran Prikphet, 42, hacked his elderly parents to death with an axe before slitting his sister's throat in a rampage at their home in the village of Tonnun in Klangwang subdistrict on August 19.

When police arrived at the house they found the bodies of Wet and Khiao Prikphet, aged 80 and 66 respectively. Each had at least 10 axe wounds to the head and body.

They also found the killer's older sister, Malai Kamnon, lying in a pool of blood with her throat slit. They sent her to the hospital, where she later died.

Mr Songkran's brother Sakul, 43, told police that his brother had been suffering from mental illness for 10 years before the murders and had to take medicine constantly to combat it.

Mr Songkran had never hurt anyone before, Mr Sakul said. He said he suspected his brother had skipped taking his medicine, causing him to become violent.

Nan Police Commander Chalongchai Burirat said that for their own safety, people with family members who are mentally ill should take them to the hospital and ensure they are cured before they return home.

Thaksin to meet Japan 'leaders'



BIG IN JAPAN: Mr Thaksin speaks before press in Tokyo. Photo: AFP

FORMER prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrived in Japan on Monday as part of a highly controversial trip allegedly facilitated by Thai Foreign Minister Surapong Towichukchaikul.

Mr Thaksin told reporters that he had no plans to return to Thailand immediately and that he would only do so once the rifts in the country had been healed, according to Bloomberg.

The former premier also dismissed suggestions that current Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, his youngest sister, is his proxy.

"Sometimes she might ask me who is who, because she is new in politics. So that is normal," he told Reuters. "But... she has her own leadership, and she makes her own decisions."

Thaksin planned to use the visit

to deliver speeches and meet with Japanese politicians and business leaders. He also planned to visit victims of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the country in March.

Mr Thaksin's permission to visit was secured following a request by the Thai government. Japan usually forbids entry to anyone sentenced to more than one year in jail. Mr Thaksin was sentenced to two years in jail in 2008 for abuse of power in a land deal involving his wife.

The Democrat Party filed a complaint with police last week against Foreign Minister Surapong Towichukchaikul, accusing him of facilitating Mr Thaksin's entry into Japan. It is illegal in Thailand to help a convicted person escape justice.

Surapong has lodged a counter-charge for defamation and giving false notice to police.

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Productivity, not piracy, is the key

PHUKET has experienced unprecedented growth across all levels of the retail sector over the past two decades, but without any real improvement in customer service standards – especially in terms of product knowledge and foreign language skills.

Rapid improvement in these areas is needed if the island is to capitalize on its many advantages and emerge as a regional retail hub by 2015, when the terms of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) charter take effect.

The introduction of the AEC 2015 charter is being heralded as a new era of economics for the Southeast Asian bloc. Analysts throughout the region have repeated their warnings that increased competition among the 10 member economies will open the door for the most competitive organizations to win substantial rewards.

Phuket is well positioned to take advantage of the post-2015 market, and tourism promotion enthusiasts are already bestowing the title “ASEAN Tourism Hub” on the island, which currently has more than 43,000 registered rooms in accommodation establishments – not to mention thousands more in unregistered lodgings.

Although many feel that the accommodation market is saturated, more units are on the way. According to research by C9 Hotelworks, Patong alone has more than 4,200 new rooms set to open between now and the end of 2014.

Getting to Phuket has also never been easier, with the island emerging as Thailand's second “regional hub” thanks to low-cost carriers such as AirAsia and the growth in the number of direct flights available from throughout Southeast Asia.

Of special importance is the Chinese market, which recently overtook Australia as the top source market and shows no signs of slowing down.

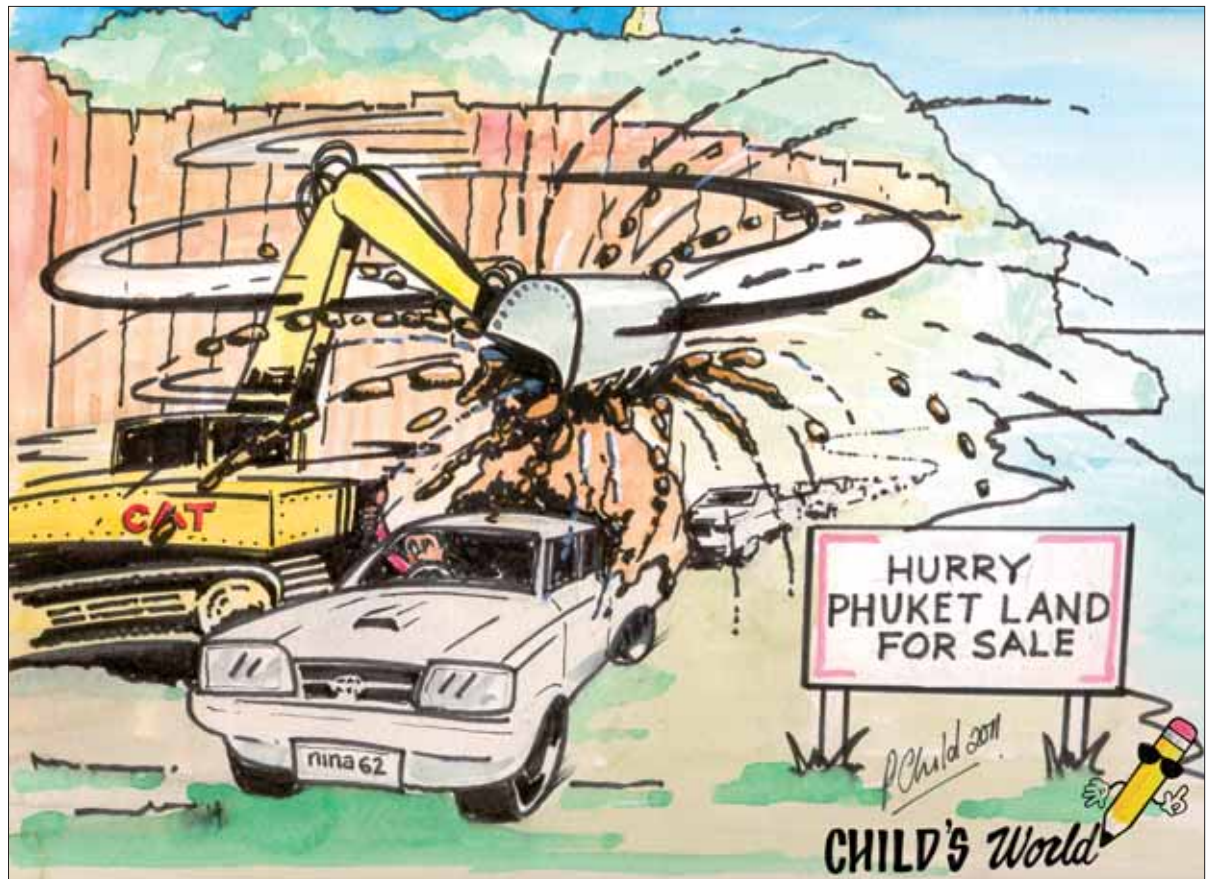
There are now 50 direct scheduled and charter flights a month to Phuket from mainland China, and the four websites that sell tours over the Internet in China reported a 37 per cent increase from 2009 to 2010.

This indicates increased consumer savvy among Chinese tourists, many of whom in the past found themselves at the mercy of unscrupulous tour operators who methodically bussed them to gem shops and other such “attractions” in the hope of raking in sales commissions on overpriced goods.

Phuket can boast a wide variety of shopping options, with something for every tourist regardless of spending power.

When it comes to customer service, what they want is a salesperson with good product knowledge, sufficient language skills and a courteous manner – not harassment by sidewalk touts of dubious immigration status or the vacant stares all too common among staff in the aisles of retail outlets across the island.

– The Editor



Taking one for the team

Re: Gazette online, Dutch diplomat warns of Phuket tourism 'landslide', August 23

I'm prepared to suffer some short term financial loss to have all of these issues fixed once and for all, so there can be long-term financial sustainability for tourism in Phuket.

Gov Tri, pick up the phone, ring Bangkok and have them send the army down here to allow free-market trade within the transport industry.

The politicians and police have lost control to criminals.

Only the army can fix it now.

Bar Owner
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

authorities who have their hands tied by a system that does not yet allow them to use their powers to the fullest.

If candid public meetings that use simple and transparent language were organized, or perhaps the services of Thailand's much adored soap opera stars were employed, it may be a turning point.

The key is finding a method which will really hit home.

Any ideas?

Howard O'Connor
Rawai

and it leads me to wonder if the efforts to control the businesses that have gone awry may be better spent on something else.

Education is the key to a better society, and not just making it more accessible, but the quality of the schools and the way students are tested and managed. It may take up to a generation, but it is worth it.

Blaire Little
Kathu

A dam fine place

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Please don't sell our reservoirs, August 19

Bang Wad Dam has already had some development over the last year. I am not sure any tourists ever go there, but it's very popular with local residents for morning or evening exercise.

Some further small scale development to tidy the place up would be nice and appreciated by the people who use the area.

Jamie
Gazette forum

A bad first day

Re: Gazette online, Welcome to Phuket: Swede robbed of B1 million on Day One, August 19

I feel sorry for Mr Lundgren. The fact is that many fall for the charms of Phuket without first doing their homework. It's all too easy to be swept up in the romance without considering proper security for one's belongings.

What's done is now done and property owners should benefit from this story and consider an alarm or other security system for their residence.

Security Conscious
Gazette forum

Seeing eye to eye

The concerns of PG's readers – mostly posted in website comments – are all reasonable. Phuket is losing its way and heading towards an unsustainable future and the biggest thing impeding progress is the state of society here and the indifference it fosters. I have complete understanding for those who feel the situation is helpless.

Perhaps the situation has to be shown from a different angle, one that the population can easily understand.

It needs to be put in simple terms that life in Phuket will take a turn for the worse if things are left unchecked. What has worked for years and brought so much prosperity to the island will outgrow the island.

People are rightly concerned about their wellbeing, so it needs to be clearly stated that *they* will have to face the consequences, not just the government, not just the business owners. We can then start from the bottom up rather than rely on politicians and

Business goes on as schools fall behind

The ongoing issues posed by jet-ski operators makes me think of a time when the people running those rental services were genial and kind.

In the late 1990s and early 21st century, I rented jet-skis on many occasions.

The prices rose over the years but I clearly remember I stopped renting them when suddenly prices became fixed across the entire Patong Beach and the flat rebuttal of any attempts at bargaining gave me the feeling that things had changed.

Before that though, you were met with a smile and on more than one occasion a jet-ski would breakdown due to a fault. I was never charged extra for this. They were willing to admit when it was not the rider's fault.

Times have changed because of the attitudes of Phuket's people

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Stemming the tide at Phuket Airport

FIRST PERSON

THE main duty of immigration officers at the airport is checking the documentation of passengers entering and leaving the country from Phuket International Airport.

Sometimes we will inspect aircraft if we believe there are stowaways or anyone trying to leave the country illegally.

Currently, there are 85 immigration officers at the airport, 33 of them work at the arrival counters and 30 at departures. There are three shifts of eight to nine officers each, working eight hours a day. This is not enough to handle the passenger load.

In low season, one officer handles between 5,000 and 6,000 passengers a month, which jumps to 8,000 to 10,000 in the high season. Both are higher than what officers at Suvarnabhumi handle, which is 3,000 to 4,000 per month.

Our busiest period is from 11am to 2pm each day when five flights land at around the same time.

Four of these flights carry 150 passengers and one Orient Thai flight from Hong Kong brings in 500 passengers.

This means about 1,000 passengers are crowded into the arrival area at one time and there are long waiting periods. The hall is designed to support 800 people.

I strongly recommend that people entering Thailand have their passports and arrival cards ready when they arrive. It only



Theerayut Budnampeth, 50, is the superintendent of Immigration at Phuket International Airport. Mr Theerayut, from Ratchaburi, has served as superintendent since February 2010 after being promoted from deputy superintendent of Suvarnabhumi International Airport's Transit Section. Here he talks about the difficulties immigration is facing with rising passenger arrivals.



Phuket Airport Immigration passport control.

takes 45 seconds to check them if they are ready.

As a temporary measure to help us during the coming high season, after discussions with Immigration Bureau Commissioner Wiboon Bangthamai, it was decided that six officers from Immigration Division Six will come to help.

In the long term, we are planning to acquire additional officers to accommodate 35 new counters that will be added with the airport's expansion. We have also drafted a plan to let Immigration Police volunteers help passengers fill in arrival and departure cards while they wait in line.

In the name of Phuket's poor

Island View

By Suchard Raksangob

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



Are land title deeds in Phuket worth the paper they're written on?

A COMMON theme is creeping into news stories, namely stories about investigations launched because of complaints filed with the Damrongtham Center.

The principle on which the Damrongtham Center was founded is highly commendable, but how the process is open to abuse leaves much room for improvement.

The center must receive complaints from members of the public, that's why it exists. If the center believes the issue is worth investigating, it hands the complaint to the governor for action.

But by simply receiving the complaint, the governor is bound to automatically follow up. If he does nothing about it then he leaves himself open to accusations of negligence or failing to perform his duties. Anyone can understand why it seems he automatically launches investigations based on these complaints.

And when he launches an investigation, he doesn't choose people far down the ladder of responsibility. He selects people he can trust, people who can be held responsible for the investigation, which makes perfect sense. That's why such investigations are always headed by a vice governor and heads of provincial offices.

Once an investigation is launched with such prestigious people involved, it automatically becomes "newsworthy", and the media publish the details of the complaint – but rarely the result of the investigation.

Regardless, by the time the

news is run, the damage is done. It often takes months for these investigations to come to a conclusion. In that time the investors in the project may pull out, potential customers/ clients shy away from the project – all for the sake of an accusation of which the motive is barely considered.

We see this time and again in Phuket.

Surely the Damrongtham Center, for all the good work that it does, can conduct a preliminary investigation into a complaint before handing it on to the governor for action. The automatic process that follows causes nothing but harm to the accused.

And they should certainly investigate to confirm that the person filing the complaint has legitimate reason for doing so, and is not just claiming to be an ordinary person defending the rights of the poor.

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

What price for a building permit?

How is the fee for a building permit calculated? It seems that no one can explain the process. Can someone from a local administration organization (*OrBorTor*) or legal advisers explain it?

Pat
Rawai

Mayuree Srichuay, an officer at Rawai Municipality's Public Works Division, replies:

The building permit document itself incurs a 20-baht fee and there are other fees for inspection, depending on what the building permit is for.

The inspection fee for a building of no more than two storeys or of a height up to 12 meters is 0.5 baht (50 *satang*) per square meter of the total building area, combining the areas of each storey if there are more than one.

For structures of two or three stories, or between 12 and 15



meters tall – the fee is 2 baht per square meter of total building area, combining the areas of each storey.

For structures of more than three stories or of heights over 15 meters, the fee is four baht per square meter of total building area, again combining the areas of each storey.

The fees I have given here are the inspection fees for new buildings only. There are different rates used for other aspects of building permits, such as in renovating a property, not building a new one.

These rates are listed in the building permit fee section in the Interior Ministry's Ministerial

Regulation Notice 7 issued in BE 2528 (1985), which updates the Building Control Act BE 2522 (1979).

A copy is available for download from the Thai Council of Engineers website at www.coe.or.th/co15law/act_control/building/L%2007.pdf

You can also visit Rawai Municipality for further information.

Are insecticide foggers dangerous?

I have noticed workers regularly using foggers at night, dispensing a kind of chemical into the air as they drive along roads in pickups. They make a pretty loud noise and a cloud of fumes is left behind that dissipates quickly.

I assume this is a kind of pest control.

I have also seen the same process happening in the lobby of a large hotel in Phuket Town.

What are the active ingredients used in these foggers?

Do pests have to be directly exposed to the fumes to be affected?

Is it safe to be exposed to the fog, for example if you are walking on the street while they are spraying?

Does contact with the skin, eyes or inhalation cause problems?

David Hard
Phuket

Komsan Roengsearee, an officer at Phuket City Municipality Sanitation Department, replies:

The "fog" targets small insects such as mosquitoes, cockroaches and flies.

I would not say that the fog is 100 per cent safe because it is produced from a chemical compound, but this depends on how you are exposed to it.

If you come into contact with the chemicals emanating from ULV fog machines on Municipality vehicles or the hand-held devices, you will be fine as its density is only enough to effect the respiratory

systems of small creatures. The chemical quantities in the fog are too little to harm the human body.

However, being sprayed directly in the face will make it difficult to breathe, but this should subside quickly. Someone whose body is weak or who is allergic to the chemicals may experience more serious problems such as vomiting, but the symptoms do not last long.

