

Phuket Gazette

ANDAMAN Edition

Volume 18 Issue 42

October 15 - 21, 2011

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

Officials tally landslide toll

Experts fear bypass landslide site could slide again

By Stephen Fein

RESIDENTS of hillside areas in Rassada Municipality have been hit hard by landslides triggered by heavy rains in recent weeks, with Mayor Suratin Lianudom ordering evacuations in several areas.

The area of greatest concern is a stretch of the bypass road north-bound a few kilometers north of Samkong (Tesco-Lotus) Junction, where several businesses had to evacuate staff following a landslide on October 5.

Most badly damaged were accommodations for Burmese workers set up behind the showroom of the Adisak Equipment showroom. The October 5 slide, which hit at about 10am, sent thousands of cubic meters of waterlogged soil, uprooted trees and boulders crashing downslope into the building, which was largely destroyed as a result.

Fortunately the Burmese who

• Residents flee as illegal dam bursts; mudslide invades homes

• Initial estimates put property damage at 100 million baht

called the structure home were out working at the time; as this goes to print no serious injuries were reported from this and several smaller slides that followed in the area.

Rassada Municipality set up a temporary evacuation center under tents erected in the parking lot of a company across the street, with free food and drinks provided to evacuees and rescue staff who remained there around the clock.

The family-run Adisak Equipment business had the most

evacuees, about 50 people including staff and family.

Muang Phuket District chief administrator Pipop Sadkaow inspected the area and estimated the risk area at about 50 meters wide, 170 meters long and 22 meters deep.

"The means that about 187,000 cubic meters of earth are at risk of landslide if rainfall saturates the soil past the critical point," he said.

Subsequent evaluation by a consulting geologist put the figure even higher, at almost 250,000 cubic meters.

Measures to prevent an even larger slide that could surge across the bypass road, endangering motorists and causing traffic chaos, are already under consideration.

These include building a retaining wall along a 200-meter stretch at the base of the Phanturat Hills, which rises up behind the buildings, terracing exposed soil and



Untold thousands of cubic meters of exposed, waterlogged soil threaten further damage to the Adisak Equipment showroom. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

covering it with sprayed concrete.

Whatever solution is chosen, Mayor Suratin and provincial officials agreed that the soil in the risk area would remain too saturated to allow any work to begin until the end of the rainy season.

Brad Kenny, an environmental engineer from America who has operated the consulting firm En-

vironmental Solutions (ESP) in the area for almost two decades, doubted construction of a retaining wall would be of much help in preventing future slides given the height of the exposed soil.

"I think they would first have to reduce the slope by cutting back from the top," he said.

Continued on page 2

Early steps show little progress for 'local stateless'

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET officials this week concluded a survey of the island's stateless residents, selected 74 applicants out of more than 100 to process in a scheme to register people "outside the system".

The applicants are people living in Phuket who hope to register and obtain basic rights in Thailand, such as access to education, healthcare and property ownership.

The 74 applications for identification cards were deemed legitimate by the Phuket Social Development and Human Security Office (SDHSO) in their campaign to determine the number of people living in Phuket without civil registration and enter

them into "the system", SDHSO officer Verapat I-namuna said.

The campaign began on June 24 and ended on October 10, with approved applications sent to the respective district offices for the areas the applicants inhabit.

Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul said



Tima Chid-ur, an 'unregistered person' worries for her children's future.

once his office receives

the case files, it will begin the process of verifying the applicants as Thai nationals.

"Other provinces have issued such ID cards before, but this is the first time for Phuket. These people are different from sea gypsies, who are able to get ID cards," Mr Supachai said.

"The stateless people, however, will get cards with a zero as the first digit in their ID number - identifying them as people without civil registration. No matter how long they live here, we cannot give them Thai citizenship if their parents weren't Thai," he added.

"It will take about a month for each case to make sure that they are truly stateless people."

Registration is for the benefit of both parties, though the government has not yet clarified what rights successful applicants will gain, given that their ID numbers will begin with a zero, Mr Supachai said.

"We want to register them to be able to track them in case they commit a crime, or to be able to report to their families if they have an accident. Who knows, in the future, the government may allow them to apply for full Thai citizenship," he said.

See pages 4-5 for interviews with Phuket's stateless residents - some of whom are ethnic Thai and born in Thailand - and an in-depth look at how they have struggled to survive.

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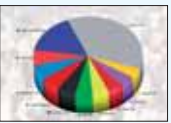
This Week

First Person



Death-defying activist saves mangroves from encroachment. **Page 9**

Business



Rule Britannia: Britons top legal foreign labor force in Phuket. **Page 10**

Health



Choose the right specs to savor the sun on bright days. **Page 16**

Film



50/50 will leave the audience no chance but to love it. **Page 18**

Property



A unique and antique Thai version of how to move house. **Page 27**

Sport



Record entries for Swatch FIVB volleyball in Phuket. **Page 43**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Rain delays repairs for Patong Hill landslide

EFFORTS to replace electric utility poles damaged during a mudslide on Patong Hill in Phuket last week have been hampered by continuing rainy conditions.

The Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) Phuket office is attempting to replace utility poles on Patong Hill damaged during a mudslide on October 5.

The current plan is to have the damaged poles removed by the end of this week, with replacements installed a week later. Weather conditions continue to cause problems for workers, however.

"We are preparing the equipment to install 14 utility poles on the other side of the road, because of slope stability problems on the other side," said PEA Phuket chief Somchai Krueapat.

Replacement will start at the Chinese shrine and stop just shy of the Patong City welcome sign.

The PEA does not want to block views of the sign by passing power cables in front of it, he said.

Traffic on the notorious stretch of road could worsen considerably when the work is underway as it will require closure of another lane. One westbound lane has already been closed by the Highway



Several of the power poles hang precariously awaiting replacement.

Department, which fears it could collapse.

Local residents will not suffer from blackouts while the poles are being replaced, but electricity will be cut temporarily when power is connected to the new poles, he said.

Residents in affected areas will be given advance warning of the power interruptions, which should not exceed half a day, he said.

The slide occurred at about

1pm last Wednesday, washing some 100 rubber trees downslope and toppling four electric poles. A crack of a few centimeters wide appeared along a 150-meter stretch of the newly-resurfaced road, from the Patong City sign to the hilltop shrine.

The crack, together with the fact that one of the power poles was also left leaning precariously over the slow lane, prompted officials to close the lane to traffic.

Landslides in Rassada

Continued from page 1

If that could be accomplished, terracing and sprayed concrete might be an effective solution, but problems resulting from a rubber plantation and a small tin mine pond upslope also needed to be addressed, he said.

From a third-floor balcony of his shophouse, Mr Kenny pointed to a vacant lot where a heavy machinery rental operator had, over almost a decade, removed hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of soil, which he then sold for about 900 baht per truckload as landfill.

Mr Kenny said he complained to police years ago about the work, which he suspected was on government land.

However, many people in the area were unsure where the exact boundaries of their plots ended, he said.

When police arrived to investigate the situation they spoke with the equipment operator briefly, but the excavation continued unabated until about a year and a half ago when the operator moved his equipment away.

Mr Kenny also spoke with the owner of the land who had rented it out to the operator.

"He was probably glad with the excavation since it increased his own usable area," he said.

The site of the excavation is clearly visible online at Google Earth.

See page 9 for Editorial

Body of fallen Aussie held for tests

POLICE will send the body of an Australian tourist to Bangkok for forensic examination in order to rule out any foul play in his fatal fall from a Phuket balcony last weekend.

His body was discovered in the car park at the C&N Hotel in Patong at dawn last Saturday.

Friends of the late Dean McKeon told police that they got home at about 4am and were "very drunk" at the time.

They suspected their friend was sleepwalking when he fell off the fourth-floor balcony, the railing of which they described as too low, they said.

The apparent cause of death was a broken spine, said police.

Although there was no evidence



The late Dean McKeon.

Photo: Courtesy of Geelong Advertiser

in the case to suggest foul play, police will send Mr McKeon's body to the Forensic Police headquarters for further examination to assure his family his death was an accident. They could not release the body to the friends to

repatriate to his native Geelong until the examination is complete, Lt Jakkrapong said.

In Australia, the late Mr McKeon's mother was in shock over the loss of her son, reported the *Geelong Advertiser*.

The baby of the family, Dean was "a beautiful bloke", she said.

"He was lovely to everyone, he was a really kind and gentle soul who loved music and was liked by everyone," she said.

Mrs McKeon said her son was generous to a fault. "Dean was the most humble, amazing, kind-hearted man and even today we are learning just how valued and appreciated he was by his friends and work colleagues," Mrs McKeon said.



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Disaster damage hits B100mn

INITIAL reports by officials estimate the damage caused by heavy rains and landslides over the past week to be about 100 million baht, Governor Tri Augkaradacha revealed on Tuesday.

The news came as Gov Tri ordered Phuket's three District Chiefs to take precautionary measures, including building retaining walls, to protect people from disaster.

Provincial authorities were to meet to review the extent of the damage across the island and to draw up plans of action, he said.

"Inspections have shown that the rains have so far caused more than 700,000 baht in damage to plantations, and the Phuket Highways Office estimates the damage to roads and people's houses to be about 100 million baht," the governor said.

As the cost of recovery surpasses the provincial 50mn-baht emergency fund, the Provincial Office will have to apply to the Department of Highways in Bangkok for the budget, he said.

"I have also ordered the authorities responsible for issuing building permits to be stricter, especially for projects on hills," he said.

Residents flee mudslide

By Warisa Temram

RESIDENTS fled their homes after a mudslide invaded the Baan Natkamon housing estate in Rassada early Tuesday morning.

There was considerable property damage, but no injuries were reported.

The first home inundated with flowing mud was that of Opas Chupan, whose unit is located next to the perimeter wall of the estate.

"I woke to the sound of water running around my home at about 3am. I heard a big bang and looked out of the window to see water and mud flowing down the street – in and around our homes. I called my neighbors to alert them. My entire backyard area and those of my neighbors were flooded with mud and water," Mr Opas said.

Several cars parked on the road were swept downslope by the torrent, many sustaining damage as they crashed into one another and other objects.

Sompong Pornphorm, whose home also suffered damage, said this was the second time residents had suffered inundation.

"I believe it is the result of a hillside road project nearby that blocked a watercourse, which



A resident looks back at his inundated home. The mudslide flowed downhill into the housing estate, breaking walls and damaging cars.

used to drain runoff. Now, instead of being channeled elsewhere, floodwater runs directly into our estate," he said.

Satellite images taken in 2004 and in March last year reveal the extent of development that has taken place in the area. Construction of the estate, on land that was once heavily forested, was completed in 2008.

Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosuthirak and Rassada Mayor Suratin Lianudom were at the

scene after dawn on Tuesday to direct the cleanup. The mud left behind stretched for nearly a kilometer downslope.

Mayor Suratin asked the residents of the Baan Natkamon estate to evacuate "until the rain stops" for their own safety.

"I am concerned for their safety in the event another landslide occurs. I have declared this housing estate and its surroundings a disaster area.

"We will monitor the situation

closely and look for the best solution to the problem here," he said.

The manager of Baan Natkamon estate told the *Gazette* he believed the source of the mud was a breached earthen dam upslope.

"My housing project was finished in 2008. At that time we had no problem with landslides.

"The owner of the land above our estate recently built a small reservoir for private use without permission from Rassada Municipality," he said on the condition his name not be published.

The landowner, part of the the same family that sold him the land to build the estate, constructed both a road and a weir uphill, blocking drainage in the area.

"Even though they installed a six-inch water pipe to divert excess flow, it wasn't enough to handle all the water flowing down.

"As a result, the water overflowed their private reservoir and flooded our estate," he said.

After a discussion with Mayor Suratin, the manager is considering legal action against the land owner.

"I may have to sue the landowner since it caused a lot of damage to our housing estate and affected its residents," he said.

Tesco dismisses talk of closing 'town store'

TESCO Lotus executives have dismissed rumors that the opening of its new hypermarket in Thalang will be followed by the closure of its flagship property near Phuket Town.

"The one in Phuket Town will stay open as long as people continue to shop there," said corporate affairs executive Martin Clutterbuck.

The comments came following the opening ceremony last week of the new shopping mall, located on Thepkasattri Road near Thalang Hospital.

On hand for the ribbon-cutting was Tesco Lotus Thailand Chairman Soonthorn Arunanontchai.

At the ceremony, company executives presented 1,000-baht scholarships to 100 students from



Shoppers wait patiently to enter the new Tesco store in Thalang.

poor local families and presented Phuket Provincial Energy Office Chief Jirasak Tummawetch with a cheque for 890,000 baht for his agency's Energy Seed project to raise environmental awareness among local youths, as well as 1.2 million baht to support the Phuket Provincial Office's project to promote the use of cloth bags instead of plastic.

Frenchman denies fraud charges

FRENCH national Rodi Yagir, 31, has denied all charges against him for ATM card fraud in Patong.

Mr Yagir was arrested on October 5 after staff at the Siam Commercial Bank notified Tourist Police that a foreigner was making fraudulent ATM withdrawals in the area.

Police set up a surveillance unit in front of the ATM at a mini-mart in front of the Phuvaree Resort on Sirirat Road.

When Mr Yagir arrived with another man, the officers presented themselves. Mr Yagir fled toward Simon Cabaret, where he was arrested in the parking lot.

He was escorted to his room at a local hotel, where a laptop computer, a credit card "skimmer",



Rodi Yagir

two USB drives, 130,000 baht in cash and 12 forged credit cards that had account numbers and passwords handwritten on the backs were seized as evidence.

Police also seized a passport belonging to the alleged accomplice, identified only as Jean-Philippe, who at last report was still at-large.

Mr Yagir denied all charges, saying the equipment found in the hotel did not belong to him.

— Warisa Temram

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'Stateless' locals struggle

Unable to prove their identity, stateless people face hardships in accessing the most basic services such as education, healthcare, and property ownership. The *Phuket Gazette's* Pimwara Choksakulpan speaks to local families – some of whom are ethnic Thai, born in Thailand – about their struggles.

MORE than 100 stateless people in Phuket applied for registration in a government initiative to issue ID cards to those "outside the system". Seventy-four applications have qualified to be further considered by local officials for an ID that although it enters people into the system, it doesn't guarantee any rights.

Among the applicants were members of three families living in Baan Mak Prok, Mai Khao, at Phuket's northern tip.

The Maneewongs

"I want to continue studying. I graduated from Hongyokbumrung School at Mor 3 level [9th grade] five years ago, but I can't continue because I don't have an ID card – the school couldn't issue me any certification," 21-year-old Oradee "Nang" Maneewong said

as she choked back tears.

She was luckier than her two older brothers: she at least had a chance to go to school and can read and write Thai.

Her father, 59-year-old Jan, speaking in a Southern Thai dialect, said that his family is from Ubon Ratchathani in Northeastern Thailand (Isarn). They moved to Phuket about 24 years ago, he said.

"My parents didn't have ID cards and they didn't register my birth," Jan said.

"They died when I was 14 years old – I was alone and went to many different provinces with my friends to work in construction. The first place I went was Suraburi province where I met Suwan, my wife.

"She is also from Ubon, and doesn't have an ID card. We got married, had two sons, and eventually moved to Phuket and had a

daughter. I couldn't register the births of any of my children," Jan said.

Jan and Suwan, 57, haven't had too many problems surviving without ID cards – it is their children who have the hardest time.

"Luckily I've never been asked by the police for my ID card, nor have I been arrested because I don't have one. But when we get treatment at the hospital, we have to pay no matter what the cost – we cannot register for any of the government healthcare programs," Jan said.

"My two sons, Thang, 35, and Put, 29, didn't go to school, but Nang [his daughter] was able to study because a local resident helped us by asking the school director to do us this favor.

"When I was in school, friends always teased me about being an 'illegal person' – it made me cry



The Maneewongs, from Isarn, live in Phuket as stateless people. Nang (right) hopes she can continue her education. Photos: Pimwara Choksakulpan

often," Nang said.

"Sometimes I got angry at my parents for not having an ID card," she added.

Jan and Suwan earn money by doing general construction work in the neighborhood. Thang works at a shrimp farm. Put is a local fisherman and Nang works in a salon run by her friend's mother. Each family member makes between 4,000 and 7,000 baht per month.

They live in a small wooden house provided to them by a generous local resident. As they don't have ID cards, they cannot even rent any property.

"I have thought before about applying for an ID card, but I don't know where or who to contact, and I cannot read or write – I'm afraid I'll be tricked, and I lose the desire," Jan said.

Suwan said, "If I have a serious health problem, I'm worried that my sons will have to find the money to treat me. I also want them to have an education – that would give them a brighter future."