There are no problems if you just walk through the smoke. Do not worry, you can wash the chemical off with water.

As for its chemical composition, we are using a pyrethroid group compound known as deltamethrin. Active ingredients depend on what the Phuket Public Health Office has approved for use each year.

We only conduct free pest-control services in official public areas or private property that is disused.

Hotels or other businesses that would like to use our services have to pay about 500 baht each time, depending on how big the area is.

Calling for fair tourism budget

PHUKET tourism business leaders say they are willing to give the new government time to implement its policies but they are asking for the tourism-promotion budget to be distributed fairly, not as it has been done in the past.

They also recommend that the government quickly develop new tourism products to attract visitors to Phuket.

Bhurit Maswongsa, vice president of the Phuket Tourism Association, said it was too early to comment on Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's new Cabinet because it had only just been formed.

However, Mr Bhurit said that the policies of the Tourism and Sports Ministry, headed by Chumpol Silpa-archa, were likely to be the same as before.

Mr Chumpol, who is the leader of the

Chart Thai Pattana Party and a deputy prime minister, held the position of tourism and sports minister under Abhisit Vejjajiva's government and has retained the post in Mrs Yingluck's new Cabinet. His party was the first to join the current six-party coalition led by the Pheu Thai Party following Mrs Yingluck's election victory on July 3.

Mr Bhurit said Phuket's private sector community had no reason to be anxious about the future as most of the work of attracting tourists to the island and driving the market had been done by the private sector itself.

However, the issue of concern to the tourism industry was the allocation of the tourism-promotion budget, he noted.

Mr Bhurit said he hoped the budget would be allocated evenly and inclusively.



PITCHING FOR THE ULTIMATE ARENA: Phuket tourism leaders want to ensure the new government keeps existing plans on the table, such as the proposed sports complex.

In the past, money had been allocated disproportionately to certain areas at the expense of others, he said.

Mr Bhurit said that the most important thing the government needed to do to increase tourism was to develop new tourism products.

In Phuket, the government should support the construction of a new sports complex. The project had already passed an environmental impact assessment and

the initial stages of development but had not received permission to go ahead, he said.

He urged the government to allow the project to go through, saying it would bring direct benefits to both sports and tourism.

Chart Thai Pattana's declared tourism industry policies include developing human resources, suppressing tourist scams, cracking down on unregistered tourist guides and improving airport services.

— *Manager Online*

Hordes rush to sell off their gold

Rising gold prices are affecting sales in local shops negatively, as many people try to sell off their gold assets quickly.

BUSINESS is bad for the island's gold shops, with few customers willing to buy the commodity while its price is sky-high. Most customers in Phuket are instead taking the opportunity to exchange or sell their gold in a bid to cash in.

On August 18, gold trading closed at a record high of US\$1,818.90 per ounce, as investors continued to flock to the commodity as a safe haven amid the economic crunch in the United States and financial meltdown in the European Union.

Chaiyut Prayurawong, chairman of Phuket Gold Club and owner of a Rassada gold shop, told *Manager Online* on August 12 that most gold trading in Phuket and the provinces was in jewelry, whereas in Bangkok's Yaowarat area — Chinatown — gold bars were the currency of choice.

In Phuket, there are now more sellers than buyers, with customers bringing their old jewelry to gold shops to cash in on the soaring price.

Adding to gold shops' woes is the fact that the island's economy depends on tourism — and it's now low season, so few foreigners can be expected to buy gold. During high season, gold traders in Phuket enjoy higher sales, as tourists like to buy jewelry while on vacation, Mr Chaiyut said.

Mr Chaiyut added that 10 to 20 years ago, jewelry was popular but it had become less so since the price of gold started to rise. Ethnic Chinese used to give gold to their children at Chinese New Year, but now money has become more popular.

Foreigners are still buying some jewelry, with most customers being from the US or Europe, particularly Italy. However, foreigners like to buy 18 carat gold, though most gold in Thailand is 22-23 carat, he said.

Jirapha Wongphakham, an employee at Kitiporn gold shop on Montri Road in Phuket Town, said the shop had still been able to sell some gold, but that most



Ethnic Chinese now prefer cash gifts over gold. Photo: jimmiehomeschoolmom

customers were locals. Chinese tourists were coming to look at the gold but were not buying anything, and there were hardly any Western customers.

Montri Road is one of the province's most important trading centers, with as many as 20 shops selling jewelry and gold.

Meanwhile, the secretary-general of Thailand's Gold Trade Association Kritcharat Hirunyasiri, told *The Nation* recently that the price of gold would adjust itself soon.

"After skyrocketing prices seen in the past two weeks, gold prices

are expected to drop this week to within the US\$1,680-1,720 per ounce bracket," he said.

Mr Kritcharat, who is also chairman and CEO of MTS Gold, Thailand's leading wholesaler and retailer of gold, warned that consumers should not panic and speculate on gold, as the price is extremely volatile.

"Investors should only consider investing 20 per cent of their portfolio in gold to diversify their risk away from any one particular commodity," he suggested.

— *Manager Online*

Service sector warned

BUSINESS operators in Thailand's service sector and local government organizations need to anticipate and prepare for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 by being more active and informed, a government analyst urged.

Dr Chuwit Mittrchob, executive director of the Competitiveness Development Office, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, last Saturday gave a lecture at the Patong Resort Hotel about the impact of AEC on spa and health services. About 50 representatives of Health, Massage and Spa businesses attended.

He warned that in the near future Thailand's ASEAN neighbors may be interested in taking over the health service businesses [of which Thailand are currently sector leaders].

The director cited the World Economic Outlook Database from April 2010, where 45.2 per cent of Thailand's GDP lay in services, the country's highest sector followed by industrial (43.3 per cent) and agricultural (11.5 per cent).

He went on to emphasize the need for producers, manufacturers and service providers to add more value and creativity to their products and services and the need to expand the marketing potential of unique Thai assets, citing herbs, longans, the Thai Wai and smile as examples.

Moreover, he stressed the importance of language skills.

From here on, the level of education is not a major consideration in the services sector, he said.

Having a degree but no [language] skills is useless. The skill more than the degree will be the factor to specify wages, he added.

— *Janpen Upatising*



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New marina coming to Krabi

THE development firm behind Phuket's Boat Lagoon will open their second marina across the bay in neighboring Krabi province in November.

Approved by Thailand's Board of Investment, the Krabi Boat Lagoon project occupies 110 rai in Taling Chan.

The first phase, covering 42 rai, will include 90 berths, 70 hardstands, workshops, commercial facilities and undercover quays for six yachts.

The marina will be able to accommodate watercraft up to 23 meters in length.

Phase two, which is currently in planning, will comprise resort homes and a residential development.

"Berths will be offered initially to existing owners in Phuket and an on-site sales office in Krabi will open next month," Sales and Marketing Director Sriya Yongsakul said recently.



READY FOR HIGH SEASON: Krabi Boat Lagoon will improve boat access to nearby islands.

The reaction from many Krabi tourism operators has been enthusiastic, especially from nearby Koh Lanta, Ms Sriya said.

"With the new marina only 12 minutes from the [Krabi] international airport, the resort island [of Koh Lanta] can be reached

by boat in 30 minutes, dramatically improving existing access," she explained.

News of the Krabi Boat Lagoon comes amid a surge in development growth in Krabi's marine and yachting industry, with the government-sponsored Krabi River

Marina opening last year and the new Port Takola development currently under construction.

Other significant demand generators in the pipeline include a new nine-hole golf course near the airport and an international hospital in Krabi Town.

Meanwhile, in nearby Klong Muang, just south of Krabi Town, residential and resort real estate is on the rise following the success of the mixed-use Pelican development, launched earlier this year with an offering of condominiums, villas and a hotel.

These latest developments in the Krabi area follow the announcement of the sale of the 160 rai oceanfront core land parcel of what was to be the destination resort The Cove. The land is being marketed by CBRE Thailand.

— Bill Barnett

CP a vertical integration success story

By Steven Layne

RECORD high pork prices have been reported throughout Thailand in recent weeks. Local market vendors suggest that the premium price is a result of the high cost of animal feed, and since most animal feed is sourced from the same company it will subsequently lead to price increases for other food commodities.

THE ROOT OF THE RISE

As quoted in the *Phuket Gazette* last week, acting chief of Phuket Provincial Internal Trade Office Supacha Bunplit attributed the price surges to a shortage of healthy Chinese swine supplying northeast and central Thai farms. However, this only accounts for the impact on pig farms that source their swine from China – where record high pork prices were also reported last month.

Meanwhile southern Thailand's farms, according to the chief, would be unaffected by the "slim pig" epidemic; yet the price of pork in Phuket continues to peak.

They suspect that "big businesses" are forcing prices up in order to expand their profit margins, to the dismay of consumers. One vendor who wished to remain anonymous told the *Gazette* that prices are at the mercy of one company in particular. "They control everything...When they raise the price, smaller companies must follow," he said. This company isn't just involved in pork production.

CUTTING OUT THE MIDDLE MAN

CP Foods (CPF), whose corporate motto is "Kitchen of the World", is

an icon in the Thai food industry, if not the entire Asian region. One might assume CP is short for Chicken-Pork or judging by their campaigns' emphasis on quality assurance, Clean Products.

In fact, it stands for *Charoen Pokphand*, which is Thai for "Prosperous Commodity". Recognized for championing the region's once-lucrative agribusiness industry, CPF's prime ventures are the poultry, swine and seafood sectors.

The company's success is widely attributed to the simple yet effective vertical integration model. By cutting out middle links, they have integrated an entire supply chain, starting from seeds, animal feed and breeding, right up to the processed foods sold at its own outlets. CPF is the backbone company of the CP Group, one of Asia's most successful business conglomerates that also umbrellas CP All – the mother company of its own fast food kiosks, CP Fresh Marts and is also the exclu-



FROM SEED TO NEED: CP started with seed and feed, then expanded to livestock. Photo: Kristine Paulus

sive franchise leaser of 7-11 stores in Thailand.

CPF's stronghold on the market didn't happen overnight, however.

IT STARTS WITH A SEED

Exactly 90 years ago, in 1921, ethnic Chinese entrepreneur, Ek Chor, with his brother, Siew Whooy, opened a shop in Bangkok's Chinatown where they sold vegetable seeds from China.

By 1954, the company moved into animal feed production and ten years after that, Ek Chor's youngest son, Dhanin Chearavanont became head of the company.

During the 1970s, the company began to invest in animal breeding and poultry production operations. Formally registered as Charoen Pokphand Feedmill Co Ltd in 1978,

they became a key supplier of livestock and feed to farms throughout southern Thailand.

By the 1980s, the company added seafood to their list of products with shrimp farms and by 1987, CP was listed in the Stock Exchange of Thailand. In 1994 it became a public company.

Having expanded its domestic operations through a series of acquisitions, in the mid 90s the company established Thailand's most famous hyper market, Tesco Lotus, as a joint venture with the British chain. Marking that CPF was no longer just feeding farms, its name was changed to Chaoroen Pokphan Foods in 1999.

GLOBAL FRUITS

CPF's multinational ambitions be-

gan to take form when the company set up subsidiaries and acquired strategic shares in China, the European Union and the UK by 2002.

The following year they took on US markets, and sold their shares of Tesco Lotus Thailand, while retaining Tesco Lotus China. By 2004, they expanded into Turkey and Japan and in the following year Malaysia, Scandinavia and India.

By 2005, their farming operations included Russia and Laos and by 2007, the Philippines and Taiwan and Vietnam in 2009.

Today, CPF's 72-year-old Chairman, Dhanin Chearavanont – the son of a small-time seed seller – is listed by Forbes as Thailand's richest person, with a net worth (including the wealth of his brothers) of US\$6.5 billion.

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Unofficial study nets surprising rates of speed

THE amount you pay for an Internet line has almost no correlation with how fast the line runs internationally.

Before you spend a fortune on a new Internet connection, make sure you understand what you are – and aren't – getting.

Hundreds of Phuket residents regularly report their international internet download speeds on PhuketInternetSpeed.com.

Computer Clinic guru Khun Roger and I had a chance to sift through some of the latest numbers, and the results certainly took us by surprise.

This isn't a scientific study. Rather, it's a grass-roots effort to monitor our internet speeds here in Phuket and make the data available to anyone who's interested. You are welcome to download the reported sightings and analyze them any way you wish.

The numbers are self-reported, and not the result of some statistical sampling. The testing method is uniform: we all report international download speeds from Los Angeles, using a very reputable test that isn't susceptible to caching.

We test many different internet providers and services, around the clock, from locations all over the island. What you see in the graph above is a distillation of the speed tests logged after we switched to the new cache-proof testing site in June.

International download speeds don't tell

the whole story. If you frequently visit popular websites inside or outside of Thailand, domestic speeds may be of far greater importance for you. Some major websites – among them Google, Gmail, YouTube, Hotmail, Microsoft.com and the Akamai servers – are almost certainly mirrored

inside Thailand, or somewhere nearby.

If you download torrents, the source of the data may be inside or outside of Thailand, or some mixture. Quality of service – up-time, repair response time, connections fading in and out – is important, and this is not shown in the graph.

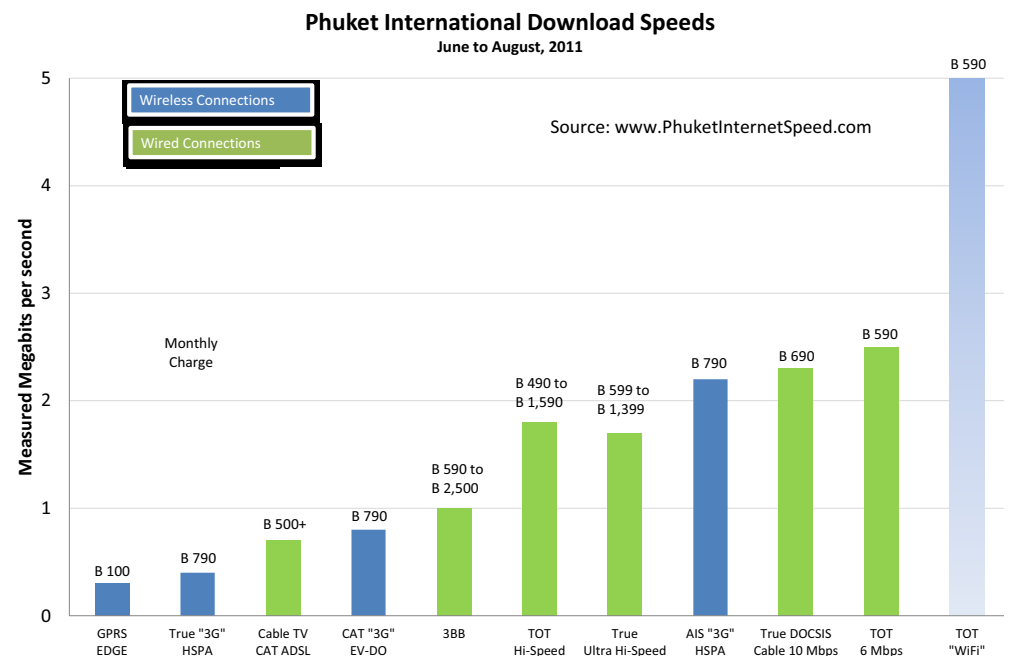
International speeds only tell a part of the story but it's a part we can measure reliably, and it's a crucial part of the picture for many people who do most of their online work outside of Thailand.

Next week I'll go into detail about the way Khun Roger and I massaged the data, and give you some hints on how to best to use the report, but here are the highlights.

It bears repeating: The amount you pay for an Internet line has almost no correlation with how fast the line runs internationally.

All of the 3BB lines run just about the same speed, whether you spend 590 baht a month for the 6 Mbps line, 1,490 baht for the 12 Mbps line, or 2,500 baht a month for the Premiere line.

Ditto for all of the TOT ADSL lines except, for reasons unknown, the 6 Mbps line



This data is derived from 2,000 reported download speed tests over the past three months.

is demonstrably faster than the others – and it only costs 590 baht a month. (There's also a very fast TOT line known as the 9 Mbps Home service, but TOT doesn't offer it to new subscribers.)

The chart doesn't include TOT Fiber Optic. We've had some complaints about the Fiber 2U service feeling sluggish lately – not sure what the source of the problem is – but measured download speeds are in the 7 to 9 Mbps range (and thus off the chart). Fiber 2U 10 Mbps is 1,490 baht per month and Fiber 2U 20 Mbps is 2,420 baht.