Nang added, "I'm upset that the card we are applying for doesn't guarantee any rights – I wish it would allow me to study or get a good job. But I believe this will change in the future and I think this is a good step forward for my family."

The Kasims

"My friends told me that Thailand had open doors for everyone, so I came here," 42-year-old Charlie Kasim said.

In broken Thai, Charlie talked about his life after leaving Bangladesh at the age of 18.

"When I first arrived here, I lived in Bang Tao and sold roti. A few years later, I met Asina and got married – we now have four children," he said.

Charlie and Asina, 35, have lived in Phuket for 24 years. They said at first, it wasn't too much

of a problem for them, now it is.

"I've never had documents to identify that I'm from Bangladesh. Now my children are in a difficult position. They can't go to school. My two youngest daughters are studying now because a neighbor asked the director to do us a favor, but they can't study past Matthayom 3 and won't be able to get certificates," Charlie said.

Charlie, who has two boys and two girls, works as a handyman around the neighborhood earning about 6,000 baht a month.

"I can't get a good job. Going

'I can't get a good job. I feel like I'm swimming in the middle of an ocean – I can't go anywhere.'

– Charlie Kasim, stateless Phuket resident

back to Bangladesh is impossible – I have no family there and I don't have any documents. I feel like I'm swimming in the middle of an ocean – I can't go anywhere. Anyway, I've lived here for so long that I feel like I'm Thai," Charlie said.

"I just want my children to have a good life, but I don't know when that will be.

"With these new ID cards, they're better than nothing. At least we'll be able to travel outside of the neighborhood. I'd like to take my children to the sea – I haven't seen it for a long, long time."

The Chid-urs

"I don't want my children to blame me for failing to make good lives for them," 39-year-old Tima Chid-ur, mother of seven, said with a trembling voice.

Tima said she was born in Ranong – a province north of Phuket along the Burmese border – but her parents didn't register her birth.

"I don't have an ID card and I don't know what day or in what month I was born – only that it was in 1971.

Her parents died when she was young and her first husband didn't have an ID card either, nor do the four children she had with him. He died when she was 27.

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Tima Chid-ur shows a card identifying her as 'unregistered' (left). Her grandson, (right) remains undocumented.

She then brought her children to Phuket where she did construction work and four years later met her new husband and had another three children.

"Luckily he is Thai – he has an ID card. The last three children are registered and can go to school, but the four I had with my ex-husband can't. My 13 year old is going to school, but she won't get any certification when she finishes," Tima said.

Tima is a fighter. She pushed for a decade to register herself as an "unregistered person" be-

fore finally getting her ID card in 2007.

"Even though it doesn't give me any new rights, it's better than nothing," she said.

"I am Thai – not from another country or ethnicity. I used to feel hurt that my mother didn't register me in the system, and I don't want my children to blame me. I want them to have a good future.

"For me, I want to be able to vote, just once in a lifetime. No matter how long I have to wait, I still have hope."



HOME AWAY FROM HOME: Charlie Kasim (front row, left) came from Bangladesh 24 years ago and met his wife, Asina. He said he has been here so long he 'feels Thai'.



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World Musiq Festival set to honor HM's 84th birthday

PHUKET will stage its inaugural "World Musiq Festival" from December 2 to 5 to honor the 84th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5.

The festival grounds at the popular recreational public park at Saphan Hin, Phuket Town, will be sectioned into zones for the event.

The main exhibition will be titled the "Father of Love" area, named and presented in honor of the Father of the Nation, HM The King.

Other key zones will be the "Best of Phuket" area and the Phuket Food Kingdom.

A "Himmaphan Zone" will be set up especially for foundations and a "Wave of Love" exhibition will be on display to honor victims of the 2004 tsunami and to remember how the survivors and disaster-struck areas recovered from the catastrophe.

Stage performances will start nightly at 5pm, popular artist Todd Thongdee Lavelle explained to Governor Tri Augkaradacha at a meeting this week.

"There will be many performances by Thai artists as well as Gnawa music bands from Morocco; performances by Marimba percussion artist Ziv Eitan from Israel; and performances by Akha hilltribe people from northern Thailand," explained Mr Lavelle.

The Phuket City Municipality's Phuket Youth Orchestra, comprising students from local municipal schools, will perform jazz music written by His Majesty.

From 8pm on December 5, all artists performing in the festival will pay tribute to HM The King by singing in unison *Father of Love*.

— Chutharat Plerin

PAD honors protest victims

PHUKET members of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) took part in an alms-giving ceremony on October 7 to remember those who suffered in the clashes between PAD protesters and government troops who forcibly removed them after a 193-day blockade at Government House in Bangkok in 2008.

The merit-makers offered donations of food and other essential daily items to monks at Wat Charoen Samanakit, located on Toh Sae Hill Road in Phuket Town.

The protest three years ago came under the newly-installed government of Somchai Wongsawat.

Mr Somchai, who is brother-in-law to ousted fugitive former prime minister

Thaksin Shinawatra, was rejected by the PAD leaders as a Thaksin nominee.

A few days before the violence between government troops and protesters erupted, PAD leaders Chaiwat Sinsuwongse and Chamlong Srimuang were arrested by police on insurrection charges.

The resulting violence on October 6 and 7 claimed the lives of 11 PAD members and left hundreds more injured, according to the alliance.

Tensions eased when two days later Mr Chaiwat and Mr Chamlong were released on bail and the Supreme Court two weeks later ruled Mr Thaksin guilty in a land purchase conflict-of-interest case involving his wife.

— Warisa Temran



Phuket PAD members offer alms to monks at Wat Charoen Samanakit in Phuket Town.

Boy, 9, tops EU contest

NINE-year-old Phuket student Suthipat Suwanrathpum was honored on Wednesday with a personal visit from David Lipman, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Thailand.

The occasion was to mark young Suthipat being selected as one of the 14 winners in a drawing competition held by the EU administration to highlight gender equality.

The drawing by Suthipat, also known by his nickname "Pookun" (meaning "paintbrush" in Thai), was selected from entries from tens of thousands of children around the world.

The EU international development agency EuropeAid launched the competition on International Women's Day to raise awareness of the need for gender equality through the creativity of children.

The competition this year invited children to make a drawing based on their interpretation of the theme "Once upon a time there were a girl and a boy; together



Present to honor Suthipat were Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr and Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana.

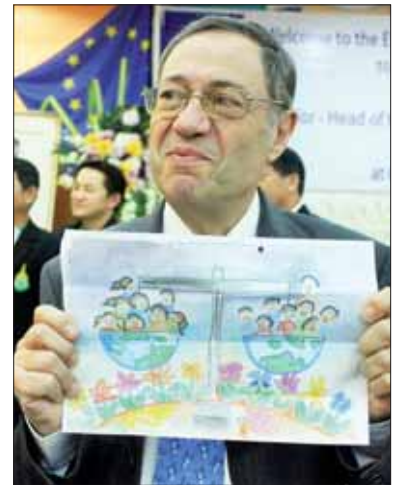
they wanted to make the world a better place..."

In 2010, the competition attracted entries from more than 49,000 children in 61 countries.

Suthipat received as his prizes a laptop computer and round-trip flight tickets to Brussels, where he and his father, Mr Suphat, will participate in the opening of the

exhibition of all winning drawings.

Mr Lipman was impressed by Suthipat's creation. "Just look at this wonderful drawing and you can see why it was chosen as a winner. It is quite remarkable. You can see the scale in the drawing and the fact that the women and men are represented as being of the same equality."



EU Ambassador David Lipman was impressed by the drawing.

Suthipat explained to the *Gazette* that his reason for drawing the scale used was simple: "Women and men are equal. I drew the scale because it shows that women and men are equal," he said.

The youngster added that he spent only one day creating the drawing.

— Chutharat Plerin

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Humanitarian disaster looms

THAILAND is struggling to avert a major humanitarian disaster after the worst flooding in half a century inundated huge swathes of the countryside, killing at least 270 people, shutting factories and forcing millions out of their homes.

Authorities in Bangkok are scrambling to prevent the capital from being flooded from October 16 to 18, when monthly high tides could cause inundation of eastern districts of the city.

Thirty of Thailand's 77 provinces have been affected by flooding since July. Heavy rain, flash floods and mudslides have killed more than 270 and destroyed or damaged at least 700,000 homes.

Reuters reported that around 3.4 million acres of farm land was underwater, an area about 13 times the size of Hong Kong.

More than 2 million people have been evacuated.

The country's ancient former capital of Ayutthaya has been hit particularly hard. After sandbags failed last Saturday, more than two meters of floodwater swept into the city, destroying homes,

AROUND THE nation

inundating an industrial estate and forcing the closure of 198 factories.

Industry Minister Wannarat Channukul estimated the damage to Ayutthaya alone at 20 billion baht.

The closure of major production facilities operated by Japanese companies including Honda, Nikon and Canon led to rumors the firms would move their operations out of the country.

Meanwhile, Bangkok Governor MR Sukhumbhand Paribatra announced the opening of a "war room" to put up a "special fight" to prevent the capital from being flooded.

Mr Sukhumbhand said Bangkok faced a three-pronged threat, with heavy rains, water runoff from the north and tidal surges in the Gulf of Thailand threatening to converge and cause massive

flooding in low-lying districts.

"Areas of concern include communities along both sides of the Chao Phraya River and those outside the flood embankments, as well as [low-lying] eastern districts including Lat Krabang, Min Buri, Nong Chok, and Klong Samwa," the governor said.

Officials had devised a plan to evacuate residents in 27 communities that were not protected by flood barriers, he said.

Earlier the governor led a group of senior Bangkok officials in holding a special ceremony by the Chao Phraya River asking the "water gods" to spare the capital from their wrath.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, speaking to reporters from his home in exile in Dubai, suggested Thailand implement a 400-billion-baht integrated water management system to permanently prevent flooding.

Mr Thaksin said he planned to propose the system to his younger sister Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The suggestion would come after the current flooding crisis has passed, he said.



Flooding in Ayutthaya. Photo: Pornchai Kittiwongsakul/AFP

US man pleads guilty on Lese Majeste charge

A US citizen pleaded guilty to charges of insulting the Thai monarchy on Monday as a United Nations human rights expert called on Thailand to amend its Lese Majeste law.

Thailand-born Joe Gordon, 55, was arrested in late May for allegedly translating excerpts of a banned biography of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and posting them on his blog. He faces up to 15 years in prison.

Mr Gordon, who lived in the US for 30 years before returning to Thailand this year for medical treatment, allegedly committed the

crime while he was working in Colorado as a used-car salesman.

Mr Gordon told reporters he decided to plead guilty to the charges after being denied bail eight times. Mr Gordon said he planned to ask HM The King for a pardon.

Mr Gordon's hearing came as Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, urged Thailand to reform its Lese Majeste law.

"The recent spike in Lese Majeste cases pursued by the police and the courts shows the urgency to amend them," he said.

China halts shipping after 13 killed

CHINA has suspended shipping on the Mekong River after 13 Chinese crew members on two boats were murdered by suspected drug traffickers in Chiang Rai province.

The vessels were hijacked last Wednesday, with 12 bodies found in the river over the weekend and a 13th on Monday. The victims had reportedly been bound and blindfolded with adhesive tape before

being shot in the head.

Thai officials said a gang of Shan drug traffickers was likely behind the attack. The pirates reportedly hijacked the boats to use them to transport drugs into Thailand.

Thai river police recovered the vessels after a gunfight with the gang. Onboard they found 900,000 methamphetamine tablets worth more than US\$3 million.

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Landslides expose greed, incompetence

THERE is a Thai idiom, *gam dai khrai gaw gam nan yawm sanawng*, that has as its English-language equivalent “You reap what you sow”. Similar maxims no doubt exist in every language because of the universal truths they contain.

As this edition goes to press, local leaders around Phuket are grappling for ways to deal with damage from landslides.

Most if not all of these slides are the direct result of a combination of causes that include greed; corruption and dereliction of duty by local officials; shoddy design and construction – and sheer stupidity. Almost all of the costly damage we are now suffering from is self-inflicted.

Landslides are naturally occurring phenomena in the tropics. Unlike land masses in parts of the world that get an occasional scrape clean by glaciers, here in Phuket the ground beneath us has undergone eons of erosion, creating thick soil deposits that must eventually give way to the forces of gravity, water and time.

But this simple geologic fact is obviously misunderstood or completely ignored by many developers and the officials who oversee their work, who collectively conspire to re-create the Riviera on loose laterites so they can reap the financial rewards.

It has only taken only some heavier-than-average rainfall to expose their practices just as clearly as the exposed patches of soil they have helped create.

In Patong, where the 80-meter restriction on building has been blatantly ignored, each deluge now results in flooding of key commercial areas, while landslides are a constant threat on upslope areas.

While the debate over whether to bore a tunnel under Patong Hill droned on and an “iconic” new sign was being erected to greet visitors to that city, officials turned cash-blinkered eyes to ill-advised construction and encroachment taking place in the same areas, including many that are obviously well above the 80-meter limit.

Sadly, the response by provincial authorities to the man-made emergencies we now face are as predictable as they are pathetic. As estimated damages to local roads and other infrastructure from landslides now surpass 100 million baht in Phuket, the province has announced it only has half that amount to conduct repairs. Thus, it will approach the Highways Department in Bangkok for additional funding. However, a response may take some time. The agency at the moment has more desperate priorities, with much of the national road network now under water.

As for how any additional funds will be allocated, those decisions fall to each of the island’s three district offices – the same bodies largely responsible for allowing the problem to develop in the first place.

– The Editor

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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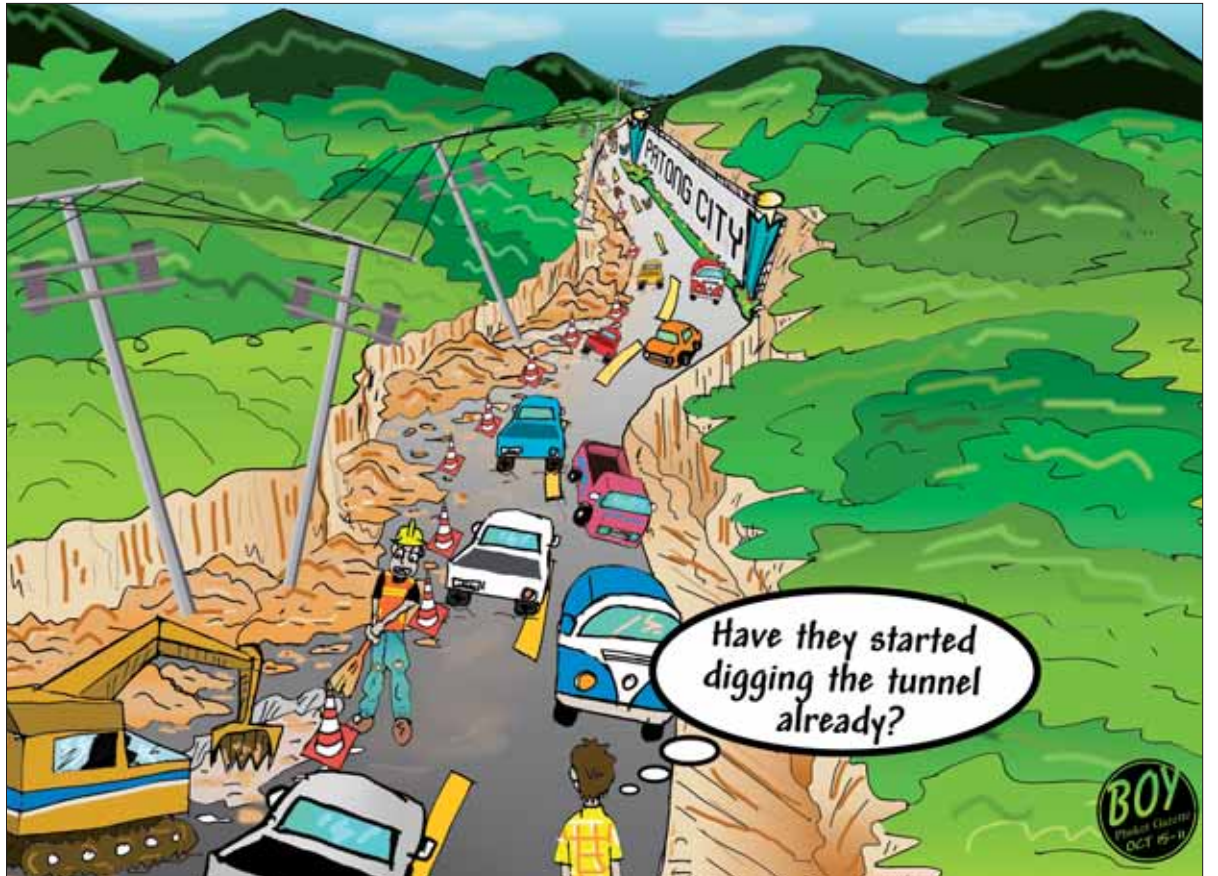
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Conned Kiwi seeks revenge

Re: Phuket Gazette, Foreigners losing homes to con men, October 1.

I read the article about con men in Phuket and this has happened to me too.

My Thai wife in Khon Kaen took out gambling loans of 500,000 baht against our house – after lying about our marriage and putting me into debt.

I couldn’t get any info on the “loan shark”, so I took our then two-year-old boy to New Zealand with me and left my wife to sell my house for 4.6 million baht, as agreed to in a legal draft.

She has now lost the home to the lender without any money being paid to her for it.

I’ll be trying to find that man in Khon Kaen when I return to Thailand in two weeks and my wife will help me – otherwise, her child and our marriage was a scam all along. I’m broke here in New Zealand, raising a little boy at the age of 52.

Allan
New Zealand

Beach bummer

Thailand is a staggeringly beautiful country; the people are wonderful and the hospitality is second to none.

Can you please tell me why the beaches in Phuket are in such an appallingly filthy, and unsafe state? Every year the problem is worse.

It is now “low season”, a beach vendor said to me yesterday, “and we only clean the beach during high season”.

I hear from more and more hotel, cafe and bar clientele that they will stop coming to Thailand because the beaches are so dirty. The beaches are one of the reasons tourists come to Phuket,

Letters to the Editor

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

yet the idea that it is okay to leave them filthy seems institutionalized.

Our beaches have beach vendors who should not even be selling on beaches (that’s another story). These vendors profit from tourism but don’t care about the beaches and pay nothing to keep them clean.

I passionately love this country, yet I see signs that tourists are not coming here anymore because of the filthy beaches.

Ignore this situation at Thailand’s peril. Tourism is a huge business for Thailand and social networking has made the world a small place – word will spread and people will not come.

It would be a travesty if this happens, maybe a newspaper story will help.

All in all, probably not, but someone has to take notice.

Mark Daniel
Nai Thon

Farang Vibes

I am new to the island and still making adjustments. However, since landing, I have been struck by the queer nature of local *farang*.

The Thai people I have met in shops and along the road in Patong and Rawai have mostly been incredibly hospitable, but the *farang* I pass on the street or sit a table away from all seem oddly distant. They mostly give off the vibe that you, also being a *farang*, are in some way

ruining their personal and God-sent paradise.

Why do so many expats have this attitude towards other expats – whom they don’t even know – on the island?

Trevor Green
Rawai

Coral conundrum

Re: Gazette online, Phuket divers sought for coral cleaning day, October 7.

Good idea, but I want to know why we have to clean up the same place every year. Every time it’s the same situation at Coral Island – it’s a never-ending story.

Fishermen’s nets are destroying the reefs year after year, despite us removing them.

If we left the nets that are currently on the reef, fishermen wouldn’t have to place new nets, which they no doubt will – either way the results are the same.

Stop fishing at coral reefs!

Stephan
Gazette forum

Volunteer violations inspire inactivity

Re: Gazette online, Phuket divers sought for coral cleaning day, October 7.

It is a pity that the Thai law states that foreigners can’t offer our time as volunteers to help the people of this beautiful country without worrying about getting arrested.

I would be more than happy to help with the reef clean up, but I don’t have a work permit.

Brett
Gazette forum

Fight to save land a deadly venture

FIRST PERSON

I HAVE been fighting encroachment on mangrove forest in Baan Kuku since May, 2007.

Initially, it was just Sommai Jaroensuk and a few other villagers who stood up to fight on behalf of the whole village – no one was brave enough to rise up like Khun Sommai because it involved a “powerful politician”.

Khun Sommai asked me if I could help because I have a degree in political science and some knowledge of Thai law. I saw how much he devoted himself to the community and I was touched by his work, so I decided to help.

Now that Khun Sommai is ill and unable to perform his duties, I have taken over all responsibilities from him. When I first started, there were not many people in the group, partly because they were scared of the power of this politician.

As time went by, our people grew stronger and finally they were fearless to fight for their rights. Now we have a much stronger group of more than 400 villagers.

Having a strong community is like having a really strong gate at our home. With everyone's help, in August we won back 29 rai of the 50 rai encroached upon.



Anucha Ardhan, 33, is risking his life to protect his village from encroachment by a “powerful politician”. Mr Anucha was born and raised in Baan Kuku Moo 3, nestled among protected mangrove forests on Phuket's east coast. Here he talks about how he gave up his job to join his community in a fight to save the mangroves.

As this whole area is set aside as Forest Department land to be conserved, I don't think anyone should be allowed to own and exploit it for their benefit.

I submitted the case to many government agencies, but they seemed unwilling to get involved

mangrove forest in her honor.

As soon as HM The Queen lent her name to the forest, I told my group that we needed to mark off the territory, so we put up signs that said “Conserved Mangrove Forest to Honor HM Queen Sirikit”. This way no one would dare encroach on it.

People ask me, “Why do you have to fight over such a small piece of land?” I always tell them that the size doesn't matter – you will do anything to protect your own home. I grew up here and I will do my best to protect it.

I cannot remember how many times I have received life-threatening phone calls. I was scared at first, but after getting back this 29 rai of land, I know that I am not risking my life for nothing. My life is insignificant compared with what I can give back to my community.

I was born and raised here, and I'm happy to die here.



A longtail boat parked along a deforested stretch.

because of the “powerful” politician. When no one took action, I decided to write a letter to the Bureau of the Royal Household.

Fortunately, HM Queen Sirikit saw the case and gave us full support by designating the area in Baan Kuku Moo 3 as a conserved

Phuket freedoms, Western dreams

Island View

By Samuel Shields

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

RETURNING to Phuket after an extended visit to Europe recently was nothing short of a relief. Inherent in all expats is the desire and willingness to compare our homelands to the country in which we have chosen to make our new lives, be that choice for work (or lack thereof), love, weather or a new experience.

In any case, conversations among expats invariably revert to “putting the world to right” and specifically the issues that affect their own livelihoods. In Phuket, these discussions may include traffic, corruption and culture.

As I have not been in Europe for more than six years, experiencing the “nanny state” of control and restriction made me fear stepping outside my own four walls. In fact, regulations are now in place in Spain which dictate that property boundary walls over six feet tall must have “viewing access” to enable police to see inside your property.

There are many building restrictions and property ownership controls here in Phuket, but limiting privacy is not one.

Gasps of disbelief are audible on a daily basis when *songtaews* overflowing with students, trucks laden with workers or families balancing on motorcycles shoot by on wet roads.

Thai traffic police will pull out their notebooks for failures to wear seatbelts and helmets, but flip-flops and shopping bags? Yes, in Spain tourists and expats are being fined for driving (cars and motorbikes) with flip-flops. Another petty penalty can be incurred by not placing all grocery shop-

ping in the trunk of the car or in the foot-well behind the front seats. Of course, these infringements will affect your insurance premiums.

I'm quite sure even Thai police would laugh at the Guardia Civil's petty attempts to fill their pockets in the name of safety and more assuredly, Phuket inhabitants would not stand for such nonsense.

While discussing expat communities with an elderly English man – who was president of the local bowls club – he said something that proved that some people should never be allowed to leave their own countries. I asked if he had noticed much change in the area of Spain he had lived for about five years, and his response was: “We have this place just the way we want it, with food, shopping and entertainment...none of this Spanish stuff.”

Many would argue that Phuket is a richer place for the mix of cultures and styles that infuse this island.

However, let's hope that Phuket can hold on to its Thai identity and we expats learn not to take this freedom – certainly not enjoyed in Europe – for granted. We also shouldn't allow fascist colonials to breed their contempt for anything but their own cultures.

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

Phuket TV fumbles American football

TrueVisions TV no longer carries the All Sports Network (ASN), so I am unable to watch American National Football League games and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) college football games.

I watched many games last year on ASN and on free internet sites, but this year have been unable to find any way of watching them – even on pay sites.

This is okay if you are a soccer fan, as there are many games on TV.

But what about the US football fans? Is there any way to watch them in Phuket?

DKin Karon

Piyaporn Proraksa, a customer service representative at TrueVisions Phuket, replies:

TrueVisions' contract with the ASN network expired as of October 1 this year.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

We are now waiting for TrueVisions headquarters in Bangkok to send us a letter informing us whether or not a new agreement can be reached.

If management signs a new contract with ASN soon, you will be able to resume viewing American football in November.

Can I enter and leave Thailand on the same day?

Is there a minimum time limit for staying in Thailand?

Say I come into Thailand over

land and return back to where I came from on the same day – is this possible?

Chris Mulder Kamala

Panuwat Ruamrak, superintendent of Phuket Immigration, replies:

There is no minimum time limit requirement to stay in Thailand. There is no problem with entering Thailand and returning to where you came from on the same day.

However, there are “maximum” limits on the amount of time you can spend in Thailand depending on the permit issued to you. If you overstay your permit to stay, you will be fined 500 baht for each day you overstay, to a maximum fine of 20,000 baht.

If you have general questions about Thai Immigration, we address some frequently asked questions on our website at phuketimmigration.go.th/homepage/q.php.

You can also call us at 076 221905 from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

I donut mind the wait



A half-dozen Krispy Kreme treats. Photo: Jidane

It's been a year since the first Krispy Kreme opened in Bangkok. I heard that a second store recently opened in Central Lardprao.

Is there any plan for a Krispy Kreme to open in Phuket? If so, when and where is it going to open?

I don't mind queuing for hours or going through traffic jams in Bangkok to eat Krispy Kreme, but

I just want an outlet closer to me.

Ming Phuket Town

A Krispy Kreme marketing officer replies:

We have two branches in Bangkok and we plan to expand in Thailand, but we do not know when and where.

Brit expats top Phuket's legal labor force

BRITISH nationals constitute the largest group of legally-employed expatriates in Phuket.

According to statistics released from the Phuket labor office, as of October 1 (accounting for the month of September 2011) there were a total of 1,041 work permit holders from the United Kingdom – roughly a sixth of all of Phuket's legal working expatriates.

Out of 6,497 expats possessing work permits on the island – 4,905 males and 1,592 females – French nationals were the second largest alien group (414), followed by Filipinos (400), Americans (394), Germans (357), Italians (337), Australians (311), Russians (307), Koreans (277) and Swedes (254).

2,405 or 37% of the island's legally employed foreign nationals did not make the top 10 and were grouped into the "other nationalities" category which includes all other nationalities except Burmese, Lao-tian, and Cambodians who are not included in the statistics as they have a special classification under Thai labor law.

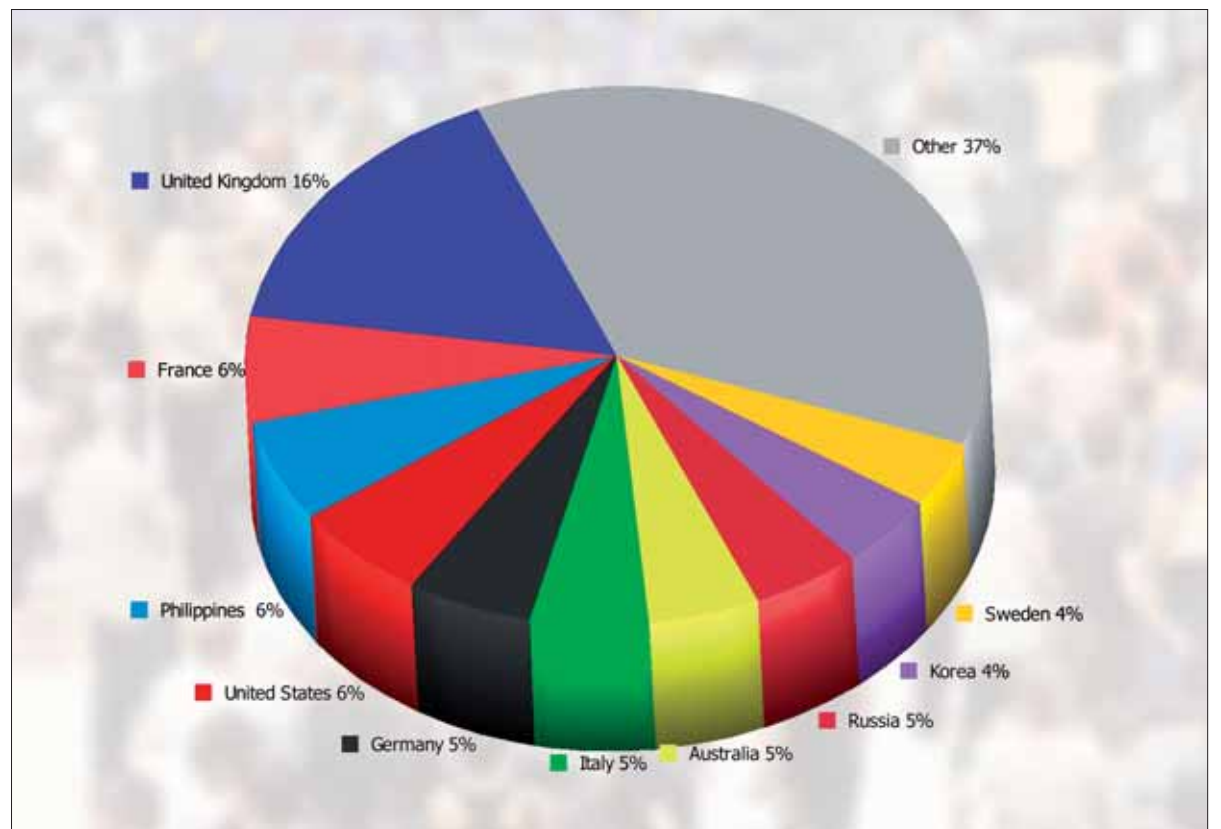
While 6,193 or 95% of Phuket's work permit holders were catego-

rized under the standard 'temporary' classification, 213 were classified according to provisions of Article 12 of the Investment Promotion Act as mandated by the Board of Investment. The remaining 121 people are pink card holders from hill tribes or stateless aliens.

Just over half or 3,418 expatriates were registered as living in Mueang district, which includes Phuket Town and Chalong. 2,129 or about 38% live in Kathu district which includes Patong and Kamala, while only 950 or 14% live in Thalang district which includes Cherng Talay and Mai Khao.

881 expatriates were employed in the food and beverage sector, while 683 were in the tourism and guide business; 621 in hotels, 515 in education, and 459 in real estate.

348 worked in the wholesale clothing and garments sector and 341 worked as business and management consultants; 323 workers were classified in the sporting services category which included diving, windsurfing, golf and tennis experts. The list included 146 computer and IT specialists, while 823 were listed

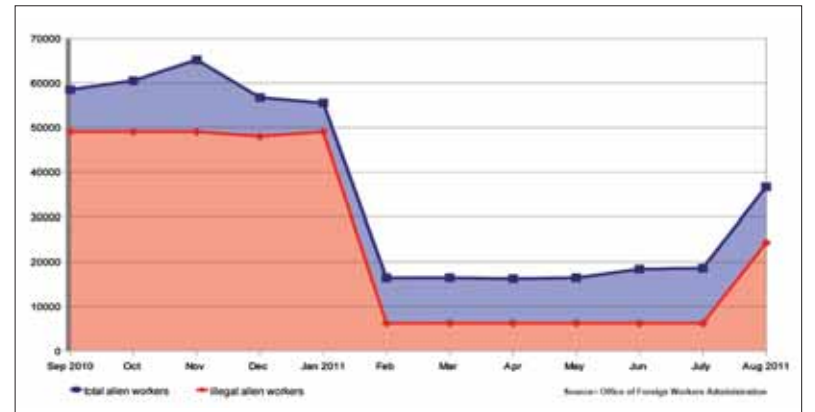


OFFICIAL LABOR STATS: In Phuket, there are more British work permit holders than any other nationality.

as 'miscellaneous' and another 1,357 were classified as 'other.'

1,990 (30%) held management positions, while 1,561 (24%) were company presidents or directors. 962 (14%) held office positions. 564 (8.7%) were teachers and 509 (just under 8%) held upper administrative positions. 911 (14%) were classified as 'other'.

For half of the year, the total number of illegal alien workers in Phuket is significantly greater than legal alien workers, as shown in the graph to the right.



Illegal alien workers outnumber legal workers for six months of the year.