We have been seeing some significant slowdown in the True DOCSIS lines over the past couple of weeks. It's possible that True's not keeping up with demand. Surprisingly, the 20 Mbps DOCSIS line is slower than the 10 Mbps DOCSIS line.

The TOT "WiFi" speeds are based on just two customers, and they only got their lines in the last couple of weeks. The service will undoubtedly gain more customers quickly, and there's no way to predict whether TOT will keep up with the demand, or if the service will bog down.

Speeds vary significantly depending on location and the individual line. See the PhuketInternetSpeed.com site for the latest details applicable to a specific location.

I have reports about many of the individual services in earlier Live Wire columns. To look them up, start at phuketgazette.net/computers.

If you aren't yet reporting your speeds on PhuketInternetSpeed.com, please drop by and sign up! It's free, it only takes a few seconds, and the results help everybody figure out what's working and what's not worth the effort. Remember that all of the data – more than 21,000 reported sightings at this point – is immediately available to anybody who wants to download, look at or fiddle with the results. The Internet Service Providers are watching the reports. We need your help.

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

Implications of the US debt rating downgrade

WE recently witnessed a historic event. The basis of modern finance, as taught in business schools all around the world, starts with the assumption that the US Treasury bond is the "risk free" rate-of-return investment vehicle.

Even in my undergraduate studies I had trouble with this concept,

arguing with my professors to the point where I must have become that student they would wish to be absent on any given day.

Standard and Poor's has finally debunked this myth by downgrading the US debt rating. The initial reaction is slightly counterintuitive.

With any other nation, a downgrade in debt rating usually leads to a sell-off in their debt markets.

The US debt actually experienced a slight rise. The reason for this is that market participants sold out of even riskier assets,

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

such as the stock markets.

This was due to a widespread belief that the downgrade would lead to something other than good in the overall investment climate, prompting a movement of funds into a place considered relatively safer.

Ironically, this "safer place" was the same bond market whose downgrade caused the worry in

the first place.

The position of the US Dollar as the reserve currency of the world, and that of the nation's bonds as a flight to safety, caused this initial reaction.

The implications are much harder to assess over the long term, however.

There are several possible scenarios which could play out as a result of this downgrade.

It should cause the future debt that the US will issue to become more expensive for them, thus exacerbating the problem of how to avoid a default on their debt.

I do not think a default is the route the US will willingly go down to solve this problem; inflating the debt away seems much more palatable.

Of course it may get to a point where they don't have a choice, but I do not think we are anywhere near there yet.

As interest rates are as low as they can go, the US will have to turn on the printing machine if we have another crisis.

The government is simply running out of tools to stimulate the economy.

I don't find it difficult to imagine inflation going to unthinkable levels very quickly.

Of course, as is always the problem, knowing that something will happen and knowing when are two very different things.

In the investment world the difference between the two has caused many financial disasters in the past – and will continue to do so in the future.

Thus I think the fallout from the real root of the issue – which is not the downgrade itself but the debt that the US has racked up – will unavoidably lead to serious global inflation.

Of course the EU has similar problems, which I would prefer to not even mention just now.

As I always argue for protection from what might happen as opposed to trying to profit off of it, I think the real fallout will eventually be felt by the bond markets. I would stay away from these for the time being.

Of course it still could be a few years out so I wouldn't go out and short them: markets can stay irrational much longer than most investors can stay solvent.

David Mayes MBA provides wealth management services to expats throughout the world and specializes in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com

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Around the world

By Nicholas Altstadt

JAMES Pitman, 43, and Jean D'Assonville, 47, are flying around the world in a four-seat, single-prop airplane with an engine smaller and less powerful than that of an Isuzu D-max pickup truck.

The route so far: from South Africa, to Reunion, Sri Lanka, Phuket, Taiwan and as this is being written the pair are in contact with Guam Air Traffic Control, 217 nautical miles out.

Next up: Marshall Islands, Hawaii, Los Angeles and onward until they land back in Johannesburg on September 6 – that's the plan.

Only two months ago the South African duo began construction on the Sling 4 prototype aircraft at their Airplane Factory in Johannesburg, South Africa.

That's right, their "silver angel" – now half-way around the world approaching Guam – was no more than a collection of computer-generated images until June 21.

A few setbacks in the furious pace they set meant they wouldn't make it to the renowned air enthusiast gathering, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh in Wisconsin, by the time it finished in late July.

Nonetheless, Jean flew the plane for its maiden voyage on July 23. Then they completed the required 40 hours of "proving flights" to begin the first leg of their journey on August 7.

As they headed into the big blue for the 2,688-kilometer, 13-hour flight to Reunion Island, the weight of their undertaking set in.

"Suddenly the cockpit takes on a new atmosphere and James looks at me and we smile, knowing that we don't know what lies ahead – it ain't gonna be a walk in the park, but we are going to have a load of fun," Jean reflected.

Indeed, the first leg of their journey was no walk in the park.

"We flew a while with total blackness out there relying on our trusted instruments and autopilot. Then James switched on our bright Kuntzelmann landing lights and only then we realized it was raining, and really hard," Jean wrote on the Airplane Factory blog.

"It seems crazy, but the Sling 4 is so quiet and the water whips off the windscreen so smoothly that we hadn't heard the rain crashing into us over Bob Dylan

[through their headphones].

"We sat and enjoyed the water show in amazement and some nervousness. At this point we had climbed to 10,000ft and the rain was intense. We did not really want to fly in the rain for too long so decided to climb as we could see what looked like stars above.

"So, prop controller to climb, a bit more power and up we went. 11,000ft, still rain, stars still lightly showing above, so we pushed on to 12,000ft.

"Still raining madly and no visibility at all outside the cockpit! Now what? We knew for certain if we lost instruments and autopilot we were in big 'dang'. The only real option would be 'pull that parachute'.

"Then it happened! The autopilot suddenly pitched radically and the world went wild. My first thought was 'instruments and autopilot have failed, here we go'.

"But despite my first thoughts, it took only moments to guess the real problem: icing!

"A quick glance: air speed indicators were showing 'zero'. Ground speed, however, was 104 knots. What else could it be?

"James immediately disengaged the autopilot which was trying to pitch the nose down because of lower-than-stall airspeed and then pitch it up again to maintain altitude – a bit like a bucking bronco!

"He started flying the plane manually on the artificial horizon and only the GPS airspeed to look at.

"We all

know this is an extremely dangerous moment to manage and many pilots have died in these conditions. James descended us perfectly using GPS trend speed to control pitch. As I looked out of the window with my mag lite, the leading edges of the wings were thick with a white crust of frozen water and large pieces were peeling off and running back over the wing skin.

"We were strangely calm as we sat in t-shirts and life jackets in our heated cabin waiting for the ice to melt.

At about 7,500ft the air speed indicator came back to life.

"We relaxed and enjoyed that wonderful feeling of just being alive, savoring every moment, every breath and thinking wonderful things," Jean wrote.

Jean and James safely landed in Reunion on August 11 to complete



FULL SPEED AHEAD: James (left) and Jean in their prototype Sling 4. Photo: The Airplane Factory

the first "sea leg" of their journey.

Their longest haul so far was the flight from Reunion to Sri Lanka – 21 hours – for which they prepared by keeping 120 liters of fuel in the back seat which they could tap in case the 440 liters in the Sling 4 wing tanks ran dry.

They made it – with fuel, and stories to spare – to Colombo after a tense overnight flight. The South Africans speak humbly of this flight, although Jean gave a hint of what went on:

"Climbing into the cockpit we both knew this time we really were leaving. The reality brought on serious butterflies.

"We were about to spend about 20 hours in the 'Bullet', transferring fuel from various drums in the back [seats] with an untried system, weather report not great and only a couple of hours sleep.

"When you stare into the dark for long you start seeing all sorts of things, and when you're tired and do that you see even more. Now out there the situation is this: James and I are simply trying to fly to Colombo, minding our own business. The Indian Ocean just wants to do what it has done forever, and the sky just wants to do what it has done forever. The sky saw us coming, said to the sea, 'Let's be a monster and scare the pants off these lads.'"

After two exhausting flights, the relatively short nine-hour daytime jaunt from Sri Lanka to Phuket was a much needed respite for the boys.

In Phuket, Jean and James spent a few days sampling the island's various delights before heading off on a 19-hour flight to Taiwan. The pair took time out of their hectic schedule to answer some questions for the *Phuket Gazette*:

Nicholas Altstadt: What safety equipment do you have in the

event of a crash landing at sea?

James and Jean: We've got the basics: life jackets, an uncovered life raft, some flares, 2 PLBs (satellite Personal Locator Beacons), 10 liters of water and some energy bars. And of course a bottle of whiskey. We don't have a satellite phone or a high frequency radio. That means out over the ocean we only have communication within an hour's flight of land.

Do you guys have any kind of pact, like a "this is the end" pact?

No pacts, but strong agreement and clarity on who does what in the case of crisis. Usually the hardest thing on a trip like this isn't the flying challenges, it's getting along with your mate. We get on like a house on fire.

What's a typical mid-flight snack?

We're obviously limited by what we can get at the place we've just come from. Often we end up with snacks we've lifted from our hotel snack bars. In Reunion and Thailand you can get pretty much anything, so we favor healthy sandwiches supplemented by nuts, raisins and other dried fruit. From other countries, it's not as easy.

What's the scariest situation you've encountered?

Violent weather is the greatest danger we face. It's by far the most likely to kill us. If the engine fails we'd glide down and probably end up spending a couple of days at sea. Bad weather, however, can break up the aircraft, cause one to fly into the sea at high speed or so on. Bad weather at night is the worst, because one can't see the

clouds. Inside of the clouds it's very turbulent and the aircraft could be structurally damaged.

Our very first leg was tough [described above]. We eventually came out of the rain an hour later quite exhausted and overwrought, but also exultant. We realized that we and our aircraft could overcome very adverse conditions.

What's the scariest situation you can envision?

'The sky saw us coming, said to the sea, "Let's be a monster and scare the pants off these lads."'

– Jean D'Assonville

The worst thing that could happen is that we end up in IFR conditions, meaning there's no outside visibility and that our artificial horizon fails. If this were to happen we'd have little or

no hope. We do, however, have a ballistic parachute which we can deploy as a last resort and which is intended to bring the entire aircraft down. We really wouldn't want to end up in that situation.

Have you ever been intercepted by military aircraft?

We haven't been intercepted by military aircraft, though we understand that Taiwan did have two F16s standing by. It would be a monumental waste. We're here to make friends not enemies.

You guys have a lot of music on-board, but do you have any favorites?

My [James'] girlfriend is a DJ. We've got about 300 hours of music, including a dedicated 24-hour "Around the World" playlist, compiled with loving care. That's the length of our longest flight. Usually we listen to South African music at landing and takeoff – it's usually upbeat and optimistic. Music really lifts our spirits.

What did you think of Phuket and Thailand?

in a 'silver bullet'



GOING DIGITAL: Nothing analog on the Sling 4 panel. Photo: Dean Noble



The Sling 4 in action over Phuket Airpark. Photo: Dean Noble

What a wonderful experience. Awesomely cosmopolitan, friendly, open-minded, optimistic. Downsides were a feeling that there's too much hierarchy and structure. Patong was quite an education. Coming from South Africa we felt quite provincial.

What do you do to pass time?

Lots of planning, lots of talking. To fly a 1,200cc-engine aircraft around the world, especially a prototype, is quite technically challenging. There's never a boring moment and there's always eventualities to plan for. Fuel management is critical. Winds are different at different levels and so on. But if there is a quiet moment, it's just a privilege to look out of the window and see a new part of the world go by. Few people will ever get the opportunity to know firsthand that the world is round. It amazes me that anyone could conceive that there may be boredom in doing so.

What about "Number 1s" and "Number 2s" in the plane?

Everyone asks that question. It's obviously of universal interest! Number 1 is easy: We drilled two holes in the airplane floor and put a funnel in a pipe which we can push through the hole. Number 2 is not so easy. It hasn't happened yet, but it involves a plastic shopping bag and some contortions. We'll keep you posted....

What's the situation now?

One frustrating thing is obtaining the necessary permissions, although it's not prohibitively difficult. We were routing from Thailand to Taiwan, then to Japan, the Aleutian Islands, Anchorage, then Los Angeles. Japan simply refused on the basis that our aircraft is experimental. So instead we're going from Taiwan to Guam, The Marshall Islands, Hawaii and then LA. So you can change your plan as you go!

Do you have a favorite pit stop on this journey?

The real romance is in seeing the globe roll under your feet in 40 days, even at 200kph.

What's the hardest thing about this trip?

For me [James] it's leaving my kids, aged two and four. For Jean it's putting up with me for weeks on end. We're doing it on a tight budget – the entire journey, everything included, will cost less than US\$20,000. The last three nights Jean and I have shared a double bed. There's no escaping one another!

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Taste with a difference at Surin Beach

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

SURIN Beach is sublime at six o'clock on a sunny evening. The surf's up, crashing white and rolling back on the sand while white-and-angry-gray clouds skeet across the deepening-blue skies.

A westerly breeze teases the edges of the tablecloths and napkins as we sit down to an early dinner at Taste, one of the beach's star culinary turns. It's magical.

This spacious restaurant (135-covers inside and out), ably run by Martin Ostlind and Jade Lama, has been a hit for a few years now because of the superb combination of fresh food, and great décor and location.

Taste, while sporting a somewhat glib name, actually does have taste – in its décor and cuisine. Its high ceilings are fitted out with fans and there is a predominantly pale cream theme running throughout.

Martin's entrées are perhaps his strongest suit. His seared sashimi-grade blackened tuna with wasabi aioli (290 baht) is a fine appetizer, as are the shockingly tasty Maryland crab cakes with dill aioli (275 baht) and baked shrimps with baked garlic, pars-



HEARTY: The Harry-Ramsden-standard fish and chips.

ley, olive oil and bread (280 baht).

Olive oil? I certainly detected more than a hint of butter lurking in there, but then again, most people in the culinary business who find themselves facing a 'truth or death' decision against the execution wall will dodge the bullet and admit that butter is an essential. Even in so-called 'healthy cuisine' establishments.

For mains we order western dishes: fish and chips (375 baht) – since Taste is beachside – and a beach burger and chips (365 baht). But after such rich starters we struggled with the impressively generous portions.

However, my companion pronounced the beach burger as probably the best he's ever tasted, and the fish and chips are almost up to Harry Ramsden standards.

The prices are touristy, but it's all extremely well done with charming, English-speaking service.

"It's the best move we ever made," says Jade about coming to Phuket. The evening spent at Taste was just what most visitors to the island come here for: a tasty and tasteful beachside experience.

Taste Surin Beach is open 2pm until late and is located close to the car park. Contact T: 076-270090 for reservations.



A TASTE FOR THE BEACHSIDE: Jade Lama and Martin Ostlind. Photos: Stephan Audiger

Youth is at the helm at Hilton



The Spy

By Sai Lap

IF YOU enjoy weekend brunches or themed evening buffets, there's some good news. The Sails restaurant, located beside one of the five swimming pools at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort on Karon Beach, is going to become a people-magnet force to be reckoned with.

Apart from a generally enhanced quality, at The Sails you can now expect many pleasant surprises, including the addition of several Asian and European dishes.

The force behind these developments is the appointment of the new General Manager, Andre Gomez, who has had a lifelong passion for cooking perfection.

Starting his career in Australia, Andre worked at Hyatt International and Radisson Group. He also took part in the opening of the world's first six-star couture, Palazzo Versace Hotel, on Australia's Gold Coast.

At the age of 40, he brings a youthful devotion to his job, which for him includes achieving culinary distinction.

Pointing to a plain, steamed prawn he excitedly describes how it can be prepared with herbs and spices to attain balance between the aroma and its appeal to the palette.

Though he likes European food, he finds Asian cooking exciting because of the vast choice of spices to work with.

His enthusiasm is not re-

stricted to Sails Restaurant.

He enhances every outlet at the resort – Thai Thai, Buon Appetito, Caffè Cino and the Ocean Beach Club. His interest in food and beverage, however, does not distract him from his mission to upgrade every other feature of the hotel.

That's an easy mission to support as the beautiful setting of the hotel speaks for itself as soon as you ride the shuttle through the landscaped and manicured 190 rai of gardens.

Andre, an Australian resident born in Malaysia, chose Phuket over an attractive offer to work in another location, as he wanted to work in Asia, where he believes the future growth of tourism lies. He is happy that his Australian wife and two children have quickly settled in here and are enjoying Phuket.

Among Andre's many tasks are trips to Bangkok to meet people in the travel, tour and convention business, the latter forming an important part of the hotel's revenue.