Air China adds flights to HKT

TO ACCOMMODATE the influx of Chinese tourists traveling to Phuket this high season, China's national carrier Air China will launch two

non-stop flight services between Beijing and Phuket next month.

In the past Air China only operated Beijing-Phuket flight services on a charter basis. The introduction of regular flights signifies the growing popularity of Phuket as a destination among Chinese travelers.

Service for two seasonal flights between China's capital and Phuket will begin on November 18 and last until March 23, 2012 with a total of eight scheduled flights per week.

Starting November 18, flight CA821 will begin service from Beijing to Phuket, with one flight scheduled to depart Beijing at 8.05pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, landing in Phuket early the next day at 12.45am local time.

Flight CA822 will serve the Phuket-Beijing leg starting on November 19 with flights departing from Phuket airport at 1.45am on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with scheduled arrivals in Beijing the same morning at 7.50am local time.

The Beijing-Phuket flights will complement Air China's new Beijing-Bangkok direct flights CA959 and CA960 which are scheduled to launch services on October 30.





Phuket International Women's Club Celebrates


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DFM mini truck challenges Suzuki, Tata

LIFESTYLE Auto Company held the Grand Opening of their new showroom in Phuket for their DFM mini trucks last week. Vehicles have been orderable since they opened the showroom in Phuket on June 30.

Dong Feng Motor Corporation (DFM) mini trucks and minivans have been imported from China since 2008, and there are now more than 40 showrooms and service centers in Thailand. The new showroom, located on Thepkasattri Road next to Muang Mai Building near Mission Hospital, is the 42nd showroom to be opened in Thailand.

DFM mini trucks and minivans use dual fuel systems: petrol plus Liquid Propane Gas (LPG); or petrol plus Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Both systems are available with either 1,100 CC or 1,300 CC engines. The 1,100 CC vehicles can transport about 800 kg, and the 1,300 CC can transport about 900 kg.

The base price is 289,000 baht for a petrol/LPG fuel system, with a three-year or 50,000 km factory warranty. This makes it competitive with the Suzuki Carry priced at 356,800 baht, and the Tata Ace Super City Giant priced at 349,000.

DFM is the number three car manufacturer in China, with a production of 3 million vehicles per year and a small commercial market of 500,000 vehicles per year.



CONTENDERS: The DFM staff is all prepared to compete in the mini truck and mini van market.

The company has been number three in the mini truck market for the last three years, selling 2,000 vehicles per year – 40% in Bangkok and 60% in the rest of Thailand.

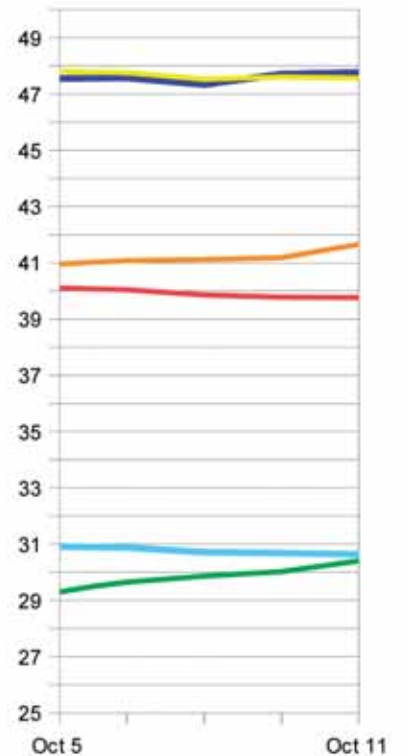
The sales target for this year is 3,000 vehicles. Later this year, they plan to launch a 7-seat minivan with a base price of less than 400,000 baht.

DFM Phuket announced that it expects to sell between 10 and 15 mini trucks a month, and they plan to increase this number to 15 to 20 vehicles per month next year.



	1.1 liter	1.3 liter
Engine type	4 cylinder engine with petrol plus LPG or CNG	
	8-valve electronic fuel injection	16-valve electronic fuel injection
Maximum speed	120/kph	135/km
Gross vehicle weight (kg)	990	1005
Cargo weight (kg)	570	700
Outside dimensions (mm)	3795x1560x1925	
Interior dimensions (mm)	2000x1320x1310	
Wheels (mm)	2515	
Wheel size (mm)	165/70R14	
Fuel tank capacity	Gas: 40 liters LPG: 36 liters CNG: 50 liters	

BoT Buying Rates(baht)



Currency	Change%
AUD	3.75
EUR	1.73
GBP	0.46
CNY	-0.48
USD	-0.87
JPY	-0.87

B170mn honeymoon escapade planned

PHUKET is looking to capitalize and expand on its reputation as a honeymoon destination with plans to stage a mass international wedding for 108 couples on Valentine's Day next year.

Organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, Rawai Municipality and Suanluang Wedding and Studio company, the event – projected to have a budget of 170 million baht – is being dubbed 'Andaman Pearl: The First Step of Love'.

Banking on the success of similar mass 'honeymoon tourism' events like the annual underwater wedding ceremony held on Ko Kradan in neighboring Trang province, Phuket's group wedding ceremony will be held at the island's romantic seaside location, Phromthep Cape.

The event's website states that the target groups are couples from Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Singapore, USA, Australia, France, Germany and Russia.

However, Mr Kusol Tanangpol, the owner of Suanluang Wedding and Studio company, told the *Phuket Gazette* that couples from all nations are welcome to take part, noting that there are already 10 Thai couples who have registered.

The website also explains that the number 108 symbolizes eternity in Hinduism and thus it's an auspicious number for lasting love.

The event will feature a Thai traditional wedding ceremony where couples take their vows by pouring water from a conch onto their partner's hands. The ceremony will climax with



PROMTHER CAPE: Sunset will bring wedded bliss to 108 couples.

Phromthep Cape's famous sunset.

The couples will then line up to take a mass photograph – they are aiming for a Guinness

World Record for the longest couple-line photographed.

Mr Kusol said, "We would like to promote Thai culture and

Phuket tourism to the world. With our experience in the wedding business, we know that foreign couples are impressed with Thai culture and their memorable views of Phuket, especially Phromthep Cape."

Rawai Municipality Mayor Aroon Soros added, "We are ready to support this project. Phromthep Cape is the best location to build a [good] first impression for couples."

Interested couples can choose from three all-inclusive packages starting at 49,000, 59,000 and 69,000 baht (prices vary on room types). Each package is inclusive of accommodations for four days and four nights, on February 12 to 15, 2012.

Until January 30, 2012, go to W:interweddingphuket.com for more information or to register.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Price Index

	Current	Week Change %
Rice*	36.85	0.00
Block Rubber**	115.2	7.66
Liquid Rubber**	113	8.65
STR Rubber***	131.5	3.95
Diesel	27.93	-1.76
Benzine 91	35.81	0.00
Gasohol 91	33.78	1.50
Gasohol 95	35.81	-1.10
LPG	12.36	0.00
Gold****	1597	1.20

*per kg for 100% Jasmin Rice (Malboonkrong brand)
 ** per kg, local price as of October 12
 ***per kg, FOB rate via Bangkok as of October 12
 ****per gram, Thai gold 96.5% sold in baht weight = 15.244 grams
 Source = Department of Internal Trade & Central Rubber Market office



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Signing up for internet service



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

OVER the past month, in these *Live Wire* columns, I've given you a snapshot of what options you have for Internet service providers (ISP) in Phuket.

Choices range from not-really-tolerable to surprisingly good. Most of all, the competition's fierce and that bodes well for all of us.

The key to it all is staying on top of what's available, and how well it really works. If you have an internet connection, you should check occasionally to see if better options are available. If you don't have an internet connection – or you know somebody who's moving to Phuket, or coming to stay for a month or more – finding a new connection at a reasonable price has never been easier.

Your eye might be caught by a flashy ad, cheap price, a promise for blazing speed, or a cute promoter. Don't be fooled by this.

Increasingly you're going to see marketing bafflegab brimming with technical terms, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Meh. The latest, greatest whiz-bang technology doesn't mean squat unless the

ISP keeps up with demand and builds out a network that can support what you want, when you want it.

We're lucky here in Phuket. As far as I know, this is the only place in Asia where people – regular consumers like you and me – keep tabs on our internet speed and post them for everyone to see. That's a huge advantage for anyone looking to get connected.

So you're looking for a new internet company. You've read about the technology here and checked PhuketInternetSpeed.com to see how well the providers are doing, and you've narrowed the field to a few options. What next?

I have ten tips for getting a new Internet connection in Phuket, but they won't all fit in one column. This week I'll look at the first two tips, and next week I'll give you the rest.

1. If you already have an ISP – wired or wireless – and you want to change either the package or the provider, talk to the people at the provider's office first. Find out how much it will cost to cancel the package you have right now. While you're at it, find out how much it would cost to change to a different package from the same provider. Don't take their word for

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แรงขึ้นอีกในราคาโดนใจ
7Mbps 390 บาท
สำหรับ 2 เดือนแรก

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- ฟรี ค่าติดตั้งสายเคเบิล/ตู้สายโทรศัพท์ประจำที่ 3,350 บาท (เฉพาะพื้นที่ที่รองรับการส่งเสริมนโยบายช่วยเหลือผู้ประกอบการ)
- ส่วนลด 5 % ค่าบริการรายเดือน ตั้งแต่เดือนปีที่ 13
- แถมฟรี Dual Port Modem 390 บาท หรือ Wireless Modem 690 บาท

TOT hi-speed
www.TOThi-speed.com

TOT customer service – no longer an oxymoron – has improved enormously over the past few months.

what works and what doesn't – that's why you have the Speed Reporting site. But do take into account the fees, and whether they'll be waived if you stick with the same company.

Most ISPs have a minimum contract term, typically a year (which is a century in internet time), but in some cases up to two years. Penalties from breaking contracts range from one month's payment to paying for full completion. You may discover that you can actually save money by paying the penalty and moving to a cheaper line – and getting faster service at the same time.

2. When you know what you want, make the trek to the local office. Don't try to do this over the phone, and don't send a friend to hammer out the details. Here's the inside story on how local offices vary across the island:

TOT's main office on Chao Fah West, south of Wat Chalong, second floor, has the most knowl-

edgeable and helpful staff, and they speak good English. The Patong TOT office, opposite Patong Hospital, is also very good. I hear that TOT has recently replaced many of their customer service staff in Phuket, and the people here now are excellent.

3BB's office diagonally opposite the original big Lotus on Bypass Road, near Samkong, does reasonably well. Other 3BB offices get very mixed reports.

The CAT office on the second floor of Central Festival is knowledgeable and helpful, although they frequently don't know when sold-out items will be re-stocked – a source of ongoing frustration. Other locations (Phuket Town, Patong) are also good.

The people in the True office downtown, outside Robinson's, really know their stuff. Other locations vary widely which is particularly important if you're looking for other True products,

including cable or satellite TV.

AIS offices are uniformly good (in part because their product isn't that complicated). Telewiz shops can do everything with AIS products.

Cable TV internet service runs all over the map. If you go to a Cable TV office looking for internet, be prepared to spend some time at the office – and take a translator with you.

Now that you know what you want, and where you want to get it, there are several additional tricks that'll save you a lot of time and frustration. Stay tuned for next week's Live Wire.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketLiveWire, "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShopee, or visit his free Sunday morning computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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Phuket Gazette

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How to manage hedge funds



Island Investor

By Graham Macdonald

ARE HEDGE funds a separate asset class, a superior alpha generator within traditional asset classes or simply an expensive fee model for high frequency traders? This debate has raged since George Soros took on the Bank of England (and won).

As an investor in global hedge funds and other alternative strategies since the mid 1990s, we reflect on the changes in our approach, philosophy and implementation.

Since 2008, much attention has been given to hedge fund liquidity and transparency, and rightly so. Hedge funds of funds were aggressively marketed around the globe leading up to the banking crisis and proved in many cases to fail on both of these counts, all for an extra layer of fees. Many of them were a fundamental disgrace to the investment world.

However, the hedge fund universe is very diverse and "manager risk" is everywhere, so diversification of manager and style is paramount to the long term success in this investment space. The dilemma for multi asset investors is how to achieve the benefits of a diversified hedge fund portfolio, without the negatives mentioned above.

Within our global multi-asset portfolio we have formed our own private fund of hedge fund managers. This is treated as a separate

asset class for optimization purposes as the risk return profile is very different from traditional asset classes and currently has an allocation of 20 per cent in the fund. The style of allocation within the hedge portfolio is modeled on past performance and includes significant macro/managed futures/active traders, and one of the prime objectives is low correlation to our other risk asset classes.

The portfolio is then allocated to 20+ managers to minimize "manager risk" and also attempts to add alpha through top quality manager selection. Liquidity of underlying managers is carefully monitored and we have very little liquidity risk at the private fund level as we are the only investor along with our family office joint venture partner.

The result is a hedge fund portfolio that exhibits the low correlation and risk adjusted returns we require and which has shown to deliver over long time periods, without the manager risk, liquidity headaches and lack of transparency that the retail hedge fund of funds industry exhibits in abundance.

One should not be scared or cynical about hedge funds as the long term numbers show that it is an important asset allocation performance generator. The short term results table shows that index returns, year to date, have added value relative to French Banks but also that overweighting macro traders in volatile times adds sector alpha, with our portfolio still up for the year.



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Euro dining at its best

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

BELGIUM is a paradox: Try to explain the country to a recently-arrived Martian and it would result in puzzled looks and tortured questions: "What do you mean?, Belgium nationals are often trilingual, have an impressive classical art history and one of the greatest French-language songwriters and yet their largely monolingual neighbor to the south looks down on them."

But then again, the European Union is no less a paradox than Belgium itself so it's no wonder a great deal of banana-measurement rules and fanciful edicts banning barmaid's cleavages come out of Brussels, the EU headquarters. It's all part of the rich pageant of life that Europe is known for.

With all this in mind, it's good to know that a clear-thinking Belgium national has set up a successful restaurant downtown Phuket with the not entirely out-of-the-ordinary moniker of

'Brasserie'. Still, at least he didn't call it called 'Brassiere'... That would have put the PC foxes rattling the chicken cage.

Brassiere, excuse me, Brasserie's decor is undeniably impressive with a central bar and three separate colorful dining areas.

Alain Tabruyn, the aforementioned mastermind behind this welcome addition to Phuket's ever-burgeoning culinary scene, deliberately chose downtown Phuket in order to attract a more select local crowd. So far, the scheme has unfolded admirably with ex-PM Abhisit and Phuket's Governor amongst the *clientèle* as well as Thai celebrities such as Phuri Teeranyapuek.

Part of the *décor* here effortlessly transports you to downtown Ghent, Bruges or Brussels with its plush touch and a plethora of on-tap and bottled beers as well as a wine list that displays a rare professional knowledge of the best worldwide labels.

We ordered pan-fried foie gras (380 baht), a scrummy *croquette au parmesan* (130 baht), and an Atlantic salmon in a light honey



Parts of the plush *décor* effortlessly transport you to downtown Ghent, Bruges or Brussels.



MEAT EATERS' HEAVEN: Alain Tabruyn with the humongous Angus black charcoal-grilled rib-eye steak.

sauce (520 baht). My photographer kicked out the jams by ordering the biggest steak I have seen in my life – an Angus black charcoal-grilled rib-eye (390 per 100 gram) – which he managed to polish off with ease and still stole some of my *pommes frites*, Belgian fries, French fries, chips, Freedom Fries: take your pick... as indeed he did.

Brasserie's seafood offerings include a pan-fried sole menuié re in Belgian butter with parsley and potatoes along with popular choices of oysters and of course its list of over 35 Belgium beers that has to be the most original in Thailand, if not Southeast Asia.

On the Saturday evening we dined at Brasserie, victorious expat supporters of the local FC Phuket poured in after the match, ordering beer after dish after beer. The place was rocking and, just when we thought, "This couldn't get much better," a Russian sax-and-vocal duo kicked in with live music.

In sum, Brasserie's unobtrusive exterior belies a fascinating interior, a great range of beers, a distinguished wine selection and decidedly European fare. And nowadays, with most plumbers in the UK being of Polish origins, why shouldn't a Belgium Brasserie in Thailand have Russian musicians?

Brasserie Phuket:
18 Rassada Road, Phuket Town.
Email: info@brasseriephuket.com
Tel: 076-210511
Open: 12-2pm & 6-11pm
Closed: Tuesdays in low season.



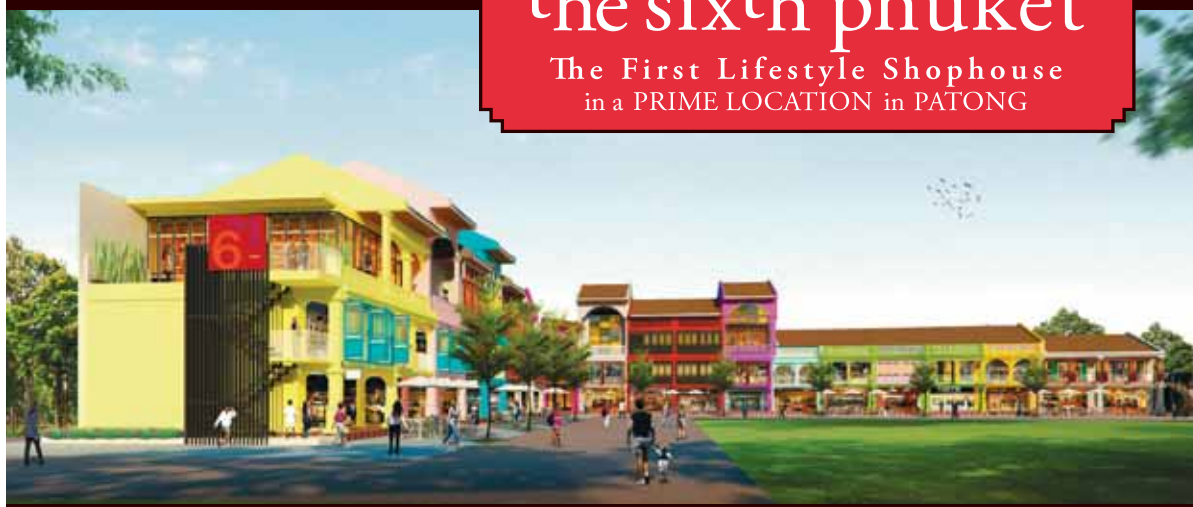
Contrary to their name, 'French fries' originated in Belgium, as do waffles.



SAXY DUO: From Russia with love. Photos by Marc Mulloy

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Climbing the teaching ladder: TEFL to international school experience

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

IN 2003, Mark Goodman landed on Phuket looking for an island holiday. Soon Phuket would win him over and he found himself teaching English at a Thai school. Sound familiar?

But this Mancunian's story is different: seven years and several credentials later, he now teaches History and Geography at HeadStart International School here in Phuket.

Speaking between bites of his vegetarian breakfast and sips of tea, Mr Goodman shares his views from both the top and bottom rungs of Thailand's precarious teachers' ladder.



Mark Goodman teaches both history and geography at HeadStart International School.

Eric Haeg: You've come a long way in a short time, is working at an international school all it's cracked up to be?

Mark Goodman: You can earn a lot of money and the world is your oyster, but you work for it. I work 55 hours a week at a minimum, without breaks.

HeadStart is one of the hardest jobs I've ever had, but in all honesty, I love it. I get involved with the kids and I genuinely want to see them do well.

How do you keep sane?

I keep weekends sacrosanct.

Thai school versus International school: What's the biggest difference?

Because of the language barrier, you tend to have shallower interaction with Thai students. My involvement with the kids now is much, much deeper. I know so much more about them. I feel their highs and their lows.

Do you prefer teaching Western or Thai students?

Western kids, hands down.

Is there any particular reason for that?

Western students ask 'Why?' In general, Thai students are taught not to question but asking 'Why?' leads to all kinds of learning and



HEADSTART INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL: No more than 16 students are allowed in foundation classes and a maximum of 18 in primary and secondary classes.

that's beaten out of Thai kids at a young age.

I find it makes them less empowered, less inquisitive and...less intelligent, I really do.

Do you prefer Western bosses?

Working with a Western administration is far better. The experience I had in a Thai school was great but I don't like the management style.

I'm not trying to be racist here, but I am a foreigner; my brain is a foreign brain and I was brought up thinking in the way I do.

Therefore I find working in an international school, with foreign-thinking managers a lot more pleasant for me.

I'm too long in the tooth to change now.

But with Thai schools, the administration rarely looks over your shoulder. What's wrong with that?

For responsible teachers, that's alright. But you can also get idiots abroad who do what they please and are allowed to do so. That's not what we're in education for. The kids deserve better than that.

English teachers here don't exactly enjoy a great reputation. Is it deserved?

It's deserved, but not necessarily fair, nor representative. You defi-

nately do get some unsavory people in this business and they're impossible to weed out. These stereotypes don't come about because there's no truth in them; there is truth in them, but you'll get the same situation back in the West.

What would you be doing if you weren't teaching?

I have absolutely no idea. I originally got a job teaching so I could stay here, but I quickly discovered that I love teaching; I love helping people. I've never thought about changing my job.

What is your biggest complaint about Phuket?

Look, people save up a lot of money to spend two weeks on Phuket and we live here. When you get frustrated with Phuket, you have to get on your motorbike and drive from Naiharn to Kata, slowly, and look at where we live. You have to always keep that in the back of your mind.

My only complaint is that I'm too far from family and friends; I can only go home once a year. If I could pick Phuket up and put it in the Adriatic or Mediterranean, I would do it.

Do you have any advice for a new teacher who wants to climb the teaching ladder?

The first year is the hardest. Try

not to get frustrated. Keep your head down and learn. If you love the job after a year, start looking at further professional develop-

ment. If you're young and you know teaching is for you, then I would say that teaching in international schools is the way to go.

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Cheap glasses a sorry sight

In this third and final article on the sun, we will help you choose a pair of quality sunglasses that won't damage your eyes.

By Eugene Doberer

EVERYONE wants to look good in their new shades, but there are some important health issues and practical points to think about before you run out and buy those designer glasses that make you look absolutely fabulous.

The main health reason for wearing sunglasses is to shield your eyes from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays found in natural sunlight. Overexposure can lead to UV radiation which can cause a myriad of short-term and long-term problems with your eyesight.

The EU standard for UV protection requires 95 per cent of the radiation to be reflected or filtered out and the lenses must also be impact resistant. As of 2009, the European "CE mark", has been added to the arms of sunglass frames to indicate that they offer a safe level of sun protection.

We turned to optician Somsak Laopratai, the successful operator of Somsak Optic in Phuket Town, to help us with the tech-

nical aspects of shopping for a pair of sunglasses.

Mr Somsak advised us that most quality sunglasses in Thailand are imported from Europe, so you just need to check for the CE mark on the arms of the frames.

Recently, high-energy visible light has been implicated as a cause of age-related sight loss. Studies suggest that blue light-blocking (amber-tinted) lenses could benefit patients with age-related eye problems.

Unfortunately, the sunglass standards don't always address protection from blue light. Often manufacturers simply indicate that the sunglasses meet the blue light blocking requirements of a specific standard rather than indicate a

specific level of protection. To be safe, you should consider the color of the lenses. But proceed with caution: all blue or gray lenses, and even some of the yellow or brown lenses, don't offer blue light protection.

Glass lenses provide the best clarity and are easy to care for, but they're heavy and they're not



Mr Somsak Laopratai



REMOVE YOUR ROSE-TINTED GLASSES: It's not all about fashion (left), you need to choose lenses that protect your eyes from UV light. In Thailand, look for the CE mark on the frames (bottom right). Based on personal needs, you can choose between two kinds of lenses: CR39 lenses (top right); or new plastic lenses (middle right).



impact-resistant. Consequently, 99 per cent of all sunglasses are now made from plastic. There are three types of lenses to consider: the new plastic, CR39 plastic, and cheap plastic.

The newest type of plastic lenses are available from Oakley and to a lesser extent, Ray-Ban, for about 4000 baht and up. Oakley's Plutonite lens material is engineered to stop 100 per cent of UVA, UVB, UVC, as well as harmful blue light. These lenses are also impact-resistant.

This type of plastic is innovative because the UV protection and color is blended into the plastic before the lenses are fabricated. A thin film is added to other types of plastic lenses to color or polarize the lens. Over time, this film often separates from the lens.

People who need to wear strong prescription sunglasses usually opt for this type of lens as the end-product is thinner than glass.

However, Mr Somsak warns us: "These lenses are difficult to care for. They scratch easily and they shouldn't be exposed to saltwater

as this will damage them. They shouldn't be stored in high temperatures as the heat can also damage them."

CR39 is an older standard for plastic lenses that was originally designed to replace thick, heavy, glass prescription lenses. These are dipped in color and UV solution to make the final product. They're more expensive to make, however, the process is more flexible so it can be used to produce many different kinds of custom plastic lenses.

This standard is still used by most designer brands, except for Oakleys and some new Ray-Ban products. The designer brands are priced from 5000 baht and up.

"All designer brands meet the EU standard. They are easy to care for, are scratch-resistant and can be left in high temperatures without being damaged. They can also be exposed to saltwater without damaging the lenses. They have a higher level of clarity than the new plastic lenses, but they are heavier and more expensive," explained Mr Somsak.

Cheap sunglasses do not meet any of the UV standards. Although most of them block UV, they just don't block enough.

— Mr Somsak Laopratai
optician, Somsak Optic

It is almost impossible to tell the difference between the new plastic and CR39, as shown in the photograph above. "If you want to know what kind of lenses you're buying, you will need to ask a knowledgeable person at a quality eyewear shop," added Mr Somsak.

If the designer brands are too expensive, you can opt to buy custom sunglasses at an optical store. You can buy frames for as little as 800 baht and up, and CR39 lenses for 400 to 600 baht per pair.

Cheap sunglasses are a poor choice. They don't meet any of the UV standards, they have poor clarity, and they're not anti-reflective.

"Cheap sunglasses do not meet any of the UV standards. Although most of them block UV, they just don't block enough," advised Mr Somsak. Dark lenses are even more harmful because they stimulate the pupil to open wider. As a result, more unfiltered radiation enters the eye.

Mr Somsak adds, "If you wear cheap glasses, in the long run they will damage your eyes. They also promote the growth of cataracts."

Polarized lenses reduce the glare caused by light reflected from polarizing surfaces such as water and sky light. They are good for cutting reflected glare when driving. However, Mr Somsak cautions us again: "Polarized lenses are not popular in Thailand because they present a problem when you're driving, as most car windscreens have tinted film. I have had more than one customer who has come back to my shop and said they got headaches from wearing their polarized glasses while driving."

As a final point, to fully protect your eyes from UV light, choose glasses that fit properly. The lenses should fit close enough to your face that very little stray light can reach the eye from the sides, above or below, but not so close that your eyelashes touch the lenses.

Okay, now go and buy the designer glasses you really wanted.

LAGUNA

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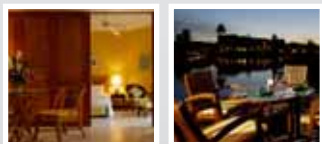
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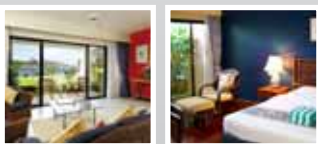
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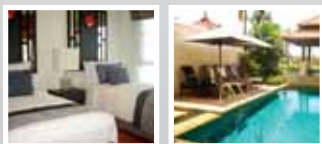
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Sommaipinpuhasilp

RENOWNED Phuket historian Sommai Pinpuhasilp had a difficult childhood. As a schoolboy in the 1950s, he walked a total of 14km everyday, from Thalang, where he lived, to his school in Phuket Town.

During the rainy season, young Sommai was usually drenched on his commute to school, and would then have to sit through classes wet and shaking from the cold. By the time school finished he was dry, but the wretched cycle would start again when he left school to walk home.

Every day he longed to ride in a car having seen his rich classmates being picked up from school in chauffeur-driven European cars. One day his dream came true. Sadly, this transpired when he was brought home from school in a car after a teacher announced that his mother had just passed away.

"Isn't life ironic?" he says without bitterness in his voice. But Sommai has come a long way since that sorrowful time.

Ajarn Sommai, as he is known to many people, is now a respected local historian who has done much to highlight Phuket's rich history and heritage. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the first museum in Phuket, the Thalang National Museum, which opened in 1975. Something of a renaissance man, he was advisor to a number of local cultural insti-

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

tutions, notably the Phuket Thaihua Museum, the Phuket Cultural Center, Thalang Heroines Foundation and Thalang Cultural Village. Presently, he serves as Director of the Phuket Mining Museum, the latest addition to Phuket's cultural scene.

Sommaipinpuhasilp was born in 1946 in Songkhla, but later went to school in Phuket when his family moved to Thalang. The turning point in his life, he says, was when he was 18, and was being interviewed for a teaching position. An examiner, who knew that Sommai was a local boy, asked if he knew where the local heroine, Tao Thepkrasattri, had lived. He didn't, but impressed the examiners with his power of reasoning and was offered the job.

From then on, Sommai vowed to find out all he could about past local affairs. His passion grew as he discovered that Thalang held scores of significant historical events, ranging from the two brave local women who drove away the encroaching Burmese army in the 16th Century, to the first batch of foreigners who landed there in the 17th Century.

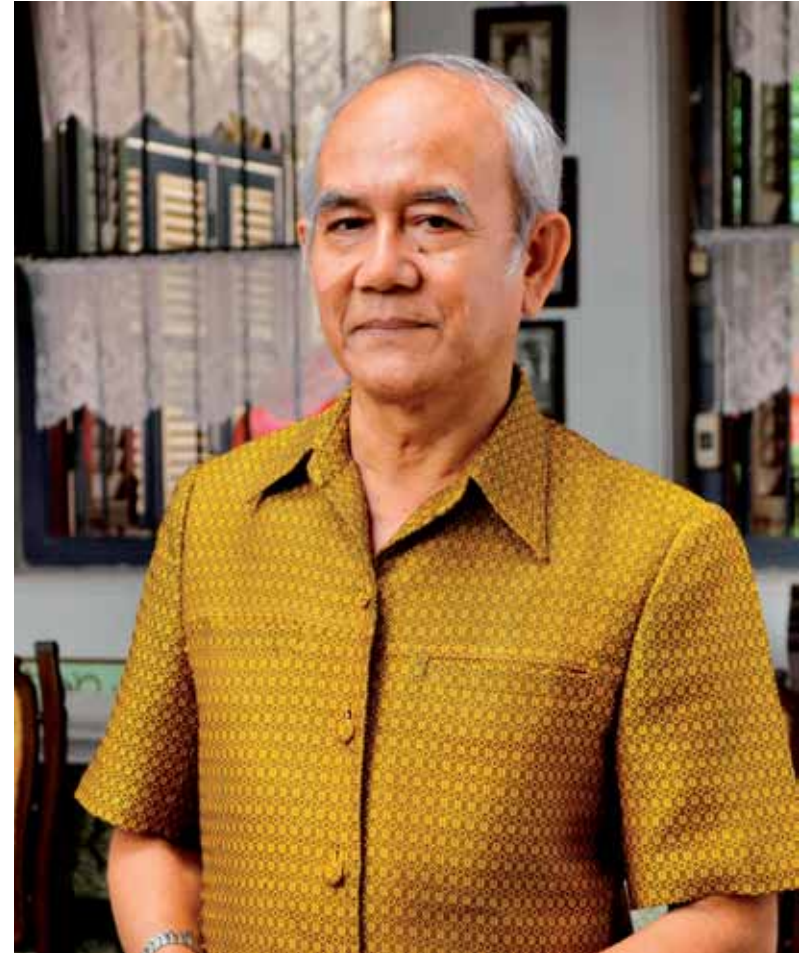
"I love digging around and once I've found out about something I have to tell other people about it. I get a high from doing both, and that's why I love teaching history."

His teaching career is something of tale itself. His first post was at a Patong school in 1964 when classroom floors were nothing but hardened earth. Sommai had to sleep on a school desk, as there was no accommodation for teachers. It was difficult, he recalls, for both teachers and students, and he remembers often feeling despondent about the Thai education system.

"We cast our net too wide when teaching children. I believe in teaching something that's relevant and topical. It's for this reason that I am passionate about recounting the history of Phuket to local people. Children should know and be proud of their roots."

Sommaipinpuhasilp completed his post-graduate teaching degree at Prasarnmitr Teacher College in Bangkok, majoring in Thai language and literature. His last teaching post was as associate professor at Phuket Rajabhat University, from which he retired in 1991.

These days, Ajarn Sommai is busier than ever. In addition to being a history consultant, he often acts as a tour leader on many archaeological outings. In his spare time he writes about the local dialects and classical Thai literature.



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

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A film that makes you laugh and cry

Film

By Scott Phillips

50/50

Director: Jonathan Levine

Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Anna Kendrick, Bryce Dallas Howard

Genre: Comedy/Drama

Gazette Rating: 5/5

LEAVE it to writer/producer Evan Goldberg (*Superbad*, *Pineapple Express*) and actor Seth Rogen (of the same films) to make a movie about cancer that is full of hilarious, raunchy comedy and still manages to possess heartfelt sincerity.