But he tries to keep these trips short in his eagerness to get back and work with his team to attain excellence throughout the hotel. This includes, of course, the buffet at the Sails Restaurant.

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Restoring Bang Tao's ecology



INVESTMENT EYE: Ho Kwon Ping came to Phuket to buy a vacation home.

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

TIN mining has brought enormous wealth and prosperity to Phuket for centuries. However, although tin was an important part of the island's history, it also left behind a legacy of pollution and environmental damage.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, tin mining was done on an industrial scale.

Offshore dredging caused extensive destruction to marine life. When mines were depleted, miners would move on and start operations elsewhere.

Due to extensive soil erosion and environmental devastation, abandoned tin mines became wastelands that could be found across Phuket.

As tourism slowly emerged to replace mining as Phuket's primary industry, locals, investors and entrepreneurs saw a need to preserve the island's remaining pristine environment.

The area surrounding Bang Tao Beach was once a large tin mine that caused extensive environmental damage. In the 1980s, the unwanted wasteland was purchased by Ho Kwon Ping, a Singaporean investor who came to Phuket with his wife looking for a vacation home.

"I still remember the day in the 1980s when we first came across a stretch of land by Bang Tao Bay. It was a disused tin mine and not very attractive. We purchased it on a whim. We only found out later that it had been declared irreclaimable by a United Nations (UN) development report because of pollution from the mine," Mr Ping is quoted as saying.

Sure enough, the 1,400 rai site that Mr Ping purchased had been declared "too environmentally damaged to have any development potential" by a UN Development Plan team, which conducted a survey on Phuket's tourism potential in 1977. Soil at the site resembled a moonscape laced with chemicals, rendering it uninhabitable and without vegetation. Discarded machinery was strewn among craters, surrounded by piles of blackened soil and ramshackle huts.

Another survey, commissioned by the Tourism Authority of Thailand in 1979, reported that

"Although the damage is probably beyond repair, effort should not be spared to try to restore the environment".

Despite the Thai surveyor's optimistic conclusion, no one really believed that the damaged wasteland surrounding Bang Tao Bay could ever be rehabilitated. Mr Ping, however, thought differently.

In 1984 he started a project that would transform the damaged landscape, restoring Phuket's most polluted beach and turning Bang Tao into one of the island's top holiday spots.

With a remarkable vision and a US\$200 million (6 billion baht) investment, which at the time was Phuket's largest ever single investment, the enormous Laguna Hotels project was started.

Equipment was brought in to clear and level the terrain. Huge amounts of fertile topsoil were laid, and trees and vegetation that would help prevent erosion, but demand little irrigation, were planted therein. These included casuarinas and palm trees.

Buildings and roads were constructed around the site and the large craters were filled with fresh water. Fish and shellfish were introduced to the new lakes after contaminated soil was removed.

With the massively improved environment, animals and birds began to return naturally and inhabit the area.

The Laguna complex, known today as Laguna Phuket Resorts and Hotels, also became home to five of Phuket's luxury resorts, namely the Banyan Tree Resort, the Dusit Laguna, the Laguna Beach Club, the Sheraton Grande Laguna and the Allamanda Resort.

The Laguna Phuket golf course, which was constructed on land that could support no plant or animal life is now dotted with thousands of trees and is home to numerous bird species, such as purple swamp hens, kingfishers, bee-eaters and hoopoes.

Over the years, sea turtles have also begun returning to Bang Tao beach to lay eggs.

In addition to creating a wildlife haven, the Laguna project has also helped to create employment for Phuket locals who were suffering economically from the mining industry's decline.

Slowly the local workforce began to shift from mining jobs to the burgeoning tourism sector.



BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME: With a remarkable vision and a US\$200mn (6bn baht) investment, which at the time was Phuket's largest ever single investment, the enormous Laguna Hotels project was started.

Laguna Phuket is arguably one of the island's most remarkable and inspirational environmental restoration stories and has deservedly received numerous environmental awards for forever changing the

face of Bang Tao beach.

According to Banyan Tree Group Director David Campion, some of Laguna's current associates spent time when they were kids bringing lunch to their

parents at Bang Tao's tin mines.

Although they work at the same site doing very different jobs today, they are now in a much healthier, safer and cleaner environment.

Image courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board.



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Talked-about book to hit silver screen

By Alexandra Andersson

THE book *We Need To Talk About Kevin* (400pp, Counterpoint Press, 2003) has had everyone talking for the decade or so since its release. And now, buzz surrounding the screen adaptation has fans eager to also watch Kevin, in action, come its year-end release.

The film earned stunning reviews at its 64th annual Cannes Film Festival unveiling in May. With Tilda Swinton and John C Reiley portraying the lead characters, and the strength of the book it's based on, it's no surprise.

In the novel, protagonist Eva Khatchadourian hates her son. She always has. Her own flesh-and-blood, firstborn son.

This is a daring enough premise for a novel to begin with, never mind the fact *We Need To Talk About Kevin* begins after the son, at just 15, commits mass murder in his high school.

Many books have covered the modern phenomenon of school shootings, but most focus on the child, the victims or Marilyn Manson.

Author Lionel Shriver however, taps into a different element by telling the story through the mother's eyes, in letters to her estranged husband reflecting on their son and where it all went wrong.

This allows for intimate characterization and is one of the reasons behind the novel's

success over the years.

In the book, Eva is an independent, well-travelled and successful woman who may well come across as condescending, cold and selfish – if you weren't reading her innermost thoughts and feelings.

The sentiments she expresses in the pages – uncertainty, helplessness and self-doubt – contrast starkly with her outward projection. This is what really gives the novel its edge, since the character is disturbingly relatable, yet she carried, bore and raised a mass murderer.

When looking back on her motherhood, Eva also acknowledges her battles with maternal ambivalence and distaste for her offspring. Through this theme, Shriver again strikes a resounding chord with many modern women struggling with their changing role in society.

The poetic language, captivating subject matter and thriller-like pace of the novel compel you to turn the 500 pages leading up to the event, ambiguously re-



Tilda Swinton plays Eva in the film adaptation.

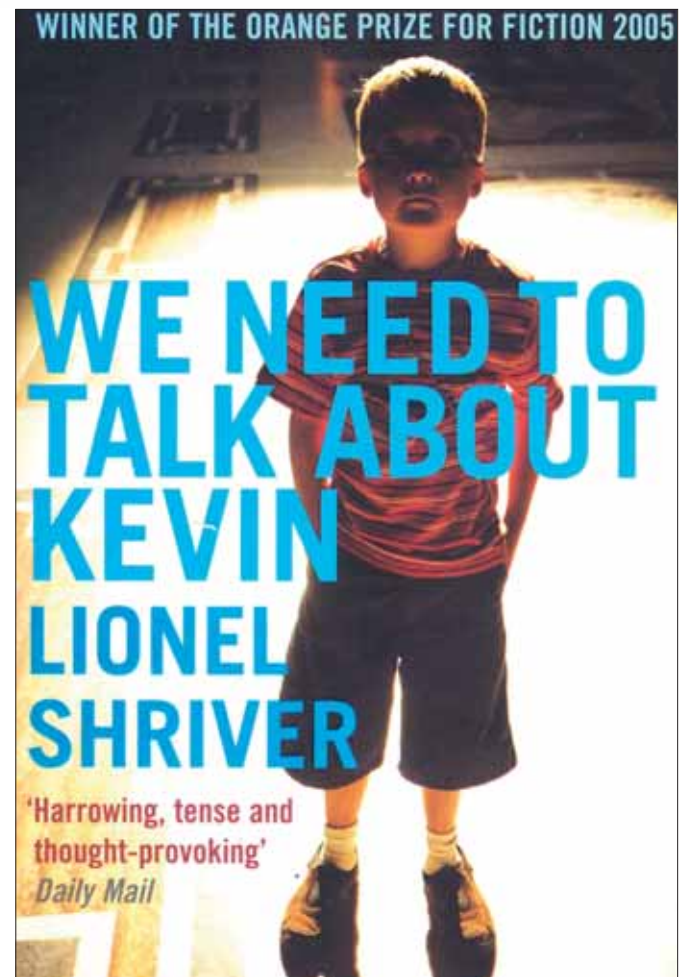
ferred to as "Thursday".

Intermittently however, the reader is taken into the present day, to the visiting room of the prison in which Kevin is incarcerated – providing a peek into a fascinatingly troubled relationship.

Despite being known from page one, the ending is cleverly constructed by Shriver, and leaves the reader both fulfilled and engaged. There are some surprises in the storyline, which is basically a chronological account of the first 15 years of Kevin's life,

but it's the extent to which the themes, events and relationships throughout are left up to interpretation that really gets you thinking.

Invariably *We Need To Talk About Kevin* leaves readers craving to talk about it at length, and with the film coming out soon, it's set to continue to be the talk of the town.



MOMMY'S LITTLE MONSTER: The book provides an insight into what goes through the mind of a mass murderer's mother.

Godmother of Punk recalls life with lover

PATTI Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe re-created themselves as artists and reigned for a while as the gilded couple of the Andy Warhol underground art scene in New York during the early 1970s.

Patti Smith has written a memoir of their early days, *Just Kids* (HarperCollins, New York, 2010,

279pp). She dropped out of school in 1967 to give birth to a daughter whom she immediately gave up for adoption. She fled New Jersey to join artistic friends at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. There she met and moved in with Robert Mapplethorpe.

They lived hand to mouth, writing poetry, drawing and creating art

Books

By James Eckardt

installations. It should be mentioned that in the book Patti Smith's writing is often confusing as illustrated in the following passage:

"For a time Robert protected me, then was dependent on me, and then possessive of me. His transformation was the rose of Genet, and He was pierced deeply by his blooming. I too desired more than a wish to go backward where our mute light spread from hanging lanterns with mirrored panels. We had ventured like Maeterlinck's children seeking the bluebird and were caught in the twisted briars of our new experiences."

Nonetheless, the couple's upward trajectory propels the reader along. They might have languished as unknowns in Brooklyn forever except for an inspired move to the famous Chelsea Hotel in Manhattan. This was their introduction to the New York art and rock world, of which they soon became stars.

In no time they were hanging out with Andy Warhol's 'superstars' at the center table in Max's Kansas City. Allen Ginsberg, taking the angular Smith as a boy, tried to pick her up. They met Gregory Corso, Janis Joplin, Roger McGuinn, Kris Kristofferson, Grace Slick, John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

Although they continued to share an apartment, Mapplethorpe had a series of gay lovers, and Smith had

romances with rock musicians and the poet Jim Carroll. She formed her own band and toured the small downtown dives.

Eventually, Smith and Mapplethorpe split up when he moved into a studio paid for by a wealthy lover. His work soon appeared in upscale art galleries and he began moving in ever higher social circles. He was a careful social climber while Smith remained indifferent.

"Our social differences, however exasperating, were tinged with love and humor," she writes. "In the end we were more alike than not, and gravitated toward each other, however wide the breach. We weathered all things, large and small, with the same vigor. To me, Robert and I were irrevocably intertwined."

The text is illustrated with a score of photos showing the couple – posing in bed, on a fire escape, on the Coney Island boardwalk – at the height of their physical beauty.

The 20-page final section, "Holding Hands with God", is devoted to Mapplethorpe's death and is, alas, awash in bathos and sentimentality. But it's hard to begrudge her since this is how Smith feels during her former lover's final days. She sums up their legacy in a letter:

"You drew me from the darkest period of my young life, sharing with me the sacred mystery of what it is to be an artist. I learned to see through you and never compose a line or draw a curve that does not come from the knowledge I derived in our precious time together."

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Josef Raess

JOSEF Raess is Managing Director and a shareholder of Paradise Koh Yao, a romantic retreat on Koh Yao Noi Island. He has been working in Thailand's hospitality industry since 1980 when he joined the Amari chain's Nipa Lodge in Pattaya.

He was born in Appenzell, Switzerland to a family who still runs the Hotel Taube. Josef learned three languages before finishing school. He took a course in business and enrolled in a three-year apprenticeship in cooking school. He went to England in 1976 to study English at Cambridge.

In his spare time, he hiked some of Switzerland's most famous mountains, cycled and sailed. His love of exercise and outdoor adventure continues to the present. He competed in five Laguna Phuket Triathlons.

After finishing his cooking apprenticeship Josef enrolled in a two-year diploma course at the Hotel School Luzern, learning all aspects of hotel management. He graduated in 1980 and traveled around America and Mexico. He was determined to begin his career in hospitality as far away from Switzerland as possible. After sending out his resume to hotels around the world, he was offered the job with Amari in Pattaya.

"Pattaya was a fabulous destination for someone starting in the resort business. I started as a management assistant and within two years was General Manager of

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

both Nipa Lodge and the Orchid Lodge, with a team of 500 staff."

In 1985, Josef was contacted by Club Corporation of America and offered the opportunity to work as project manager for the opening of the Pinehurst Golf and Country Club in Bangkok. He was also involved in the management of business clubs, including the prestigious Heritage Club at Amarin Tower.

"I was fortunate to work under such impressive Thai leaders as Anand Panyarachun, the Honorary Chairman of the club, who later became Prime Minister."

In 1988, Josef joined Diethelm Travel to pioneer a new division importing wine, spirits and fine foods.

"The offer from Diethelm gave me the chance to open new markets at a time when international tourism was gaining momentum and there was increased demand for a broader range of food and beverage products."

He worked with Diethelm for five years and developed his enduring love of wine from all parts of the world.

"Wines today are far more refined due to advanced production

techniques. I'm very much interested in New World wines as they have a fantastic taste and offer very good value for money."

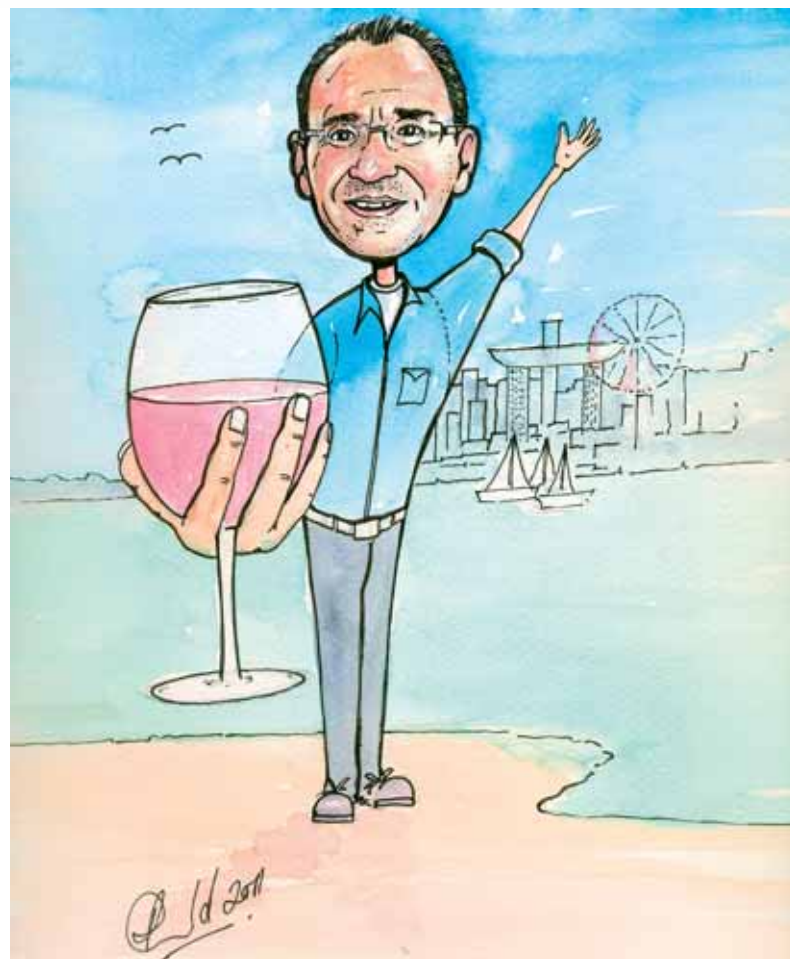
In 1993, he established JHR Associates, a consulting company which has allowed him to work on various country club projects, the opening of the Pacific City Club in Bangkok, and a Phuket-based development which has evolved into the Yacht Haven.

"The 1997 Asian financial crisis meant many projects were suspended in Thailand, so I went to Singapore and opened the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club and served as General Manager."

Josef then accepted an offer as General Manager for the Sabah Group's Sutera Harbour Resort at Kota Kinabaru, Malaysia, an 800-rai development offering five-star hotels, golf and marina facilities, and employing 1,200 staff.