50/50 is a rare kind of film. Its themes of comedy and cancer play out much like a sickness does – calming yet anxious, funny yet heartbreaking. It's an ambivalent experience to watch *50/50* and its steady back-and-forth exchange of these elements; yet it's perfectly paced and expertly filmed.

For anyone who has ever had to battle a life-threatening disease

– either alongside a loved one or being diagnosed with one themselves – there is an honesty to *50/50* that makes it one of the best comedy-dramas of the year.

You get the feeling that only a person who has actually lived through cancer could pull this off so successfully, which is indeed the case. The film is inspired by the true story of Will Reiser, who wrote the screenplay and is a survivor of the same cancer that the main character is diagnosed with. The dialogue between his characters flows effortlessly with the acting talents of Gordon-Levitt and Rogen and is the core of the film's wit and emotional punch.

In a scene that perfectly defines the film's unique appeal, Kyle (Rogen) tells his just-diagnosed friend Adam (Gordon-Levitt) that his 50/50 chances of surviving cancer are actually quite favorable casino odds. He proceeds to name a number of celebrities who have survived cancer, and then unknowingly names one that died from the disease. When Adam calls him out, Kyle tells him to forget he mentioned the name.

Scenes like these drive *50/50* struggles to grant Adam the hon-

or from a potentially awkward state of misplaced humor to an original and moving film for a younger generation. Adam is 27 years old; an age that treats a diagnosis of cancer like an impossibility at first. His best friend Kyle is more equipped to give advice on how to pick up girls for one-night stands than he is to handle his buddy's serious illness.

But just as it often happens in real life – the illness becomes both the central conflict and the means by which each character reveals their true nature.

While the film focuses on Adam, it is full of colorful characters – both equipped and ill-equipped – who must confront the grim realities of cancer. Like most mothers of single twenty-somethings, Adam's mom is so preoccupied with being worried that she forgets to see if there is anything she can actually do to help. His girlfriend (Dallas-Howard) is from the start not quite the right girl for *anyone*, let alone a guy diagnosed with cancer. His fresh-out-of-school therapist (Kendrick) means well but



A HUMOROUS PROGNOSIS: Seth Rogen has a 50/ 50 chance of survival.

esty he needs to cope with the illness. The two old men who share a chemotherapy treatment room with Adam (played by Matt Frewer and Philip Baker Hall) – smoking pot and giving the enlightened wisdom of old people who are done with formality but not a sense of humor – steal every scene they're in.

Some will go to see the film out of sheer curiosity, to see how a movie about cancer can actually be funny. Indeed, it is an achievement in its own to make a movie about cancer that is full of hilarious moments – and make no mistake; *50/50* has a lot of them.

Despite playing virtually the same character in just about every role, Seth Rogen is one of the few comedic actors who can actually pull off the type of humor needed for this role. His zero-restraint banter and signature deep-gut chuckle help give the film its exceptional tone.

At its worst, *50/50* is the latest raunchy comedy about life and love in the city. At its best, it is a thoughtful meditation on what it is to be faced with the possibility of dying too young – and how the worst things in life have a way of revealing the best things from the most unlikely places.

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Hats on for the Melbourne Cup

By Neil Quail

CELEBRATION of Australia's premiere Thoroughbred horse race, the Melbourne Cup, is in sight again with Phuket punters under starters orders and waiting for the off at Andara Resort and Villas in Kamala on November 1.

This is the second year that the Soi Dog Foundation has organised another prestigious paddock gathering to mark the "race that stops two nations", when Australia (and New Zealand – as much enamoured by this spectacle) comes to a stand still for a turf race which lasts for just over three minutes.

Of course, it's not just about watching a collection of the world's finest fillies, colts, stallions and mares cantering around Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne – it is a jewel in the social calendar's crown and a milliner's disneyland.

Organizers suggest that the finest apparel should be worn along with the obligatory *haute couture* headwear. If your wardrobe does not include a hat that cannot fit into a small car, or your local fashion emporium does not stock the latest Stephen Jones collection – then try your hand at designing and making a unique, even outlandish, item of headgear.

The program starts at 9am and the main

race will be shown live at around 11am Phuket time. Past the post celebrations will be followed by "Fashion on the Fields" with prizes for the best dressed lady and gentleman. Hats are a separate entity and a prize for the individual sporting the best bonnet will also be awarded.

Prizes for Phuket's satellite event may be a tad shy of the Melbourne Cup's US\$6 million total prize money (out of which US\$3.3mn went to the winner, *American*, in 2010), but there will be an opportunity to win two tickets for a Strategic Airlines (soon to be renamed Air Australia) flight to Brisbane or Melbourne from Phuket.

The person who spends the most money on raffle and sweepstakes tickets on the day will earn that prize. Tickets are 1,800 baht which also includes a buffet lunch and welcome drinks.

Starting gates open at 9am with raffles and sweepstakes organised to raise funds for the Soi Dog Foundation and Barnhem Muang Mai home for children and families in need.

The Phuket Gazette sponsors the Melbourne Cup at Andara Resort and Villas.

For tickets contact Cristy on T: 084 0544367.



MAJESTIC MILLINERY: Haute couture hats will be a highlight at Andara Resort and Villas.



AUSTRALIA'S FINEST: Harry and Susan Usher at last year's Melbourne Cup event in Phuket.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

October 14 - 16. Thanyapura Tennis Challenge 2011

The Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club proudly announces its first Tennis Tournament, Thanyapura Tennis Challenge 2011, from October 14-16, 8am to 7pm. This event will grant the winner a wild card entry into the ITF tournament scheduled for October 29 to November 12. Open - Men's Single and Men's Doubles. Leisure - Men's and Women's Doubles. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: Prasert or Tanyaporn at T:076-336000 E:tslc@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

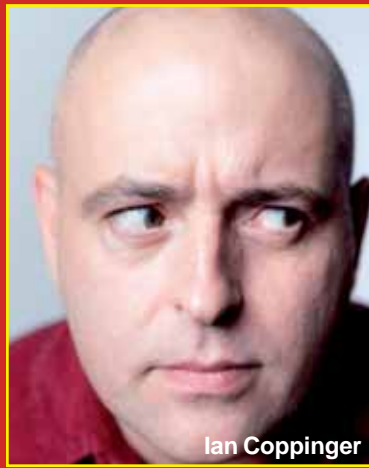
October 15. Saturday Brunch

Two Chefs host their popular Saturday brunch from noon to 3pm at Kata Center branch. The delicious food is inspired by Scandinavian cooking. The buffet is only 395 baht, and if you add another 300 baht you can drink all you want from the free flow options. The Filipino house band will perform live, with MJ & Megan on the microphones and Mr Ollie on the drums. Reservations at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefspuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

October 17-21. Star Vocals returns

Star Vocals returns is open to all. 9am to noon, open to children between 7 to 11; and from 1 to 4pm, open to children between 12 to 18. Adults are welcome to join in the afternoon workshop. However, if there is a high level of interest, we will offer a separate adult workshop from 4:30 to 7:30pm. Venue:

October 19. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club



Ian Coppinger



Andre King



Gorden Southern

After a four-month break, the kings of Phuket Comedy return presenting a truly international show with the three gifted funny men coming from Ireland, New Zealand, and England. Englishman GORDEN SOUTHERN, Irishman IAN COPPINGER, and Kiwi ANDRE KING all currently ply their comedy trade on the UK Comedy Circuit – said to be the best in the world – but are taking some time out to come and give the good people of Phuket a good chuckle. It is sure to be another top night of comedy so get that date in your diary on Wednesday, October 19 from 8pm to 11pm at Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

Contact: Boom at T:089-6469278

E:info@phuketcomedy.com or visit W:phuketcomedy.com.

October 17-20 at Thanyapura, and October 21 at Legend Music Studios, Boat Lagoon. Cost:6,500 baht per person. Contact: Jo Moon at T:076-336000 ext 3501 E:jo@pia.ac.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

October 19. Tex-Mex Wednesday

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

October 20. Thursday Promotion

Les Angeles Restaurant introduces our Thursday Promotion Special every Thursday nights from 7 to 10pm. We are delighted to offer this promotion on a selected menu. Come 4 pay 3. Or come 3 pay 2. This gives you about a 30 per cent discount on food and beverage. We are looking forward to seeing you. Reservations at T:076 -360803 or Murat at T:081-7973364. E:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

October 20. PIWC Monthly lunch

Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) will be held the monthly lunch on October 20, from 11:30 am to 2pm. The location has been changed from Holiday Inn Resort Patong to Blue Elephant in the Governor's Mansion, Phuket Town. This has always been a popular and well attended event, so please make sure to book. All are welcome. Members 500 baht; non-members 650 baht. Reservations at T:076-316711 E:info@phuket iwc.com or visit W:phuketiwc.com.

October 21 - 30. The Phuket Youth Sailing Course (PYSC)

The Phuket Youth Sailing Club will (PYSC) be running an intensive 10-day course from October 21-30

(during the Thai school holidays) 10am to 4pm at PYSC Clubhouse, Ao Yon Beach. An advanced sailing course will be led by a national coach from the Royal Thai Navy Sattahip, Chonburi. Alongside the advanced course, the club will also be running a beginners course. The beginners course is free of charge and is open to local Thai children between 8 and 12 years old who live nearby. Places are limited. This event is sponsored by PGT V and the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: Aey (Thai speaking) at T:081-3735447 or Katy (English Speaking) at T:085-2159185. E:phuket youthsailing@gmail.com or visit W:phuketyouthsailing.org.

October 21. Indian Feast

Royal Phuket Marina is pleased to invite you to our Indian Feast at

Les Angeles Restaurant. You will now be able to enjoy authentic Indian cuisine every Friday night from 7 to 10pm for only 495 baht++ per person. This authentic homemade Indian buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef Padum Kahtri. Reservations at T:076-360803 or Murat at T:081-7973364. E:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

October 21 and November 4. Curry Fridays

We present Curry Fridays on the 1st and 3rd week of each month, on Fridays from 7 to 11:30pm at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here's your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorite chicken tikka masala, spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and much more, all served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht net! Draft beer by the glass: just 50 baht net. Special discount on beverages. Reservation at T:076-286464 ext 4 E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com.

October 22. Salsa Night

Salsa Night event on October 22 from 8pm to midnight. After the overwhelming success of our Salsa Night event, we are once again delighted to invite you to Royal Phuket Marina for another evening of dancing. Dance a Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba and Rumba to the sounds of our resident DJ. Live on the boardwalk outside Les Angeles restaurant. Upon request from our customers, a Snack Buffet is also available. We are looking forward to seeing you. Entrance: Free of charge. Dress: Colorful. Contact: Murat at T:081-7973364. E:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

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'D' IS FOR DEVELOPMENT: Mr Suriya Wannabuilt, Executive Vice President – Project management and marketing of Sansiri launched dCondo in Kathu.



IN EPICENTER: Artem Zhushman winning shot in Scott Kelby's Worldwide Photo Walk.



SPLASH: Tourist Lauren Lancaster, 16, from Melbourne Australia enjoys the wet weather.



YOUR Phuket



TRIPLE TREAT: Deepak Kaushish and Air Chief Marshall Werakooop Srisongkram at the opening of The Lounge, Deepavali Indian Restaurant and Club Tropical in Cherng Talay.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE: At the opening of their 'Little Monk Gallery' in Rawai were (below from left) Nancy SeaGypsy, Benny Falk and Sunab Srimard. Meanwhile 'Yuy' (above) did her thing while musicians played on. Photos: Dan Miles



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GLOSS AND SHINE: The Show Girl Fall 2011 Fashion show held at Jungceylon featured creations from Katalina and the Make Up Store.



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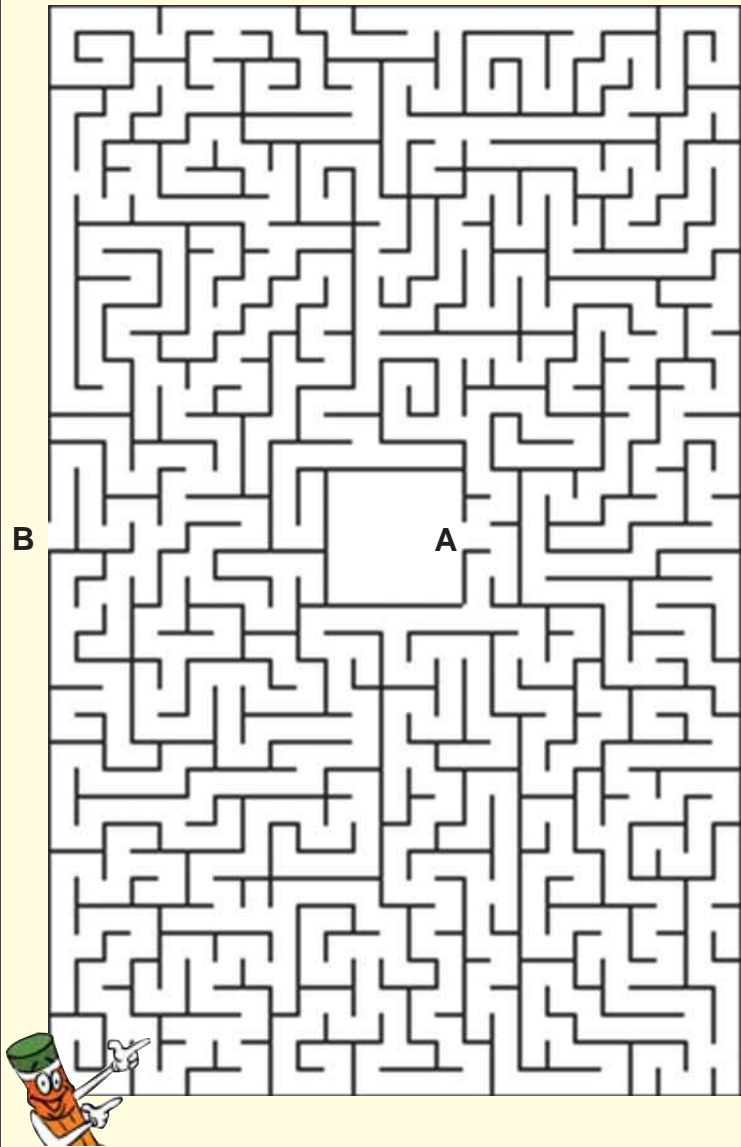
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

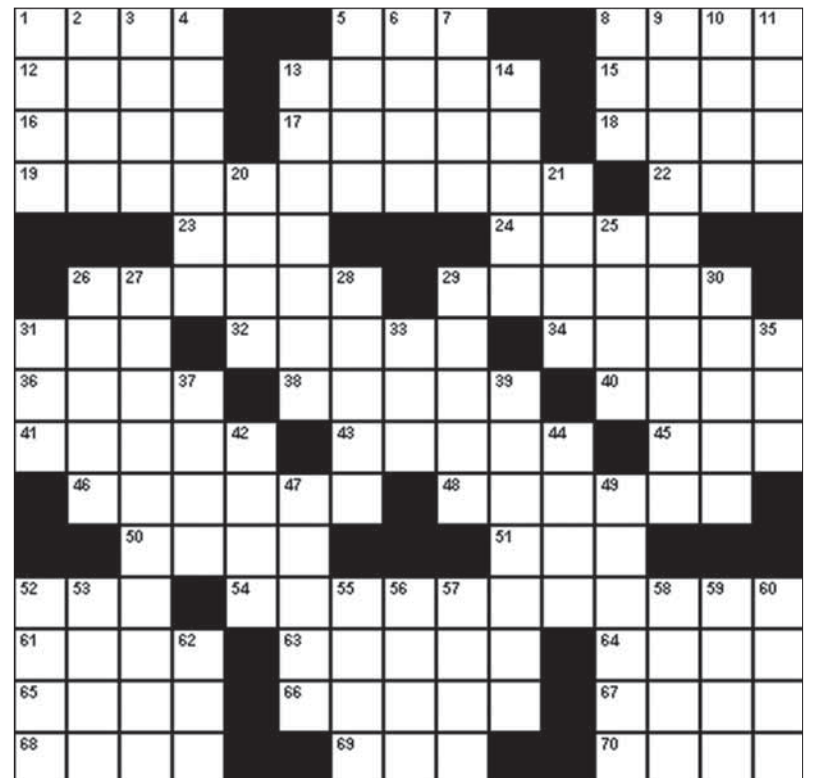


Across

1. Fornicary residents
5. Chop off
8. Steps down to an Indian river
12. Smoke deposit
13. Humdinger
15. Pit
16. Gillette brand
17. Cordage fiber
18. IRS IDs
19. Inappropriately optimistic
22. Domestic animal
23. Conger
24. Bristle
26. Ancient Mycenaean ceramic piece
29. Pines
31. Mai _ _ _
32. Nimble
34. Buckets
36. Not _ _ many words
38. Brewer's need
40. Castle ring
41. Expel
43. District in Tokyo
45. Dog patch adjective
46. Breathe in
48. Person in the petroleum industry
50. Tramp
51. Cry _ _ River
52. Egg head?
54. Lift up your hearts
61. Daybreak
63. Rich cake
64. Markers
65. Aha!
66. Bridges
67. Editor's mark
68. Architect Saarinen
69. Compass pt.
70. City near Phoenix