"In 2002, I decided to leave corporate life and work on my own projects. I had some very good friends in the hospitality business and with these partners decided to look for a beautiful piece of land in Phang Nga Bay and build an island hideaway, the Paradise Koh Yao, a retreat that fits into the surrounding environment."

Josef is also busy building villas near Layan Beach and managing his Designandbuildphuket.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 through 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 they all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

August 1 to 31. Mothers' month Sunday Lunch

Enjoy a lavish seafood buffet including sushi, live cooking stations, BBQ fare, Western and Thai spicy dishes and all you can eat homemade desserts. From noon until 3pm at Vijitt Resort. Price: 590 baht nett per person. Half price for children from four to 12 years old, and free for children under four years old. The V Spa-Mother's day package for August features a 50 per cent discount. Additionally, if you buy one Jasmine Package you get one free. The spa is open daily from 10am to 8pm. The discount cannot be applied to the Jasmine Package promotion. Contact The Savoury Restaurant at T:076-363600 E:info@vijittresort.com or visit W:vijittresort.com.

August 22-28. Kajonkiet opens its new international school

Kajonkietsuksa is opening the doors of its new international school, Kajonkiet International School Phuket (KISP), on August 22 to 28. KISP will be offering an education following the British National Curriculum from the Early Years Foundation Stage (Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception) through to Years One to Five (Key Stages One and Two). Come and visit personally to experience first-hand what sets KISP apart. Contact Khun Vipaporn Korjarunchit at T:082-4250104 E:ip@kajonkietsuksa.ac.th or visit W:kajonkietsuksa.ac.th/kip.

August 27. Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival

Paint the town purple from 5pm to 11pm at Canal Village, Laguna

August 28. Sunday Night Sundowner at Friendship Beach Resort



Come along to one of the finest locations on the island with its stunning views across Chalong Bay and end the weekend with the upbeat rock, pop, country fusion of 'Tropical Rhythms' whilst enjoying a drink from a selection at special promotional prices. There will also be a free prize draw for all attendees so you may well leave with more than you came with! From 6.30pm to 11pm at Friendship Beach Resort, Rawai. Contact Charlie Maurer at T:089-7285304 E:chef@friendshipbeach.com or visit W:friendshipbeach.com.

Phuket. This year's Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival ends with an Angsana "Purple Party" in Canal Village. Purple is the theme color of Angsana Laguna Phuket and the party celebrates the stylish new hotel's opening on December 1. There's an Angsana Laguna Phuket raffle with prizes including a five-night stay, dining and spa treatment. The Purple Party will feature a flying trapeze show, clown performance, fire show, quest adventure

fun and games, welcome drink and canapés and happy hour at the bar all night. Festival artist-in-residence Christopher Hogan will sell paintings at bargain prices. Contact Robin Wilson at T:076-362300 E:robinw@lagunaphuket.com or visit W:lagunaphuket.com.

August 27. Castello de Banfi Dinner

You are cordially invited to Castello de Banfi Dinner on August 27 from 7pm to 10pm, at Mare restaurant, Centara Resort. Here you can experience the wines from the Montalcino region of Italy, accompanied by a sumptuous meal prepared by Italian Chef, Fabrizio Crocetta. Price: 1,990 baht nett per person. Make reservations at T:076-201234 ext 1276 E:fbcpbr@chr.co.th or visit W:centarahotelsresorts.com/cpbr.

August 29, September 5 and 19. Cowboy Night at Two Chefs Kata

Every Monday night from 6pm to 2am, there's a large buffet inspired by the Old West. Come on

down to Two Chefs in Kata and enjoy it for only 495 baht. With Francis & Ollie performing the live music it can't be anything other than a success. Don't miss it. Reservations at T:076-284156 E:info@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

September 2-4. Phuket Pet Fair

Come visit the pet fair and find all you require for your pets from 12.30pm to 6pm in the Exhibition Hall of Royal Phuket Marina. You can also enjoy contests, music, shows and many more activities. Contact Murat Can at T:081-7973364 E:muratc@royalphuket

marina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

September 2 and 16. 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 favorite Chicken Tikka Masala, very hot Mutton Vindaloo, juicy Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry, Chickpea curry and more served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Special prices on beverages as well. Special discount on beverages. Make reservations at T:076-286464 ext 4 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

September 3 and 17. Saturday Brunch at Two Chefs Kata

Every Saturday Two Chefs are hosting their now famous Saturday brunch from 12pm to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center. It consists of delicious food inspired by Scandinavian cooking. This large buffet is only 395 baht and if you add another 300 baht you can drink what you want from the free flow options. The Filipino house band will perform live, with MJ & Megan on the microphone and Mr Ollie on the drums. Only at Two Chefs Kata. Reservations at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefsphuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

September 7 and 21. Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon

Wednesday night means Tex-Mex Evening from 6pm to 2am at Two Chefs Karon Beach. Possibly the best Tex-Mex Buffet in Phuket. Price: only 495 baht. With great prices on drinks and MJ & Megan on the microphones, there will doubtless be a good party too. Make reservations at T:076-286479 E:karon@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

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DOUBLE MASSAGE: Julian Huertgen and Antonia Patchett.



HARD LIFE: Irina Voloshihuk enjoys her massage.



SUBLIME: Maria Bulatkina was one tourist participant.

**YOUR
Phuket**



WAVE RIDERS: Jet-skis make a splashing entrance.



RUBBING IT IN: Italians Luca Bolorini and Lucia Ceniurelli.



PRETTY IN PINK: Participants were greeted by a troupe of Thai dancers. Photos: Dean Noble

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REST AND RECREATION: Volunteers from the USS Boxer took some time-off.

R&R stop in Phuket



TASTY: Enjoying local fruits.



JUMBO WELCOME: One man gets a kiss.

Strutting their skills



PHUKET'S hotels and resorts gather for a fun competition and exhibition of their talents each year to name the island's top bartender, napkin design, floral arrangement, honeymoon bed décor and many other skills that have made Phuket a leader in global tourism.

The 2011 Andaman Hotelier Exhibition is a free event and is being held at HomeWorks.

The professional bartenders competition, on August 28, starts at 1pm. This contest features fiery cocktails thrown into the air to the rhythms of party music and caught.

"It's a great time for all participants and the audience who can see beautiful ice carving art, competing wedding cakes, and original Thai and Western cuisine menus," said Surat Kanthanakit, Assistant Food and Beverage Manager at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

— Bruce Stanley

ACYC's Sabang shindig

The Indonesian Ministry of Tourism held a cocktail party at ACYC to promote the upcoming Sabang International Regatta. See page 42 for race details.



BOATING BANTER: ACYC Commodore Grenville Fordham (center, in green) with friends.



INDONESIAN WELCOME: Dancers from Aceh.



RPM Manager Guillaume Chaillot with wife Abigail.



MODEL LINE-UP: Linda Overman, Joanne Grebert, Susan Usher and Janzi Mizner (left to right).



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The Impossibly Possible Quiz

General Knowledge

1. What does hypodermic mean literally?
2. In which 1960 film did Elvis Presley play a mixed race character?
3. If you have polythelia, what have you got?
4. Who was the father of Icarus?
5. What is the correct term for a castrated pig?
6. What does a sacerdotal person study for?
7. Which mythical beast is a cross between a lion and an eagle?
8. What US State flag has a UK Union Flag on it?
9. What does an anthropophagite practice?
10. Which country was founded in 1948?
11. Where, apart from the wild, would you find bulls, bears, and stags?
12. Belle Vue, built in Manchester in 1928, was Britain's first what?
13. What did Thomas Sullivan introduce to New York in 1908?
14. What did the Russians use to cure piles?
15. Oil is the most traded product in the world. What is the second?
16. What is the active ingredient in Chinese bird's nest soup?

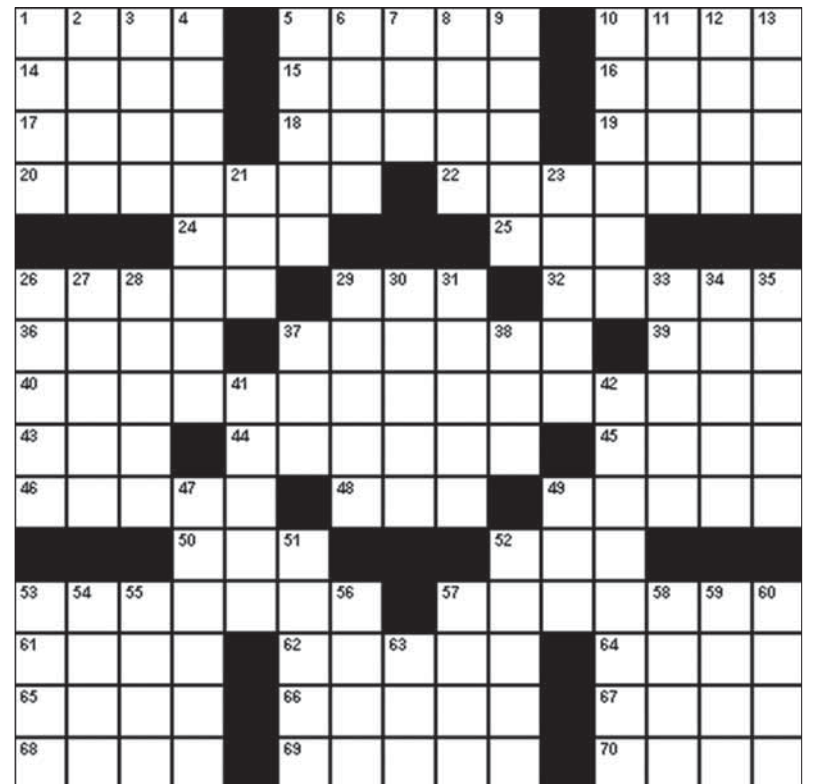
Quiz answers on page 39

Across

1. Inner surface of the hand
5. Big rigs
10. Large wading bird
14. Black-and-white treat
15. Commerce
16. Kiln for drying hops
17. Course list
18. Fish
19. Group of individual facts
20. Countryman
22. Fifth letter of the Greek alphabet
24. Barrett of Pink Floyd
25. Japanese honorific
26. Detective Pinkerton
29. Commercials
32. Outer coat of a seed
36. Go after
37. Place for beehives
39. Convert into leather
40. Direct
43. Author Umberto
44. Having a specified way of walking
45. It's blown among the reeds
46. The Hindu Destroyer
48. Golden, in France
49. Prices paid
50. "— had it!"
52. Coal scuttle
53. Deceive
57. Frog baby
61. Yours, in Tours
62. Drive away
64. Wall Street debuts
65. It's got you covered
66. Israeli desert
67. Endure
68. Swank
69. Club alternative
70. Designer Schiaparelli

Down

1. Splendor
2. Calculus calculation
3. Filmmaker Riefenstahl
4. Greek dish
5. Rise to one's feet
6. Cube creator Rubik
7. Periodical, briefly



8. Doing nothing
9. Oozes
10. Halogen element
11. Ancient Semitic god
12. Analogy words
13. Ollie's partner
21. Author Rand
23. Lustful deity
26. Donkeys
27. Lewd one
28. Vive —!
29. Garden pest
30. As before
31. More secure
33. Attempts

34. Fortune-telling cards
35. Cordillera of South America
37. Turkish title
38. Slender bar
41. — at the office
42. Stack of firewood
47. Slander
49. Atlantic food fish
51. Merits
52. Cleave in two
53. Trading center
54. Langston Hughes poem
55. Before long
56. Abstruse
57. Ticked (off)
58. Fall birthstone
59. A pitcher may take one
60. This, in Tijuana
63. Links organization

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 39

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



A ball comes conveniently into your court this week. Those Virgoans who have set their sights higher than usual will be poised to make the perfect return. The stars indicate that you should work closely with other earth signs and some water signs for the best collaboration. If your birthday falls during the week ahead, expect your hard work to bring worthwhile results in the coming year. The number eight is lucky this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



The stars suggest that your faith in a water sign will be put to the test at work; those Librans who are disappointed are advised to turn their attention to an earth sign who has a reputation for being reliable. In the realm of romance, those with a steady partner find it hard to come to terms with changing priorities in the relationship.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Scorpios are advised to be more self-disciplined where personal finances are concerned. There are signs that you have been blaming other people for your inability to make ends meet. During September, there should be oppor-

tunities to make some extra money and one of these is forecast to appear late next week. Your romantic outlook improves – a relationship with an air sign is particularly well starred. The number seven brings good fortune this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



Actions will speak much more loudly than words for Sagittarians this week. The stars suggest that those who are prepared to be busy are forecast to start September on a positive note. There are signs that a surprise invitation could cause you to return to your roots sooner than you had planned. Wear the color bright orange to encourage more energy.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



The stars indicate that limited options are on offer this week for those born under the sign of Capricorn. This should be viewed as a positive chance to streamline your thoughts and activities. Your social life is relaxing, with the spotlight shining on a romantic introduction to an air sign this weekend. Those already committed are forecast to learn that their partner has benefited financially. The number three brings good luck early next week.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



Aquarians' happy-go-lucky mood attracts new friends this week. As September commences, there are signs that things will continue to go your way. Where cash is concerned, expect an overdue debt to be repaid this week and a promising investment scheme to be revealed by the middle of September. Those who have had an unsettled time romantically in August can put those troubles behind them.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Pisceans who have been able to create a financial safety net this year will be glad of this during September. Unexpected bills are forecast to drain your resources. However, the stars suggest that your chances of making a profit drastically increase during the remaining three months of the year. Within the realm of romance, a chance meeting this weekend puts a smile on single Pisceans' faces. Your

lucky number this week is eight.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Distant friends are forecast to make contact this week and September could bring visits from some who you haven't seen for a long time. Where work is concerned, realization dawns on those who have been wondering about a water sign colleague's behavior. There are signs that this person could be clearing their desk very soon. Sparkling days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. The number nine brings good luck this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



September is a month when Taureans will be inspired to spread their wings. The stars suggest that this could involve learning more about other cultures and travel is highlighted to widen your horizons. Closer to home, your outlook includes finding a solution to a personal problem. Those who are single could see a fire sign becoming the light of their life.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Home is where the heart is for those born under the sign of Gemini this week. The stars indicate that your summer holiday

period has been busier than expected and being back in familiar territory should come as welcome relief. As September progresses you are likely to consider improvements in your domestic situation – another air sign can help you do this economically. Your lucky number this week is six.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Cancerians will continue to be emotionally vulnerable as September begins. The stars suggest that you can avoid becoming unnecessarily upset by staying away from friends' personal dramas. On a positive note, your bright ideas will be well received in the world of work. There are signs that promotion or a tempting job offer could be just around the corner.

LEO (July 24-August 22):



Leos who are tempted to take good friends' advice with a pinch of salt this week are advised to think twice. The astral atmosphere could cause you to be misled, particularly where money is involved. Days to avoid spending are Monday and Tuesday, but major purchases should be delayed until the second half of September. Hot days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Homes for young pros

New neighborhood targets the childless

By Steven Layne and Samaporn Janyanon

CONSTRUCTION is nearing completion for the 472-unit second phase of the Chao Fah Garden Home 3 housing estate in Koh Kaew, located near the Bang Khu intersection north of Phuket town.

The project is expected to be complete within the next few months, which will bring the development's total unit-count to more than 1,000 homes.

According to a website operated by the project developer Winpro Engineering Co Ltd, the total investment for Garden

Homes 3 is about 2.2 billion baht, making it the developer's largest property investment by far.

The project's initial construction phase of 562 single-story structures was completed earlier this year. They ranged from duplexes starting at 2.3 million baht, to detached single homes costing between 2.9mn and 3.9mn baht.

The single most expensive house in the development had a price tag exceeding 10mn baht. Total investment for the first phase was about 1.4bn baht, leaving 800mn baht for phase two.

All the units being built in the second phase are two-story homes in four different styles. These in-



PICKING AND CHOOSING: At Chao Fah Garden Home 3, buyers can choose from four townhouse designs or a detached house.

clude a 90 square meter townhouse design with three bedrooms and two bathrooms as well as detached 123sqm houses with three bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Compared to the first-phase units, these units are built on smaller lots. A source at Winpro said their target market is mostly home buyers who are single and couples without children.

According to the source, 90 per cent of the units have already been sold off plan and Winpro expects to have transferred 80 per cent of the titles over to buyers within the month.

Most of the second phase units will be completed and ready to

move in to by next month, the source confirmed.

While the project's promotional material listed an additional style – a 153sqm detached house with four bedrooms and three bathrooms at 4.3mn baht – the source could not confirm whether this style of house would be constructed any time soon.

A clubhouse is also being developed for the estate as part of the second phase. This will include a swimming pool, fitness room as well as a public park. For more information, see winpro.co.th

Winpro's portfolio includes: the Phumundra Condo in Koh Kaew



Kasam Sriratt, Winpro President

CHAO FAH GARDEN HOME 3

Price: 1.8 to 4.3mn baht

Total Area: 90 to 153sqm

Location: Near Bang Khu intersection, north of Phuket town

Type: Townhouse
Detached house

Amenities: Clubhouse
Swimming pool
Fitness room
Public park

Units: 472

Units sold: 90 per cent

Developer: Winpro Engineering Co Ltd

(434mn baht), Chao Fah Garden Homes 5 housing estate in Thalang (919mn baht) and the Mark Condo in Bangkok (1.1bn baht).

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PROPERTY

Rent it all

A new type of accommodation is cropping up in Bali – guests rent an entire five-star hotel and have it all to themselves.

PRIVATE HOTEL: The Luna2 is a stylish five-room, five-star hotel for rent in Seminyak which includes a theater and 24-hour-a-day staff.

THE old saying, “a man’s home is his castle” may have to be updated. The word “man” should probably be updated to “person”, just so we are politically correct. And best not to forget our four-legged friends as well.

Everything from castles to creative coziness is popping up on the Island of the Gods – Bali. The streets are teeming with holiday-makers from every corner of the universe.

Their impact is profound. Attempting the simple act of going out for dinner in a popular restaurant without a reservation could leave you going to bed without supper.

Down in Seminyak is Luna2, which has positioned itself as a “Private Hotel”. Directly on the beach near the trendy Ku De Ta and Potato Head restaurants. The location remains one to die for.



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

Entering the five-room hotel, it is immediately clear why owner and designer Melanie Hall describes the décor as “funktup modernism”. It’s like peering into Alice’s looking glass.

At US\$4,000 a night, the experience is complete with 26 staff at your beck and call 24 hours a day.

Hall, who has a background in visual merchandising in fashion brands including Calvin Klein and Polo Ralph Lauren, has an acute eye for the stunning, subdued and ironic.

Walking over a fish pond on the veranda, you can see that even the fish – which come in two distinct colors – have been thoughtfully installed to add to the ambiance.



FUNKTUP MODERNISM: The cool décor is only part of the attraction.

Manager and Executive Chef, Danny Drinkwater is on hand to say hello. Danny worked with the global chain Hyatt for a number of years, with his last posting being at the Park Hyatt in Sydney. There he headed up the wildly successful Harbour Kitchen & Bar, which was created by iconic creative talent, Tony Chi.

In the Private Hotel are two full-time chefs to arrange breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Guests are encouraged to throw functions and parties, and the chilled atmosphere has been the scene of some very high-profile gatherings.

One thing Danny clearly points out is that this is not just a villa, but a hotel where you, and whoever is lucky enough to be in tow, are the only guests. He shows me the well-stocked wine cellar and large walk-in refrigerator, and I am comforted to know that everything under the sun is available here.

Rooms have been themed with

At US\$4,000 a night, the experience is complete with 26 staff at your beck and call 24 hours a day.

specially designed carpets by Melanie. Philippe Starck Cube toilets and Ghost chairs add to the flair for the unusual.

Features include an in-house theater and a special kids entertainment room with all the mod cons and an inlay of Marilyn Monroe on the bottom of the swimming pool. But be warned: it’s not garish. Instead, it’s thoughtfully inspiring and quite cool.

A new expansion nearby will house 14 Luna2 studios, or what they are calling *studiotels*. Set to open by mid next year, the vision will be extended to smaller spaces but will have an intimate 30-seat restaurant and underground member’s only private club. Now that sounds interesting.

There are plans for the group to move overseas and expand the Luna2 brand and Private Hotel concept. The unique selling propositions of this property are too many to list.

Outside is a small fleet of Lunamobiles and a Smart Car.

Bali continues to have an inspirational effect on the region’s resorts. Two other properties here – Istana and The Edge – have moved into similar territory by creating a niche in providing small, private and priced-up experiences.

Stepping into the waiting Lunamobile, I’m off into the blazing tropical afternoon, and can’t help but wish I was sleeping at Luna2 tonight.

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

In brief...

Bangkok seminar on buying, selling hotels in Thailand

LEADING industry experts from Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels, Baker & McKenzie and C9 Hotelworks will talk about emerging opportunities in the Thailand hospitality industry on September 6.

The session will include an up-to-date review of market transactions in both Bangkok and resort markets, and will cover who is doing the deals and where. Practical advice will be given on hotel valuation, due diligence and the transaction process for both buyers and sellers.

An open question and answer forum will follow. The venue is the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel in Bangkok.

The seminar is open to the public. Registration is at 5pm. Event time is 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

This will be followed by complimentary networking drinks from 7pm, sponsored by Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels.

For more info, or to sign up, E: sheree@amchamthailand.com

West Sands Hotel, Centara agree to run Mai Khao

THAILAND’S Centara Hotels and Resorts have confirmed that they have entered into a management agreement for the West Sands Phuket project in Mai Khao.

Plans call for the property to expand over the next two years from the current 316 units up to 784, and it will be rebranded as a Centara Grand.

This marks Centara’s 62nd hotel, and brings their total room tally to 11,000 under their various brands.

Centara operate a branded property in Pattaya with a large waterpark, which the Mai Khao hotel is set to complement given its proximity to Splash Jungle.

Economy Hotels Conference to be held in Singapore

THIS year’s Economy Hotels World Asia 2011 conference will be held from September 13 to 16 at the Novotel Clarke Quay Hotel in Singapore.

Key executives from major brands InterContinental’s Holiday Inn Express, ACCOR’s ibis, Radisson and AirAsia will be featured speakers.

The event will be held in tandem with two other conferences: Resort Development World and Serviced Apartments World.

Bill Barnett, MD of Phuket-based expert property consultancy C9hotelworks, will be moderating the two conference sessions.

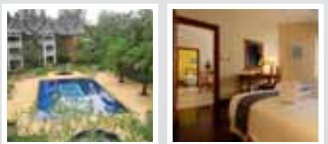
– Bill Barnett

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PROPERTY RESALE

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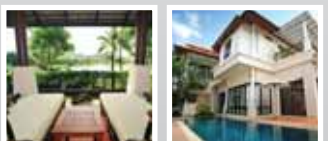
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- golf membership
- upgrade maid room

3 Laguna Village Townhomes THB 21.7 M



- 4 beds 3 baths Townhomes
- lagoon view • fully furnished
- golf membership
- Laguna Resident's Privilege card

4 Laguna Village Residences THB 37 M



- 5 beds 5 baths Residence
- lagoon view • private pool
- golf membership
- Laguna Resident's Privilege card

5 Laguna Waters THB 42 M



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Avoid worry, be well-advised

Property Legal By International Law Office

WHEN buying or selling a property, both buyer and seller usually appoint independent legal counsel to guide them through the sale and purchase process.

However, a successful and swift property transaction requires not only the appointment of, but also the right use of legal counsel.

Typically, the first question that arises when considering appointing legal counsel is: At what stage of a transaction should a seller or buyer appoint a lawyer to discuss their specific needs?

The answer to this is simple. Both the seller and buyer should hire and consult with their independent legal counsel at the very beginning of a potential transaction.

Ideally, a seller should consult with their legal advisor before they put their property on the market.

Legal counsel can advise you what documentation needs to be

Why it's important to get legal counsel before venturing into the property market

provided to a prospective buyer and his lawyer.

If you are unsure what documents a buyer may request, then try to put yourself in the position of a reasonable buyer and prepare a comprehensive set of self-explanatory documents, the same as you would expect if you were the buyer.

This will facilitate a timely completion of the transaction.

As a buyer you may wish to seek legal consultation well before you start looking for real estate in Thailand.

This will provide you with a clear understanding of the relevant laws and, in particular, existing restrictions applying to property purchase by a foreign national.

All too often a buyer falls in love with a property not knowing that the underlying legal structure does not fulfil his requirements or that the property is unavailable to a foreign buyer.

A buyer's legal counsel may also be able to refer you to other professionals such as tax advisors, construction specialists or surveyors whose expertise is necessary or desirable.

When choosing legal counsel, you need to consider their knowledge, experience and expertise.

Referrals can be obtained through various sources. At the same time, however, you must make sure your legal advisor is fully independent and has no conflicts of interest.

If possible, you should meet with your advisors and discuss all relevant details and get a general picture of whom you are going to appoint.

Communication is important when it comes to purchasing or selling property. You should provide your lawyer with all the necessary documentation they request. A lawyer can only advise you properly if you have provided all the relevant details.

Once a transaction has started, ask your lawyer to keep you updated on the current status of the pending deal and provide assistance where required.

Fees payable for professional



Photo: Lazurite

RELAX: A lawyer can help you to avoid unnecessary wrinkles.

advice may vary depending on the complexity of a transaction, estimated expenditure of time and experience of the hired advisors. The fees should be transparent and agreed upon at the time of appointment.

It may be possible to negotiate an hourly or a flat rate.

However, in case some unforeseen or extraordinary issues

arise, changes of the fee structure may be required. You should discuss this, in advance, with your lawyer.

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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YEAR-ROUND FLOWERS: Yellow Begonia (*Tecoma stans*) Photo: Miwasatoshi

Decorate a wall floral

PALM Tree Primary School in Soi Salika, Rawai, has a bare north-facing wall next to a playground that needs, in the words of head teacher Nick Parker-Smith, "softening", and would benefit from a border of colorful plants. In Thailand we are spoiled for choice in this category, as the range is vast.

First things first, soil. As with almost all new buildings, the area immediately next to the wall consists of sandy subsoil at best, and of lime-laced builders' spoil at worst. Two solutions are presented.

The easiest solution is to put container plants along the base of the wall. The benefits of this is that it provides an immediate and portable verdant screen. However, this comes at a cost: lots of large pots are required, and they will want watering daily, especially during the dry season. Moreover, most container plants are constrained by their restricted environment, and will not grow above five or six feet tall.

If you favor this solution, go native. Many Thai gardeners would go for *Wrightia religiosa* or as they would say, *mook baan*,

which has small, white, pendulous flowers and a sweet scent. It grows tall rather than wide, and has horizontal, layered branches.

A better choice for flora might be *Murraya paniculata* (orange jasmine or *dok khao*) with its shiny leaves, white scented flowers and bright red berries. Euphorbia, another Thai favorite, would have to be discounted on account of their ferocious thorns and slow growth. You could consider gardenias, but they prefer fertile soil.

This brings us to the second solution which is to replace the existing sandy stuff with decent topsoil, mixed with bags of compost. Compost alone will suffice, provided you are prepared to add some granular fertilizer.

Once the soil is improved, there are many options for plants. You could try climbers, but remember that most of them will need support of some kind. Only *Ficus pumila* (creeping fig), which likes a north facing position, actually clings to walls by its rootlets and, in time, it will cover the whole area. On the other hand, conventional



CONSIDER A TREE: *Tecoma stans* is a great choice for a tree that will 'soften' a dreary wall. Photo: Forest & Kim Starr



climbers will grow rapidly and will soon reach high up the wall.

Other choices might include *Allamanda cathartica* (golden trumpet or *ban buri*) with its huge yellow flowers and glossy foliage, *Solandra grandiflora* (cup of gold) which has spectacular flowers, or *Quisqualis indica* (the Rangoon creeper or *lep mue nang*) which grows very quickly and produces clusters of fragrant blooms that start white and turn pinkish red. *Mansoa alliacea* (garlic vine or *kratiem thao*), which sports mauve flowers in profusion, is another possibility.

Another option is to choose shrubs which grow vigorously and are self-supporting, and can, in time, be trimmed to form a bushy hedge. *Bougainvillea*, perhaps the most vigorous of all tropical shrubs, immediately come to mind – although they are thorny. Once established, hard pruning will help promote bushy growth.

Duranta repens (golden dew-drop or *thian yod*) is also a fast grower and has pleasant yellow leaves which turn a bright green as they mature. One variety has masses of lavender blue flowers. *Hamelia patens* (fire bush or *pratat lek*) is another shrub with orange flowers that can be clipped, and is often used to make a dense, medium-sized hedge.

You could also consider a row of small trees. They will need to be

planted at intervals at least 45 centimeters from the wall, but they can be gently clipped to keep their shape and they will not outgrow their surroundings. Go for the dwarf poinciana (peacock flower), the geiger tree, or *Tecoma stans* (yellow begonia or *thawng urai*). They all bloom for most of the year.

If you have a question, or a garden that you would like featured contact pcampbell45@gmail.com

Tip of the week

Making old gardens new

MOST of us are busy creating new gardens, but imagine how wonderful it would be to inherit a mature and well-established garden in Phuket.

Before you start bulldozing your newly-acquired garden, take a look at what it has to offer. A recent visit to a two-rai estate in Rawai, formerly owned by the local headman, revealed how utilitarian and beautiful these old gardens can be.

It was utilitarian because the whole grassy area was dotted with mature trees, every one of

which bore edible goodies. And each tree is different.

There was a gorgeous jackfruit tree complete with glossy foliage and enormous fruit, a star fruit tree with its characteristic offerings, a shaddock already shedding its globular fruit, a champak and one tree with long, green, ovoid and apparently very sour-tasting fruit growing directly from its trunk. There were also guavas, mangos, langsat and much more, all growing happily and in full leaf, within meters of the seashore.



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Properties For Sale

HOUSE IN KHAO LAK



Bang Lud, 2 beautiful 3-bedroom villas and 3-bay carport and storage. Set on 5 rai including 1 rai lagoon. Lovely view. Located in quiet Western-style village with restaurants and shops. Beach only 10 mins' walk. Investment opportunity and/or development. Price: 8.7 million baht. Owner returning to UK. Contact Andy for more info. Tel: 001-44-7715394550. Email: as.ac@hotmail.co.uk

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

THAI MUEANG LAND

Approx 3 rai, 2km from town center. 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

LOVELY POOL VILLA, 3 BEDROOMS



and Jacuzzi, 7.5 million baht. Fully furnished, aircons, CCTV, electric gate, land 404sqm. Near Chalong Circle, Homepro Villa Market. Tel: 081-968 8468 (English & Thai), 085-478 6204 (French). Email: paweeakarn@fiducia-thailand.com, moreels.willy@yahoo.fr

4-BEDROOM FAMILY POOL HOME

For sale or rent. 5 mins from Laguna Phuket, 1,000sqm land, 330sqm built-up area. Contact for details. Agents welcome. Tel: 087-418 5924 (Thai), 089-875 9609. Email: claudelbaltes@gmail.com

PHUKET TOWN CONDO FOR SALE

Cheap Phuket Town condominium for sale with 2-year payment plan. Monthly payment just 5,900 baht. Fully furnished. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-873 7768 (English & Thai). Email: p_sura_siang@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE

House in Bang Tao, 2 bedrooms, parking, fully furnished, 100sqm, land 350sqm, Chanote title. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

LAND, 2 POOL VILLAS

Rawai, 3 bedrooms, private pool. 5.7 million baht, 60% finance. No bank requirements. Best deal on the land. Tel: 087-893 8747.

NEW VILLA AT CHERNG TALAY



Near Laguna, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, on 500sqm land. Chanote title, freehold or leasehold. Sale price: 12.9 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

TWIN VILLA IN KAMALA



For sale with rental income, very good money. 10 mins' walk to beach, fully furnished, 6 bedrooms, on 500sqm land with Chanote title. Freehold or leasehold. Price: 14.5 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

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



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

80SQM FREEHOLD CONDO

In Patong for sale at the Haven Lagoon. Fully furnished. Price: 5.6 million baht. Offering 10% rental guarantee for 2 years. Tel: 087-895 0555, 087-895 0999. Website: www.thehavenlagoon.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com.

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

TWO SEAVIEW PLOTS



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

NICE PLOT



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

LAND IN PATONG

1 rai of hillside land located on the north end of Patong Beach with road access, own water supply and utilities. Very natural and quiet setting, with many mature trees. Elevation of 56 meters. Open to offers of around 15 million baht. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296 160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

PATONG CONDO

56sqm, 1 bedroom, furnished, 400 meters from beach. Urgent sale. 1.8 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 084-058 2410 (English). Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.com

JINDARIN BEACH CLUB

Eco Resort on Coconut Island has a private pier, spa, grass-roofed village and lap pool. Resort lots start at 1 million baht. Cottage and lot starting price is 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-396 6060 (English), 083-520 0020 (English & Thai). Email: eam1008@mac.com For further details, please see our website at www.jindarin.com

LAND AT LAGUNA PHUKET

Plot 44, 262.6sq wah overlooking Banyan Tree Golf Course. Price: 12 million baht. Contact Khun Supaporn. Tel: 02-655 0092 (during office hours).