Down

1. Quickly, quickly
2. _ _ bene
3. Ripped
4. Person of experience
5. Discounted by
6. Cereal grain
7. Hungarian sheepdog
8. Baseball execs



9. Island in the West Indies
10. Actress Heche
11. Class struggle?
13. Scientific study of life
14. Fluff, as bangs
20. Actress Olin
21. Tide type
25. Streetcar
26. System of Japanese writing
27. 34th president of the U.S.
28. Prolonged attack
29. Kind of question
30. Killed
31. Bind
33. My _ _ , Vietnam

35. Letters on a Cardinal's cap
37. Dos cubed
39. Uproar
42. Bar bills
44. Actor Baldwin
47. Awkward boors
49. Old Chinese policies
52. Comics canine
53. Flower holder
55. Thick cord
56. Ladies of Sp.
57. Magazine founder Eric
58. Routine
59. Membership fees
60. Dog star
62. "The Matrix" hero

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
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Crossword answers on page 39

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

The stars advise Librans not to push their luck when negotiating with someone in authority early next week as your chances of success in this matter are only moderate. In the realm of romance, indecision remains a factor until the end of October. Those with a birthday this week will see many positive changes in their lives during the year ahead. The number nine brings good luck.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Scorpios should find it easier to settle down to routine and responsibilities this week. During the second half of October, your restless mood passes and much can be achieved, particularly in the world of work. Where romance is concerned, the stars advise backing away from a situation that you know deep down can never work out. New investments are best left for consideration until November. Your lucky number is four.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Taking advice often goes against the grain for those born under the sign of Sagittarius, but the stars recommend keeping an open mind this week. A work-related situation is not going to dissolve of

its own accord and an earth sign colleague or friend could have the right answers. Where your love life is concerned, there are signs that you will discover what is causing a partner's distraction. Number three is lucky this weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Bargain hunting is successful for those born under the sign of Capricorn this weekend. Your determination to stick to a practical budget is about to be rewarded, with strong signs that more affordable accommodation will be offered to you soon. Where romance is concerned, the stars advise keeping your cool this weekend when a rival for another earth sign's affection shows they're not prepared to give up easily. Your lucky number is six.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

Aquarians have the edge over competitors in the world of work this week. A confusing start to October should now give way to a time of fruitful communication and agreements being reached. Make a wish upon a star this weekend as the astral atmosphere is ready to support your aims. Wearing the color silver can help to enhance your romantic charisma. Nine is lucky.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Efforts made by Pisceans to stop and smell the flowers more often could be compromised by others' demands this week. The stars advise setting quality time aside to be alone and unavailable. If a change of job is high on your list of priorities, an earth sign's suggestion is not as impractical as it first sounds. Finances fall under benevolent astral conditions midweek. Number two is lucky.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

A joint business venture with another fire sign should get off the ground by the end of this month and is forecast to be profitable. However, the stars suggest that collaboration with water and air signs will be problematic. Your luck in love increases during the second half of October, with emphasis on finding solutions in a troubled relationship with an earth sign. The number five brings good fortune this week.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

The stars suggest that Taureans' stubborn streak could be an issue this week. Other earth signs in particular will not respond well to your inflexible attitude and it may be necessary to agree with something that goes against your principles. Where finances are concerned, lending money to a water sign is inadvisable, no matter how many promises they make. Wear the color lilac to encourage a more relaxation. Your lucky number is eight.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

The second half of October will see those born under the sign of Gemini ready to roll. An innovative business idea will need more consideration before you make definitive moves – ask another air sign for worthwhile input. Your hopes of a romance with a water sign are dashed when a contender takes center stage. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday. The number four can bring good fortune this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The temptation to skim over important tasks will be strong for Cancerians this week. Your impatience to make

up for time lost at the start of this month needs to be reined in – the stars suggest that the pace will remain slow until November. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, another water sign has big news this weekend. The color sunset orange encourages a calmer outlook. Your lucky number this week is six.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

A missing link at work can be found this week and those Leos who have been waiting to finalize a project will be ready to celebrate. Those with personal problems should choose the people they ask for advice carefully. The stars suggest that a casual air sign friend only has their own interests at heart. Lost objects are likely to be found on Monday or Tuesday. The number one brings good luck this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans could find it hard to switch off this week. Those waiting for a decision where work is concerned will probably have to bide their time until the end of October. Wearing your heart on your sleeve is not the best approach towards a water sign. The stars advise that Cupid can do the job on your behalf by working quietly behind the scenes. Your lucky number this week is nine.

PROPERTY Gazette

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‘Banana Walk’ on the wild side

CONSTRUCTION crews broke ground last week on “Banana Walk”, a new waterfront mall set to open in Patong next year.

Patong Beach Hotel Phuket Ltd, who also own Patong Hotel and Banana Disco, announced details earlier this week about the multi-million baht shopping development.

Being constructed on a 4,500-sqm plot of land next to the Banana Disco on Patong Beach – 100 meters south of Soi Bangla – the mall is scheduled to open for business May 2012.

The three-level complex will feature an estimated 30 boutique retail outlets, five restaurants and rooftop nightclubs.

“With Banana Walk we have designed a shopping experience that’s a complete departure from the typical Thai neighborhood or community malls,” says Mr Obayawat, the founder of the Of-

fice of Bangkok Architects, and one of Thailand’s leading architects. “It also makes common sense that when you have a lovely beachfront setting like Banana Walk that every living space in the complex faces the waterfront.”

Nick Anthony, Managing Director of Indigo Real Estate, the Banana Walk leasing agent, is attracting quality, international retailers. He said, “This section of Patong where Banana Walk is located gets an average of more than 5,000 people each day who walk by and almost 1,000 people per hour in the evening.”

Experts also point to the fact that Phuket isn’t just attracting more tourists, but also gaining growth from sought-after Chinese and Russian markets.

According to research conducted by C9 Hotelworks, the region’s leading hotel and real es-



EAT, SHOP AND PARTY: The lifestyle shopping mall is scheduled to open in May 2012, 100 meters south of Soi Bangla.

tate consultants, tourists from mainland China outnumbered tourists of other nationalities throughout the first half of this year, growing 103 per cent compared to 2010. Chinese tourists represent 13% of the source market, while visitors from Russia represent 12%. South Korean visits also rose 30% over the first six months of last year.

“When you talk about pure tourism numbers on Phuket, Patong is still the leader,” says Bill Barnett, Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks. “Patong room occupancy was an amazing 82% in the first half of this year. With a new supply line of 6,968 rooms coming to Phuket by 2014, 68% of which will be located on the west

coast, Patong is in for a huge growth spurt.”

The anchor food and beverage outlet for the new mall is Baitong Seafood, which is owned by the Banana Walk developers. The complex is separated into blocks A, B and C, each with three floors and a roof top area facing the inner courtyard and beach.

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Is that a gorilla in the cage?



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

EXPAT rage is seemingly part and parcel of living in a foreign country, no matter where on Earth you come to call your home away from home.

Absolutely no one is immune from sporadic emotional outbursts. The behavior transcends nationalities, genders, social and financial circles. Despite my 26 years in Asia and my love for the island, I myself had an "episode" a few scant weeks ago.

A story in this newspaper's "Is-

sues & Answers section" explained about an expatriate who wanted to buy an annual swim membership at the newly upgraded Cherng Talay Community Center. He had been rejected as memberships there are no longer available to foreigners.

The article included a response from the government authority about how memberships used to be sold to foreigners, but that the facility was built with the intention of Thais using it.

Expats could use the pool now on a daily basis for 100 baht, while Thais paid 20 baht. Comments included how this represented only

three to four dollars to expats.

My blood pressure rose, and the color red dimmed my vision. In years past, when I managed to hobble my way through triathlons, I had been a monthly member there, swimming on most mornings as the lone early morning whale-like apparition.

Now if I were to return to training, there would be no membership and I would be relegated to the classification of "dollar-toting fat cat expat".

Anger coursed through my veins. I pay Thai income tax, and I own a company that pays VAT and provides jobs to Thais, and blah, blah,

blah, blah... as we've all heard on internet forums so often. I was reduced to a cliché: a ranting foreigner.

Later that evening while dozing in my lounge chair, spending some quality time with my dog Koko and channel surfing True cable television, I found myself watching that classic movie *Mississippi Burning*.

Up came one of the more memorable scenes as teams of agents from cities descended on a small rural town that was caught in a racial battle during the 1960s. Barking out to all the agents, the town sheriff snarled out, "This is Mississippi!"

The inference here was that local thinking ruled and what happened far away, stayed far away. It was the turning point where the myopic small-town thinking intersected with the outside world – but for me it also served as a reminder that the two-tier system was not uniquely Thai. It comes in all manners, forms and faces all over the globe.

For people living on a small island, the view of the outside world can be often distorted and incomprehensible.

For the most part, Thais have a welcoming and open mind in the collision course of daily interactions between locals and expatriates.

Of course exceptions are clear for everyone to see and, at the end of the day, no matter our tenure, the country remains a second home – no matter how many wish to embrace and become a permanent part of the framework.

After an hour of verbalizing my unhappiness with developments at the local pool to my muted captive employees, I calmed down and considered the alternatives. First, I could go into battle and seek out this voice of government and let him know what I think.

Or I could go to Thanyapura and get a pool membership there, or just pay the 100 baht to use the community pool, or simply go and stick my head into the ocean.

There are options and in most cases maybe trying to change the world is not at the top of my agenda. Local thinking and practices that often seem illogical to me are a fact of life.

As for the hour of rage, we can chalk that up to a wasted 60 minutes plus the perfunctory apologies to my office staff and minor damage to my brain cells.

Looking for a positive result, I at least managed to find a column out of the epic tale – and yes, "This is Phuket."

In brief...

AOCAP moves to Hong Kong in 2012

THIS year's AOCAP event in Bangkok had a good turnout with 135 in attendance at the Shangri-La Bangkok.

Speaking there, I recognized many familiar faces in the audience from both Asia, Australia and further afield.

Next year the venue will be shifting to Hong Kong and has been slated for October 8th and 9th just prior to Asia's biggest hotel investment event HICAP.

Naka Island brings on Starwood

PHANG NGA Bay's Naka Island which formerly housed the Six Senses, has seen a change of management to global chain Starwood.

The all pool villa upscale resort is now gearing up for a re-opening in November.

A new name for the property has been announced which is: 'The Naka Island - A Luxury Collection Resort & Spa'.

Thai listed owning company Erawan Group is arguably cautiously optimistic that the change of operators will reinvigorate the destination property which previously struggled with sustained low trading levels.

Trisara bags Wine Spectator award

THE DELUXE resort Trisara, which is located on Nai Thon's Golden Mile has bagged a coveted Wine Spectator award.

The accolade is an Award of Excellence which features on the noted publication's Restaurant Wine Lists category.

Within the last 12 months the resort has now cached over 2000 bottle of wine in their cellar from over 235 wine labels.

A new feature are lists available on iPads, which makes sense considering the enormous volume of the offering.

Thailand real estate investment forum is upcoming

A THAILAND industry forum titled Real Estate Investment & Law Update 2011 will be held October 20 to 21.

It will take place at The Plaza Athenee In Bangkok.

Wide ranging topics will include a look inside the effects of the upcoming Asean Economic Community (AEC) initiative on liberalizing investment into the country, updates on the foreign business act, property and development taxation and the hospitality industry.

Experts from Baker & McKenzie (Thailand), Real Estate Information Center (REIC), BDO, Nexus, Colliers and C9 Hotelworks will be conducting sessions.



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Have Thai house, will travel

The concept of a mobile home inspires imagery of rectangular pre-fabricated structures huddled in a trailer park, but in Kata a unique teak-wood Thai-style home exists which falls into this category of movable accommodation.

LUXURY living

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

BUILT over 100 years ago in Ayudhaya, it was purchased by Mrs Pranee Prayot-amornrakul, 57, from Bangkok who moved to Phuket 22 years ago.

"My husband was a captain of a commercial airline, and I traveled quite a lot. We lived in Paris for 35 years and when we came back to Thailand, we usually spent our time in Phuket. The land in Phuket at that time was not expensive, so I decided to buy four rai (6,400 square meters) of land in the Kata beach area," Mrs Pranee explained.

She believes that this style of house particularly suits Phuket's climate and lifestyle. Unfortunately no one sees its value, and this style house seems to be slowly fading and forgotten by Thai people, according to Mrs Pranee.

"I love Thai architecture and it's suitable for our weather. It keeps you cool during the sum-

mer, and you stay warm when it's raining or cold outside. I'm also fascinated by the engineering concept. The real Thai style house structure is strong without any nails or cement to hold the house up," said Mrs Pranee.

The entire house is built in light, prefabricated sections with each section forming a wall. Each wall is then fitted together and hung on the superstructure - a frame of wooden pillars - without nails.

When the time came for Mrs Pranee to move back to Thailand, there was no doubt that she would choose a Thai style house and she found one. The only problem was that the house was in Ayudhaya.

"I had heard from a friend that there were Thai style houses for sale in Ayudhaya. So I went there, saw it, and I fell in love with it. I told them I would love to buy it, but the problem is that my land is in Phuket where I plan to retire. They agreed to move the whole house all the way from Ayudhaya to Phuket for me. So I bought it for 700,000 baht," she said.

Three years later, the house owner offered Mrs Pranee more houses for sale. She decided to buy another five houses and had

them shipped to Phuket.

The six Thai style houses were all erected on the same 2,540 sqm complex of land which is elevated above street level.

Large open spaces are kept underneath the houses in the traditional style and all six houses are connected by a Thai style corridor. Each house is used for different purposes: bedroom, kitchen, living room, and working area.

Mrs Pranee converted the big open spaces underneath the houses into a restaurant to take advantage of the economic boom in the area, while preserving the upstairs area as a place she called home.

However, after 11 years of living her dream in a Thai style house complex, she has decided to move her beloved houses again. "I sold one parcel of land to Centara Hotel, and now I've decided to sell the area where the Thai houses are situated, but the houses are coming with me," she said.

Mrs Pranee has not decided where to go yet. She might be able to find a good piece of land on another side of Phuket, or she may be moving to another province.



FLAT PACKED: The traditional Thai house is put together without nails.



Wherever her next destination is, she has already made plans for her home.

"Urbanization makes us all forget about traditional ways of living, which I intend to bring back to life again. Once I find the next location for my Thai style houses, I will make it representative of what we Thai people stand for. I will display our culture through different activities: Thai cooking classes,

a venue for traditional Thai weddings, exercise through traditional Thai dance or any other activity that exhibits our unique Thai culture. I will make my house become an intellectual playground, where people with creative ideas meet and share their experiences.

It may sound like a dream, but I have been living the dream for so many years and I believe I can make this dream become a reality."

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CARNIVOROUS BEAUTIES: The phenomenal pitcher plant drowns, dissolves and ingests insects such as mosquitoes. Photos: Drew Avery, timbomb, Webbaliah, blmurh, archer10.

Keeping the flies at bay



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

AS GARDENERS, we are all susceptible to mosquito bites every morning and evening. Unfortunately, there are few entirely effective natural repellents against the dreaded mosquito bite of *Aedes aegyptiae*, the mosquito that can spread dengue fever and other maladies.

DEET, the chemical ingredient in most sprays, certainly is effective. A high intake of garlic may also help.

As for plant remedies, opinions vary. But most readers will agree that the following plants stave off insects: lemongrass, thyme, peppermint and pennyroyal, basil, rosemary and cinnamon.

Borders of *Geranium*, African marigold or *Lantana* may also dis-

courage the critters.

If you want to try something really different, try the pitcher plant. It drowns insects such as mosquitoes in its cupped flowers, then slowly dissolves and ingests them.

Some authorities believe that lavender flowers, with their intense fragrance, are effective mosquito repellents. After all, mosquitoes have an incredibly sensitive sense of smell and *Lavender* has an intense fragrance.