SEAVIEW CONDO IN KATA

New seaview/Big Buddha view condos for sale directly from owner. Price: 3.9 to 12.9 million baht. With or without furniture. Pool, balcony, parking. Quiet Soi on Kata Hill. No traffic. Call Philippe for more information. Tel: 087-393 5462. Email: 4taken@gmail.com

4 RAI LAYAN/ 4MB PER RAI

By owner, Nor Sor 3 Gor, concrete road, house 2 minutes from beach. Tel: 084-714 8391. Email: andreapaoletti1@hotmail.it

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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: teddykong 0222@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, Prachup Khiri Khan. Includes clubhouse and 24-hour security.

- One-storey house with 2 bedrooms and two-storey 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

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.

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: 089-6521 951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

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700-1400sqm for residential. Utilities, road. Build yourself or with our expertise. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://villabeyond bangtao.com

SURIN BEACH

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

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Properties For Rent

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

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT
Bang Tao area, 1,2,4 bedrooms, fully furnished, ADSL, Sat TV. Tel: 085-674 6786.

PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

Fully furnished condo unit with gym, swimming pool, parking, cable TV, WiFi and 24 hour security. 800m to the beach. Available for rental from 1 October. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, aircon, internet, TV. Short terms to December 15 + 2 weeks in January. Ask rates - contact Hockey. Tel: 084-852 4091. Email: sales@thaiwaitravel.net

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

AMAZING SEAVIEWS



Luxury villa with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, set in garden with pool with large garden and maid quarters. Very private. Only 1 minute to beach and 15 minutes to PIA/BIS school. Furnished. Rent: 160,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796 283. Email: richarddesmondcapeheights@yahoo.co.uk

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.

RENT PATONG CONDO
New, 46sqm, furnished apartment with pool and security. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

5 MINUTES FROM LAGUNA

For rent or sale. 4 bedrooms, family pool home, 1,000sqm land, 330sqm built-up area. Contact for details. Agent welcome. Tel: 087-4185924 (Thai), 089-875 9609 (English). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT NEAR PSU

Prince of Songkla University, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European built-in kitchen. 4 aircons. Office, BBQ and laundry area. Parking lot. UBC, cable and WiFi. Ask for photo and price. Tel: 081-432 6587.



houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellita

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

Spacious, fully furnished, four-bedroom villa with pool for long-term rent near Chalong. Price: 55,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-245 8986. Email: take_a_tab@hotmail.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 160sqm. Large apartment, swimming pool. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artipmj@yahoo.com

PATONG 2 BED / 1 BATH CONDO

Maid, pool, WiFi, gym. Spacious: 100 sqm. One year rent at 35,000 per month. 3 units left. View today! Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT



Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and carpark. In the center of the village. 4 aircons, telephone line. Only 5 mins to Central Festival. For long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Call for visit. Tel: 087-270 9093.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE

Swimming pool, garden view, 2 beds, aircon, 2 baths, cable TV, DVD, internet, terrace, tropical garden. Close to Nai Ham Beach. Available October 15. Daily rent: 2,600 baht. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

SERVICED APARTMENT IN PATONG

Fully furnished, swimming pool, free wireless internet. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.nanaivilla.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: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

EXCLUSIVE HOUSE NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, jacuzzi, 800sqm land. For long- or short-term rent. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

LONG-TERM RENT

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

In Phuket, Thalang, Pa Khlok. Bungalow with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, warm water, 2 aircons. Not furnished. Buying also possible at a cheap price. Tel: 081-606 3525 (Thai/English), 02-741 9745 (German). Email: gpdg stbgk@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach for long-term rent. 3 bedrooms, aircons, fully furnished, with cable TV and car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

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

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



High-grade house, furnished and conveniently located. Minutes from Rawai and Nai Ham 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

2br twin house for rent in Phuket Town (20,000 THB/month)



- Surface: 45 Sq Wah (180 Sqm)
- 2 stories: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot.
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6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, big sala, swimming pool. Rent: 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-397 1835. Website: www.phuket-house.yolasite.com.

POOL VILLA 3-4 BED

Plot 1/2 rai, private and safe, furnished, available for rent from Oct 1, long term only. Tel: 087-386 3388 (English & Thai), 084-305 4333 (English). Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.137135652995390.12164.137133126328976

GOLF-VIEW HOUSE FOR RENT

Available now for long-term rent. 7 aircon bedrooms, salt swimming pools, European kitchen, furnished, carport, solar cell system for hot water, in nice and quiet neighborhood. 10 mins to Tesco Lotus, Central Festival, Big C, Head Start, BIS and QSI. Price: 65,000 baht per month. Contact for detail. Tel: 081-271 3228. Email: info@procarpentering.com

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

Bang Tao area. 1,2,4 bedrooms, large pool, fully furnished. Tel: 085-674 6786.

STUDIO APARTMENT IN PATONG

One living room with kitchenette, separate bedroom w/bath, telephone, aircon, UBC ready, WiFi free. Quiet location. Western standard, nicely finished. From 9,500 baht per month. Long term. Tel: 084-185 8536.

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Newly furnished modern house with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious dining area and stylish open western kitchen. Living room with balcony. Full aircon. All extras: LCD television, Internet, satellite. Quiet setting. 27,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-185 8536.

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Harn. Luxury rent: 40,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

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100 meters to Chalong Pier. Shared or private office equipped with services including internet, a phone and fax line. Live on site options. Storage and parking included. Tel: 076-383796, 081-370 3181. Fax: 076-280286. Email: info@1800-REALTY.com

CONDO-HOLIDAY RENTAL

In Kathu, 30sqm, quiet area, 10 mins to Patong, 10 mins to Central. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 2 aircons, fridge, microwave, balcony. Rent 5,500 baht per week. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

PATONG CONDO

1 bedroom, 66sqm, balcony. ADSL, DVD, microwave oven and more. Big swimming pool at front. Good view. Fully furnished. Available from August 10. Long-term rent at 14,800 baht per month. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

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Need maids who can cook for three villas. Laguna needs a live-in maid who can cook and clean. Patong villa needs a maid who can cook and live out. Kamala villa needs a maid who can cook and live out. All maids must speak English very well and have experience and references. Must have flexible working hours after 5pm. Six days per week. For more info. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED

We are currently looking for Thai office staff with the following attributes: Able to operate a computer with knowledge and have a basic computer skills, including Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Must also have knowledge about online booking through Microsoft Outlook, and be fluent in written and spoken English. Good salary. Send your CV to Asia Sensations Travel if you are interested. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-282906, 081-893 9925 (Thai), 089-871 5045 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuket-excursions.com

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

Thai female, age 25 to 30. Interest in the fitness industry. Must be active, self-motivated and driven to take on growing business. Salary with commissions. Send CV and details to cj@searaspports.com

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SALES EXECUTIVE

- Male / Female, 25 – 35 years.
- Bachelor's degree or higher in marketing or a related field. Thai nationality with an excellent command of written and spoken English. (Ability to speak French is an advantage).
- At least 2 years sales experience in Phuket's real estate field
- Detail-oriented, highly organized, multitasking capacity.
- Proficiency in MS Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.)
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- Highly motivated and well presented.
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Please send CV and expected salary to
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Type of Work: Full Time

Working Place: Phuket Branch Office

Contact Address:

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 Tel: (66) 2 267 1202-4 Fax: (66) 2 267 1128
 (Phuket) 241/29 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150
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โรงพยาบาลภูเก็ต
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GERMAN COORDINATOR PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

This is a full time position open to both Thai and Foreign nationals

The German Coordinator's primary role is, at a macro level, to act as an interface between the foreign community and the hospital and at a micro level, between the patient and healthcare providers.

Essential Qualifications

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- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Desirable Qualifications

- Clinical, nursing or other relevant health care skills or experience
- Thai language proficiency
- Marketing or Management experience
- Professional presentation
- Demonstrated ability to meet defined objectives and deadlines
- Computer skills

Interested candidates should contact James Cawood or Lotte Dietrich for a position description and forward their CV-supporting documents by August 29th, 2011 to james@phuketinternationalhospital.com or lotte@phuketinternationalhospital.com

**Position : Assistant Resort Manager**

We are seeking an adventurous, motivated and experienced person to join us to work on the beautiful remote Island called Koh Pra Thong for the period of October through April.

Responsibilities:

Assisting Resort Manager in daily resort operation but mainly responsible for all administrative functions such as handling daily bills for the resort, bookkeeping, vendor payments, correspondence, and maintaining accurate reservation records.

Requirements:

1. Male or Female - Aged 28 years and up
2. B.A Degree
3. Good spoken and written English and Thai.
4. Good literacy with Microsoft Office
5. Pleasant personality, service-oriented and good problem-solving skills
6. Prefer Hotel/Travel or customer service-related experience.
7. Experience with billing and knowledge of PayPal system is an advantage

Interested candidate please send resume, a recent photo and expected salary to Khun Pissa Tipsombut Email: pena@goldenbuddhareort.com
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Pro-actively hunt, develop and manage the own sales area Phuket on prospection & acquisition of new customers in order to reach the companies growth objectives in Hospitality segment, with sales of a - brouded coffee & tea system solutions

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- System sales background is a plus, particularly in a comparable environment as system selling or hospitality / hotel or food and beverage sector
- Self motivated a independent
- Consultative selling skills, recognising the customer needs
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Working at: Phuket, Krabi, Khao Lak areas

Working day: Monday – Friday
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**Contact: Human Resources Division
 Sara Lee Coffee & Tea (Thailand) Ltd.**
 Cyberworld Tower: A, 34th Floor, 90 Ratchadapisek, Huai Kwang, Bangkok 10310
 E-mail: recruitment.bangkok@saralee.com
 Tel: 02-6886792

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International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

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- Female, 25 years or older, bachelor's degree
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- Fluent written and spoken English
- Ability to work well under pressure and adhere to strict deadlines
- Computer skills

Please email resume in English with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to:
bernd@ilo-phuket.com; sam@ilo-phuket.com

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If you say **YES** the above then please submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying for to email address recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Contact Human Resources Department,
Anantara Phuket Villas Tel: + 66 (0) 76 336100-9 Ext 552-553
Fax: + 66 (0) 76336166

**Positions Available****Sales & Marketing**

- Sales & PR Coordinator

Villa Operations

- Senior Villa Host
- Villa Host Supervisor
- Guest Service Center
- Villa Host
- Bell Man

Food & Beverage

- F&B Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Infinity Bar Manager
- F&B Supervisor
- Waiter/Waitress

Engineering

- Handy Person

Housekeeping

- Villa Supervisor
- Villa Attendant
- Florist Supervisor

Kitchen

- Executive Sous Chef
- Sous Chef
- Demi Chef
- Chef de Partie
- Cook Helper
- Steward (part-time)

A successful candidate will need to possess average to above English communication skills.

Join us to create your own story! Good Luck!

A small group of villas in Thalung is looking for the following position.

Assistant IT Manager

He must be Thai with good communication skills. He must have at least 2 years experience working in the IT industry.

PA/Secretary

She must be Thai with pleasing personality and excellent in communication and interpersonal skills.

Butler/Villa Attendant

She must be Thai with pleasing personality and good communication skills. Previous experience working in the villa is a plus.

English Teacher

She/he must be Thai and with TEFL. This position is part-time only.

Contact Person: *Khun Myra Rodolfo*
Email: myr@shangdumail.com

MASSEUSE WANTED

Seeking a professional masseuse to make house calls regularly. Tel: 084-877 3566 (Thai). Email: sherin.peace@gmail.com

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Thai resident with very good written and spoken English. Must own car and driver's license, computer and have strong communication skills. Tel: 076-304127. Fax: 076-304128. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com

ASST MANAGER FOR MAGAZINE

Thai national, minimum 24 years old, degree in marketing or PR, customer service, strong communication skills in spoken and written English, MS office, driver's license. Tel: 076-304117. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

We are looking for a full-time accountant to work Monday-Friday. Salary starts at 15,000 baht per month. Good English and office experience required. Tel: 076-527834, 089-871 8835 (English & Thai). Email: anamackay@hotmail.com

WEB CONTENT MANAGER

For IT company. Thai national, degree in philology – Russian and English, good knowledge only. Computer skills. Tel: 076-304117. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com

SECRETARY WANTED

Thaimaan Loma is looking for Thai staff, age 25+. Must be able to speak and write English. Must also have knowledge of Microsoft Office and good other computer skills. Experience in accounting or real estate broking is an asset. Good salary. Tel: 089-515 5288 (English). Email: timo.saarinen@thaimaanloma.fi

DOG LOVERS

Good accommodation with living quarters above garage. Husband to work as driver and handyman. Wife to work as housekeeper in large villa with important duty of caring for 5 dogs. Tel: 088-168 9455.

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We are looking for full-time, fluent English-speaking Thai staff for our Tour Desk. Three (3) positions vacant. Work 6 days per week. Should have knowledge of tours and tour companies in Phuket and basic knowledge of computers. Tel: 076-282906, 089-871 2831. Please contact Asia Sensations Travel by sending CV to info@thailand-circuits.com

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We are launching a new luxury holiday program in Thailand and need a marketing manager to oversee resort relationships, ground handling and the reservations office. Excellent written English, strong computer skills and at least 5 years experience in hotel / tour biz essential. Own Car. Chemtaly based. Travel in Thailand required. Salary circa 40K. To apply, send your CV + recent photo by email only. Tel: 083-116 2852 (English). Email: thailand@exotiqholidays.com For further details, please see our website at www.exotiq.com/#holidays

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Working in Rawai. Please contact Khun Wit. Tel: 084-844 0008. Or send email to: m@bayshoreprojects.com

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Australian-owned barra-mundi farm (Pla Kra Pong) located close to Khok Kloy. Seeking English-speaking Thai assistant manager for immediate start. 20,000 baht per month. Onsite accommodation provided. Please Contact Alan for more information. Tel: 082-640 7486. Email: al.debwaap@gmail.com

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Part time position, flexible hours. Must be western fluent in written and spoken English, good communicator, excellent computer skills, be home based and have a fast/reliable internet connection. Please send CV to admin@esxoasia.com

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Part-time work for German-speaking female. 20-30 years old. Send your CV in English to rainforestjob@gmail.com

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Brokerages available in Phuket and Pattaya to sell businesses and property. Full training and set up given. Fees apply. Tel: 087-034 0568 (English). Or send email to: phil@tsba.info

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Waitress, cook and bartender needed. Good salary and housing included. Contact Manuela. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 081-270 1370, 083-392 8462. Or send email to: m@bayshoreprojects.com

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New IT Company is seeking Graphic Designers to join our rapidly growing company. A creative mind and willingness to work as part of a team is a must. Skills required: Adobe PhotoShop (HTML not compulsory). Monthly salary is 20,000-35,000 baht. Tel: 086-951 3478. Email: kirrin.lisiecki@nriteam.com

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Full-time, speak English. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 089-652 5664.

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Contact:
martin@phuketfishboat.com
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Articles For Sale

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Basic BBQ with large gas bottle 2,500 baht. Plate glass top for 6-seat table, cost 2,500 baht, selling for 1,500 baht. 2 TVs: 2,200 & 2,500 baht. Bed settee 3,500 baht. Coffee table glass top 1,500 baht. Tel: 089-972 3861.

LIQUIDATION SALE

on August 27-28. Used Items: Aircons, tables, chairs, beds, car stereo, bar stools and bar counter. No reasonable offer refused. Address: 48/18 Chalong Road by the pier, Phuket Fish Boat Office. Tel: 089-500 6676.

SWEDISH CANDY SALE

Stock clearance. Gott & Blandat, Bilar, Djungelvrål, Snoren, etc. Tel: 076-246427, 087-274 6602 (English), 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-246180. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at www.scansnax.nu

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1 Dupont Lady, China Laquer 5,500 B1 Dupont Man, Gold 4,500. Tel: 081-891 6412. Email: flamingoklaus@aol.de

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Bulletins

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Please contact for more information to

K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948).

Email: info@phuketiwcc.com

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For Phuket info (English) call 081-7372246, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM

Green Man Pub - Chalong
Tue, Thu, Sat 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)
Tel: 086-9440460 Sae, 085-4647450 Sae

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

Business Opportunities

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PATONG BAR FOR SALE

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APARTMENT HOUSE IN PATONG

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COMMERCIAL PLACE

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BAR FOR SALE

Fully furnished, fridge, TV, Whiskey included. A very good location. 10,000 baht per month. 800,000 baht. Tel: 081-693 0671 (English & Thai). Email: joakim_zip@hotmail.com

FOR SALE-PHUKET



Karon beachfront hotel: 11 rooms + pizzeria restaurant. Tel: 080-383 0544, 081-815 4900.

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- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369

CHERNG TALAY

- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket) Tel: 076-324313
- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

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- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

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- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

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3. Three nipples
4. Daedalus
5. Barrow
6. The priesthood
7. Griffin
8. Hawaii
9. Cannibalism
10. Israel
11. Stock Exchanges
12. Greyhound Stadium
13. The Tea Bag
14. Potato suppositories
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16. Bird Spit

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For more information email
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Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thai flyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

An aerial photograph of the Phuket Airpark, showing a large green airfield, a winding river, and surrounding lush vegetation. In the bottom left corner, there is a small inset image of a two-story house with a traditional Thai-style roof and a balcony. The house has a white exterior and a dark roof with ornate details. A small car is parked in front of the house.

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Phuket forward Kone Adama (left) contends for possession against RBAC defender Eric Fredy Zambo Noah.



RELIEVED: Phuket players celebrate their winning goal. Photos: Siam Sports

Phuket break winless streak

After 10 winless away games, FC Phuket traveled to Bangkok to face RBAC in what would be their first victory on the road.

By Stephen Fein and Steven Layne

PHUKET football fans rejoiced earlier this week when news spread that FC Phuket had finally bagged their first away victory in league-play this season.

Phuket's narrow 1-0 win on Sunday evening against Rattana Bundit Athletic Club (RBAC), at Rattana Bundit University Stadium in Bangkok follows a series of 10 consecutive losses and draws in league matches on the road.

"The curse is broken! The players' confidence will surely come back now," exclaimed Anuwat "Ball", an enthusiastic FC Phuket fan.

Ball, a native of Phang Nga who has been following FC Phuket since their 2009 premiere, told the *Phuket Gazette* that he believes the Southern Sea Kirin are capable of beating any team in Thailand.

"When they play weaker teams, they tend to drop down to the same level and don't win when they should," he said.

"However, when they are up against stronger teams, they have shown they can bring up the tempo and win," he added.

Even though Phuket's opponents on Sunday were the clear underdogs – having won only two of their 20 games all season – the game appeared to be evenly matched.

The Southern Sea Kirin scored the only goal just two minutes into

play, a score credited to the recently signed Nigerian midfielder, Boubacar Issoufou, picking up his first goal in three games on the Phuket side.

That goal was sparked by an early invasion from the far left wing when Nittiroj Sukuma sent a long pass towards goal.

The ball was chested down inside the penalty area by Watcharapong Jun-ngam, who evaded two defenders and deftly passed the football inside the near post.

The RBAC "Fighting Lions" lived up to their nickname and put up a

fight, hoping to break their own "winless-at-home" spell this season.

At last place in the 18-team Division One standings and facing the threat of relegation, they played like a team with nothing to lose.

Going on the attack, RBAC had all of their scoring bids

foiled by a composed Phuket defense, notably goal keeper Jonathan Matijas, who was named man of the match for several brilliant saves.

After the match, FC Phuket coach Sompong Wattana said he was pleased to finally see his boys notch up their first road victory of the season.

"I have to credit RBAC, who played well. Managing to get a goal so early in the match made play a lot easier for us. I apologize for the formation we used after that, but we weren't doing it to taunt

their side in any way," he said.

RBAC remain the only team in Division one not to have won a game on their own pitch, even though they've won two games on the road.

The win gave Phuket 29 points from seven wins, eight draws and six losses, immediately moving them up to 8th place, with just a slight goal difference advantage over Saraburi FC, who also had 29 points.

However, Phuket were pushed right back down to 9th place on Tuesday after Saraburi drew Thai Honda in a scoreless match.

With at least 12 more games left on this season's calendar, totaling a potential 36 points, Phuket are 20 points behind league leaders, BBCU, 19 points behind Buriram FC and only 10 points behind third place Chainat FC.

In contrast, the third-to-last ranked team Thai Honda are only 12 points behind Phuket, followed by Chiang Mai who trail Phuket by 15 points, while in last place, RBAC are 17 points back.

Thus, Phuket's chances of being promoted to the Thai Premiere

Team	P	Pts
BBCU	21	49
Buriram	21	48
Chainat	21	39
Songkhla	20	38
PTT Rayong	21	35
BUFC	21	34
Rajapracha	21	34
Saraburi	21	30
Phuket	21	29
CCFC	21	25

League or even relegated back down to the Division Two regional leagues are not yet set in stone.

League play will break for the coming two weekends, giving Phuket players a break after seven weeks on the road.

Phuket's next league match is scheduled against 6th-placed Bangkok United, to be held on Saturday, September 10 at Surakul Stadium in Phuket.

Check page 44 of the *Phuket Gazette* for Toyota Cup news.

DIVISION ONE RESULTS:

Bangkok FC 1 - 2 Chanthaburi

Chaing Mai 2 - 2 Buriram

Samut Prakan 2 - 3 Rajapracha

PTT Rayong 2 - 1 Air Force Utd

Songkhla 1 - 0 Chainat

Bangkok 1 - 2 Suphanburi

JW Rangsit 1 - 3 BBCU

RBAC 0 - 1 Phuket

Thai Honda 0 - 0 Saraburi

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Indonesian Tourism Ministry's Sabang regatta set to sail



Aceh dancing was on show at the reception.

A DELEGATION from the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism recently held a reception for about 200 Phuket residents at Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC).

The move was part of the ministry's strategy to revive and promote tourism in Aceh Province, the hardest hit landfall of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The ministry has identified yachting as a key element in its strategy, and the open invitation to Phuket residents to join the event was focused on raising awareness of the beauty and tranquility of the relatively undiscovered region as well as promoting entries for the inaugural Sabang International Regatta, ACYC Commodore Grenville Fordham explained.

The Sabang Regatta kicks off in Phuket with a pre-regatta dinner on September 13, followed by a rally to Langkawi before racing across to, and around, Sabang until September 25.

"We're delighted to have been selected to host this party," said Mr Fordham.

"An advance team from the Indonesian Tourism Ministry scouted all possible venues on the island, including all the marinas, and we convinced them that ACYC was the best choice."

Unlike other regattas in Thailand, entry to the Sabang event – which is open to sail and power boats – is free, includes 10 nights of cocktail parties and dinners, and offers cash prizes to winners.

The Indonesian authorities are waiving fees for the Cruising Permit (CAIT), Temporary Import Bond and Visas on Arrival – and are even offering participants free fuel, he continued.

"This puts us on the map as a 'grown-up' yacht club, the heart of yachting in Phuket and the perfect venue for major events," said Mr Fordham.

Best of times at the Irish Times Regatta

FRESH from winning the national Platu championships off Jomtien, Pattaya, earlier this month, Scott Duncanson returned to Phuket in fine form to win the first race of the Irish Times Series in Chalong Bay last Sunday.

The seven-race series, run by the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC), forms the second half of the 2011 ACYC Keel Boat and Multihull Club Championship.

Points from the Irish Times series will be amassed with scores gained under the Victron Energy series held in the first half of the year to determine the overall winner for each class for the year.

Duncanson and his crew on *Som Tam Express* extended their overall lead by beating fellow Racing class contender *Linda*, with owner-skipper Jack Christensen at the helm.

Regular racers *Sidewinder*, *Nina*, *The Frog* and *Da Vinci* along with first-time ACYC regatta entrant *Zhuka* formed the fleet in the Multihull class.

Light winds from the northeast and east – unseasonal for Phuket this time of year – offered the conditions for yachts to negotiate the course up to the Ao Makham mark under a clear blue sky followed by upwind-downwind legs marked by buoys.

Although most yachts were able to round the course up in reasonable times, several didn't finish.

Sidewinder with owner-skipper Alan Carwardine on board claimed top honors in the Multihull class, followed by *Nina* and *The Frog*.

First-time ACYC racer Richard Eyre on his catamaran *Zhuka* placed fourth, followed by Bruce Issell on *Da Vinci*.

Although following a shorter course, *Iruvai* and *Chetak* in the Cruising course were forced to finish the race under power to cross the finish line. Both scored DNFs ("Did Not Finish").

All are welcome to join ACYC Sunday sailing races, regardless of experience. For more details of Club racing, contact Scott Duncanson on 081-958 6879.

The series is open to all keel yachts and multihulls with an overall length greater than

Points from the Irish Times series will be amassed with scores gained under the Victron Energy series held in the first half of the year to determine the overall winner.



NECK IN NECK: Scott Duncanson and his crew on *Som Tam Express*. Photo: Leslie Hand

six meters. Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry form on each race day and by paying the racing nomination fee to the Race Officer or appointed ACYC representative.

There is no entry fee for boats. Crew fees are 200 baht per person for ACYC members, 300 baht for non-members. Crew fees include a post race buffet.

Overall series prizes for first, second and third place in each class are awarded. Individual

race prizes are awarded to podium finishers on race day pending the number of entries.

– *Phuket Gazette*

REMAINING IRISH TIMES REGATTA RACES:

Race 2 – September 4

Race 3 – September 18

Race 4 – October 2

Race 5 – October 16

Race 6 – October 30

Race 7 – November 6

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Laguna staffer aiming for World Ironman Champ

JARAY Jearanai, a marketing executive with Laguna Holiday Club, has qualified for the Ironman 70.3 and full Ironman World Championships, becoming the first Thai national to compete at these events.

After taking part in his first Ironman 70.3 at Laguna Phuket last year, Jaray was sponsored by the hotel group when he competed in the Philippine's Ironman 70.3 on August 14.

His inspiring performance there earned the 31-year-old a fifth place finish in his age group and 29th overall, snagging him slots in the Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA on September 11 as well as the Ford Ironman World Championships, which will be contested in Kailua-Kona in Hawaii on October 7.

Jaray clocked a time of four hours 46 minutes and 41 seconds, beating out much of the 700 strong field to claim the qualifying slots, which are highly coveted by amateur and professional athletes around the world.

A full Ironman consists of a 3.8 kilometer swim, 180.2km bike ride and a 42.1km marathon. The World Championship at the end of each year is considered the sport's "Holy Grail".

"I trained hard for the Philippines Ironman 70.3 but I was really surprised to finish so well and get the Ironman World Championship slot," Jaray said.

"It's always been my ambition to compete in a full Ironman. I just didn't expect my first one to be the World Championship, compet-

ing against the best triathletes in the world.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and honored to be able to participate in such a massive event," he exclaimed.

With Jaray's progression since his first triathlon appearance at the 2007 Laguna Phuket Triathlon, he stands every chance of shining against the world's best athletes.

He first took up running and cycling eight years ago, later adding swimming to his fitness regime.

In 2010, he placed third in his age group in the Laguna Phuket International Marathon and was then the second placed Thai athlete in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon later that year. It was a busy and fruitful year as he went on to become the first Thai finisher in his first Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific



LOCAL: Jaray is the first Thai to compete in the Ironman championships.

Championship at Laguna.

During his preparation for competition, Jaray had the opportunity to train with triathlon legend Jürgen Zäck, the record-breaking eight-time Ironman winner, in his Triathlon Academy at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club in Phuket. Jaray spends up to five hours per day training.

Jaray is sponsored by Laguna Phuket and supported by the Thai Ocean Venture seafood export

company and You Can bicycle shop in Bang Tao.

"It's amazing to achieve this opportunity to take part in not one, but two World Championships and I'll be giving all my best efforts," Jaray said.

"It also makes me very proud to represent my country at this level and I hope I can inspire more Thai athletes to get involved in the great sport of triathlon," he added.

— Michael DesPortes

Going the distance

Cycling 7,500kms for His Majesty the King

By Janpen Upatising

A GROUP of cycling enthusiasts – braving terrain and the elements to bike a 7,500 kilometer journey spread across 12 legs, 116 days and seven countries – made their scheduled stop in Phuket on Monday.

In the 10 days since setting off from Hat Yai, the riders had already seen Songkhla, Penang in Malaysia, Satun, Trang, Krabi and Phang Nga.

About 40 cyclists arrived in Phuket and despite the cloudy skies and rain that followed, displayed an energetic resolve to ride in honor of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th birthday on December 5, the day their trip is scheduled to end in Bangkok.

Phuket's own Kritanat Supantakij, the deputy governor of Chong Talay Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), participated in the ride from Hat Yai to Phuket.

"This is a project by Mekong Bike Club based in North Thailand. About 40 bikers entered Phuket for this leg of the journey but the number will change. There are about 10 people who will be riding for the whole 116 days from start to finish," Mr Kritanat explained.

"I rode from Hat Yai to Penang and then back to Satun. The atmosphere along the route was great. Officers in Malaysia were very helpful to us," he added.

Participants, who came from all over Thailand, showed that age was

not a factor despite the challenge of completing such long rides.

"I have been riding bicycles for eight years. This time I wanted to ride in honor of his His Majesty... I wish to ride in every leg of this event, but it also depends on my body condition too," Sanong Suan-ake, 70, from Petchaboon said. He was riding with an image of Thailand's revered monarch attached to the back of his bicycle.

Pongmanee Phromsanpang, 60, from Nan said that he was riding for HM the King and to promote the health benefits of cycling, also explaining that he had met many new friends during the journey.

Their Phuket visit lasted a couple of days, and began with a small reception at the Phuket Gateway, where snacks and refreshments were enjoyed. After a lunch in Chong Talay on Monday, Tuesday was spent riding to viewpoints and attractions around the island. The group embarked on an early morning departure from Saphan Hin on Wednesday.

The riders are now venturing north, to Chiang Mai before leaving the country and making their way through Myanmar, China, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Mr Kritanat encouraged people to join the ride, even if it was only for a small portion of it.

"Just bring your own bicycle and join us," he said.



10 people will ride for 116 days.



HIGH MORALE: The currently 40-strong team stopped in Phuket on Monday.

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Six goal thriller

FC PHUKET'S hopes of advancing to the final four of the 2011 Toyota League Cup were squashed Wednesday night by Division 2 upstarts Pattalung FC. The wild game ended in a 3-3 extra time draw, with Pattalung winning on aggregate 4-3.

The pressure was on for the Southern Sea Kirin in their first home match in seven weeks, fueled by a crowd of about 8,000 anxious fans welcoming Phuket back in a high-stakes homecoming.

Pattalung had their own cheering section, a squad of about an eighth the size of the home teams' crowd.

After taking the home leg 1-0 a week ago, it was clear that the second division "Swiftlets" were not going to cede their advantage.

It was Phuket's Watcharapong Jun-ngam who opened the score in the 43rd minute with a charge to the left post to take his side up 1-0 into the half.

Coming into the second half, Phuket needed just one deal-sealing goal, but a hungrier



Despite a three all draw, Pattalung FC will advance to the semifinals.

Phattalung side knew that a single goal would instantly turn the odds in their favor.

Phuket goalkeeper Jonathan Matijas made several brilliant saves to the enthusiastic hoorah of the home crowd, keeping the score 1-0 to the end of regulation time.

Extra time saw five more goals scored.

Pattalung's next big test will come when they face premier league side and reigning Toyota League 2010 champs Thai Port FC. The fixture date has yet to be announced.

Muang Phuket School takes gold in PPAO Youth Games

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) held its 2011 Schools' Student Games on Tuesday at Surakul Stadium.

A total of 1,500 youth athletes from five PPAO schools competed in the all-day event which comprised two sports: Petanque (Petong) and Track Running. Petanque age categories ranged from 12 to 18 years old, while Track Running – both single and relay varieties – included age categories from four to 18 years old.

When the final counts tallied, it was Muang Phuket School who raked home the most medals by a far margin. Following is the total medal count.

Muang Phuket School won 52 gold, 40 silver and 24 bronze medals.

Baan Nabon School got 29 gold, 28 silver and 21 bronze medals. And Baan Talad-Nue School, 17 gold, 32 silver and 41 bronze medals.

Baan Mai Riab School got 14



Kids show off their medals.

gold, seven silver and 15 bronze medals, while Satit Ruampattana School got no gold, no silver and one bronze medal.

PPAO President Paiboon Upatising, chaired the opening ceremony which climaxed with a well-choreographed parade.

"I would like to see all the young athletes let today be a lesson to take your successes and apply them towards success in the future," he said to the participants.

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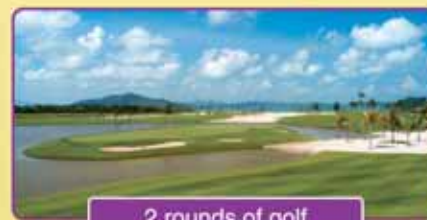
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