Lavender is quintessentially a Mediterranean shrub. But the question is: "Will it survive in Phuket?" In a recent email, Joseph Survetnick asked: "I wish to plant *Lavender*. Where would you recommend purchasing the plants and soil? Are potted plants available? What in-

structions can you provide for growing this plant here in Phuket?"

In Thailand, it's successfully cultivated near Chiang Mai but I've never come across it in any of the local plant nurseries.

Searching the internet for 'Asian lavender' will result in numerous hits for bistros and bars – but none on the *Lavender* plant itself. Yet its range includes southern India and south-west Asia, so some varieties should be able to survive here.

In my Andalusian garden in southern Spain, *Lavender* was a real star – it grew into a thick, fragrant hedge. It flourished there as *Lavender* loves dry, gravelly conditions and dislikes wet, organic soil. In fact, soil

that is consistently moist and rich in humus will likely produce root rot.

If you can find some potted plants, look for the *stoechas* varieties, sometimes known as Spanish, Mexican or French *Lavender*. These varieties are better at withstanding remorseless sunshine than *Angustifolia*, or English lavender.

Angustifolia, has longer, bluish or lavender spikes which tend to flower at the same time. In both species, the flowers rise well above attractive, narrow leaves. The tiny leaves are sometimes toothed, and can vary from the traditional blue-gray to bright green. In maturity, it forms a dense and distinctive bush.

If you cannot find *Lavender* plants on the island, consider growing it from seed. *Lavender* can be grown this way, in theory, but it's not easy. Germinating seeds need almost no water, and a sandy potting mix. Surprisingly, there is no guarantee that seedlings will be the same as the parent. Propagation and maturation is slow – it may take up to three years before you have a well established *Lavender* border. But it's well worth the effort.

Lavender has other useful fea-

tures as well. For example, lavender oil has proven to have antiseptic and anti-inflammatory powers, so it can be used to treat insect bites. It is also grown commercially for the perfume industry in southern France – there are huge fields of *Lavender* in Provence.

If you have a question, or a garden that you would like featured, E: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

Tip of the week

More about microclimates

A microclimate can be created by many factors: rainfall patterns certainly, but also by humidity, evaporation, wind, and temperature. The affected area is, of course, small – such as a park, a valley, or even a section of your garden.

Your garden may have different soil types, and variations in the density of its shrubs or shaded areas. Areas under large trees are not only shadier, but also drier on account of the water taken up by thirsty tree roots. Walls and paved areas absorb heat and re-radiate the heat at night, thus elevating nighttime temperatures.

Sandy and shallow areas lose moisture more rapidly, so think about planting desert dwellers. Carpets of low-growing spiderwort or *Wedelia* help increase water vapor through transpiration and can insulate the ground beneath.



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One bedroom at 54sqm, pool and parking. Quiet location. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1621.

DELUXE STUDIO APARTMENT



at Kalim Bay. Close to the beach. 1 bedroom, fully furnished, WiFi. Kitchen, dining room, LCD TV, stereo, seaview rooftop swimming pool. Fitness, sauna, 24hr security. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Email: plpphuket@hotmail.com

PATONG POOLSIDE APARTMENTS

1 & 2 bedroom. Free cable TV, maid, WiFi, pool & gym. Close to town. Call for showing. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

50% OFF SEA-FRONT HOUSE 22,000

50% off our regular price of 45,000 baht. 50% is for a yearly rental paid in advance. No weekly or monthly rentals. 55 and older wanted. Newer 2 and 3 bedroom seafont furnished houses 10sqm. Starting price 22,000 baht. Tel: 089-591 0840. Email: remotekan@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://thaiseason.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.

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.

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.

SURIN APARTMENT

1 bedroom, pool entrance apt. 400m from Surin Beach. Fully furnished. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



1 bedroom, great sea view, penthouse, 100sqm, with huge terrace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ground floor 115sqm with 60sqm covered terrace. Sat TV, Internet, fully furnished, fitted kitchen, parking. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

LARGE HOUSE NEAR BIS SCHOOL

4-5 bedrooms, parking. Tel: 076-239435. Email: 4132john@gmail.com

2-BED APARTMENT IN PATONG

120sqm apartment with 10sqm balcony. Large sunken living/dining room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Full built-in kitchen, storeroom. European standard. All aircon. Tel, UBC, WiFi, etc. 19,000 baht, long term pref. Tel: 084-185 8536.

HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sqw, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-4691813.

HOUSE FOR RENT



In the famous residential estate Land & Houses Park. 79/273, Chaipruek. Fully furnished. Nice garden, 3 terraces, 2 kitchens (1 open, 1 closed), 2 bathrooms, 2 toilets, 3 bedrooms. Price: 21,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-537 2836. Email: kamnueng_thammakul@hotmail.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo available. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

SEAVIEW 2 BEDROOM CONDO NAI HARN

Fully furnished, quiet area, aircon, pool, TV, Internet, laundry, 2 terraces - 25,000 month. Tel: 088-445 6108. Email: thekimbha@yahoo.com.au

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Ham. Luxury rent: 40,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

Long-term lease: 16,000 baht per month. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, unfurnished in Chalong. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

HOTEL FOR RENT KATA

Running business, located 200 meters from Kata Beach. Three-year contract minimum. 22 fully furnished rooms. Call Sidd for more information. Prime Location. Tel: 082-539 6966, 081-498 5915 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-330503. Email: rajay001@hotmail.com



4 Bedrooms Villa for Rent / Sale
Fully Furnished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included.
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(081) 895-7310

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

THALANG LUXURY POOL VILLA

European standard, fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living, dining, kitchen, 2 car parks, garden, internet and TV. Near PIA school and Laguna. 12 mins to western beaches (Layan, Nai Thorn and Nai Yang). Price 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

BED AND BREAKFAST

Phang Nga/Phuket Bed and Breakfast - 2,500 baht per night. Just 20 minutes from Phuket Airport and one hour away from the chaotic beaches such as Patong. Enjoy Phang Nga's most beautiful Bed and Breakfast with access to the entire home. Enjoy the peacefulness and unspoiled paradise in a small timeless village. The home has all modern amenities, including a beautiful swimming pool, while offering the original classic lifestyle that emanates the tradition of Thailand. Very near local pristine natural beaches by the Andaman Sea. The home is limited to only 3-4 rooms, but we do everything possible to organize our guests to a maximum of only 2 sets of guests at a time. If you are a family we will organize the house for your exclusive usage for 4,000 baht/night with your choice of a traditional Thai or Western breakfast. House includes full-time staff that will cater to your every need. Tel: 081-926 3286 (English & Thai). Email: miakcg@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.phangnga.realty.com/real-estate-in-phangnga.php?t=5

HOUSE FOR RENT IN KARON

Executive style house for long time rental. Spacious lounge, dining, kitchen area with 2 large bedrooms both with en-suite & balconies on the upper level. Fully furnished, as new. 25,000 baht per month o.n.o. Tel: 080-690 5248. Email: lil@ladolcevitare.com.au

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month.
Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm).
- 2 storeys: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot.
- Top floor with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 balconies and living room
- Peaceful area in a nice neighborhood (and uncommonly large roads)
- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival
- 24-hour security
- Clubhouse with swimming pool
Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268 for more information or house inspection.

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VENEERS
by PACIFICWOOD

Pacific Wood Co., Ltd.
"Colorful Veneers for Interior Decoration"

**Acquiring for Sales Representative
2 Positions (at Phuket branch)**

- Thai Male or Female aged between 25 and 30 years old
- Bachelor's degree in BBA, Marketing or related field
- At least 2 years experience in sales, preferably in wood material sales in Phuket
- Positive attitude, target-oriented, fast learner, systematic thinking and strong analytical skills
- Self-Motivated and active
- Good interpersonal skills and service-minded
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer literacy in Word, Excel, Power Point, Internet and Email
- Salary from 12,000 Baht up + Commission + Gasoline
- Must have own car

Pls send resume and expected salary to tiranakul@hotmail.com
Contact: Mr.Nattavuttipol Tiranakul, Branch Manager
Address: 12/501 Moo 3, Chaofah Tawantok Rd., Vichit, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-521-575, Mobile: 089-779-9422

Phuket Gazette
The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down the story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

CREW POSITION ON LIVEBOARD

Thai male or female, age 20-35. Good organizer, neat, tidy and pleasant. English language skills essential. Work-and-learn attitude more important than previous experience. Salary: 15,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on capabilities and experience. Tel: 076-398370. Email: info@nautica-diving.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Amazing Bike Tours are seeking more guides to join our team. Must speak good English and be passionate about biking. Thai nationals only. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 087-263 2031 (English). Email: info@amazingbiketours-thailand.asia

THE SWEETEST JOB ON PHUKET

We need Thai staff for our candy shops in Kata, Karon and Patong. You must speak basic English, be organized and service-minded. Full time with good salary. Tel: 087-888 1819.

WEB PROJECT MANAGER/FRENCH

Must have experience in programming, software development and project management. Tel: 086-478 0322. Email: kannika.liva@gmail.com

DIVE INSTRUCTORS

Native English Speaking. Own work permit (can be provided for right candidate). Introducing new divers to the underwater world. Must be friendly and love talking with people. Tel: 089-044 0623. Email: jobs@worldwidealoha.com

LAGUNA
HOLIDAY CLUB

We are looking for passionate and experienced candidates to join our successful Sales and Marketing team

1. Asst. Sales Manager/TO
2. Explorer Pass Booker
3. Sales Representative
4. Outside Personal Contact

Previous timeshare experience, knowledge of sales techniques and closing sales for Assistant Manager
Multi-language speakers: English, Russian, Arabic and Chinese Cantonese or Mandarin

We are proud to provide excellent benefits package including: Basic salary, generous commissions, cash incentives, medical coverage, training, +++

Call... 076-362400 Ext.4405
career@lagunaholidayclub.com

PR

Shop Assistant Required

Paul Ropp Thailand Company Limited is now looking for shop assistants to join our team at the flagship store in Royal Phuket Marina. The candidate must have the qualifications listed below:

- Good English communication skills
- Good attitude and appearance
- Flexible and able to work under pressure
- Computer-literate
- Thai nationality

We offer good salary and commission. If you have the above qualifications and you would like to join our team, please send your CV to pandhaj@paulropp.com or call us at +66(76)360859

CHINESE SALES VACANCY

A vacancy now exists to help us expand our Chinese Sales Dept and to join our successful team here in Bang Tao. Great commissions and startup packages available. We are seeking motivated and enthusiastic individuals, so if you are a Chinese national and speak good English then contact us now. Please email your CV with a recent photograph to: benz@premierproperty-leisure.com

BABYSITTER FULL TIME

or part time live-out babysitter needed to help clean and cook for a family in Kamala. Tel: 089-291 6205. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

ATSUMI WELLNESS CONSULTANT

Thai national with BA degree wanted, full training provided, must have excellent written/verbal English skills. 6 days 9AM-6PM. Starting salary 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-272 0571. Please send your resume at: info@atsumihealth.com

THE NAKA ISLAND
A LUXURY COLLECTION
RESORT & SPA
Phuket

EXPLORE YOUR CAREER
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Enrich your life and experience the treasure of being an ambassador for a renowned Luxury Collection Hotel.

The Naka Island, A Luxury Collection is currently exploring applications for the positions of:

- Director of Revenue Management
- Assistant Director of Sales (Bangkok based)
- Sales Coordinator (Bangkok based)
- Reservations Agent
- Security Manager
- Florist
- Gallery Attendant
- Recreation Supervisor
- Recreation Attendant
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Hostess
- Waiter/ Waitress
- Bartender
- Commis I - Hot
- Commis II - Bakery
- IT Supervisor
- Reservations Agent

Interested applicants please send your CV and photo to

Human Resources Department
patteera.maneesri@luxurycollection.com
Direct Tel: + 66 (0) 76 371 410
Direct Fax: + 66 (0) 76 371 461

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Full time, Western male, Must have excellent organizational/ negotiation/computer skills, self motivated/good communicator. Speak and write excellent English. Home Based. Send CV/ salary to admin@esxosia.com

SALES PROFESSIONAL BKK OR KL

Various sales and marketing roles for native English speakers or other nationals with exceptional/ fluent English-speaking abilities. Excellent earning potential, unlimited for certain roles. We are looking for highly motivated self-starter types looking to stay in the region. A proven track record in sales is a must. Please send email to careers@faramond.com

WORLDWIDE DIVE & SAIL

is one of the leading liveaboard dive operators in Southeast Asia operating vessels from the Maldives to Palau.

We are looking for dedicated long-term staff to join our dynamic Phuket-based team in the following positions:

- 1) Bookings & Reservation Agent.
- 2) English Language Teacher. English fluency and excellent communication skills are a must. Competitive salary and benefits.

Send CV with photo and cover to employment@worldwide-diveandsail.com For further details, please see our website at www.worldwidediveandsail.com

VILLA MANAGER

Experienced villa manager required. Must speak excellent English with good computer skills. Live-in / live-out position available. Please send CV to: admin@esxosia.com

MAID IN KAMALA

2 maids needed in Kamala to clean different houses. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: info@husiphuket.se

COOK/WAITRESS NEEDED

for a restaurant in Karon urgently needed. For more info. Tel: 076-286061, 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

LICENSED TOUR GUIDE

Licensed Thai Tour Guide. Fluent English. Positions available for both land and boat tours. Tel: 089-966 1982. Email: jobs@worldwidealoha.com

SHOP ASSISTANT WANTED

For our bicycle shop at Kata Beach. Thai female or male. English speaking (not fluent is acceptable). Good salary with commission. Immediate start. Tel: 089-730 7520.

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Work in the sun. Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contacts included. Patong area. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

**Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net!**

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

- **System Maintenance** (ช่างระบบ)
- **Housekeeping** (แม่บ้าน)
- **Teacher's Assistant** (ครูผู้ช่วยสอน)
- **Building Maintenance** (ช่างอาคาร)
- **Security** (รปภ.)
- **Steward** (พนักงานล้างจาน)

Marketing and Communications Executives

Qualifications

- Thai Nationality with good English and computer skills
- Male/Female, aged 25-35 yrs, Bachelor's degree, Phuket-based
- Background in PR or marketing; experience in a school environment would be an asset
- Outgoing personality and service-minded
- Able to travel from time-to-time
- Strong organizational skills and willingness to help with all aspects of marketing and communications, including routine office duties

Starting date: As soon as possible

Library Officer

Qualifications

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's Degree in Library Science, Education or related field
- Experience with Automate Library System or Library System Database
- New graduate is welcomed
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office (computer knowledge)
- Good team player and service-minded

Benefits: uniform, group insurance, provident fund and etc.



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200

Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573

E-mail: patcharakornut@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

LUXURY VILLA MANAGER AND PA

Thai only. Good English and computer skills. 16,000 baht + bonus. Send CV via email: toddplay@hotmail.com

CASA BLANCA BEST

Persian Italian restaurant is looking for chef/bartender, cook. Attractive salary, service charge paid, vacation, 2 meals a day. Tel: 081-892 8208.

LICENSED TOUR GUIDE

Licensed guide - Phuket and Phang Nga. Thai nationality. Fluent English. Tel: 087-980 7570, 088-080 3820 (English). Email: peter@orientalphuket.com

THAI TEACHERS

iLearning Tutorial School Krabi urgently offers 2 positions for Thai and English teachers. Candidates must be able to teach English to high-school students or teach Thai to foreigners. Please email your CV or call for more details. Tel: 075-623443, 089-724 1479 (English & Thai). Or send email to: director@geaw.net

Employment Wanted

BABYSITTER

I'm a professional and experienced how to take care of kids for over 10 years. Please call me if you would like me to take care and help your kids. Tel: 089-614 8023. Fax: 076-612803. Email: mook2551@yahoo.com

EXPERIENCED EUROPEAN CHEF

I'm a 30 year old skilled and professional chef who's looking for a new challenge in Thailand. Available within 2 to 3 weeks. You can ask me for my resume. Tom. Tel: +32-489-117152 (English). Email: tomdetaeye6@hotmail.com

amanpuri

Multi award winning Amanpuri and Amanresorts' flagship property is currently looking for young, energetic and enthusiastic new team members for the following positions:

Purchasing Manager

Key Criteria:

- Minimum 5 years experience
- Demonstrates strong leadership skills to lead, train, motivate and manage a team
- Self-motivated and disciplined
- Speaks, reads and writes English fluently
- Good Computer Knowledge (Microsoft, Excel) and experience with monthly inventory
- Quality service oriented
- Effective Communicator
- Flexible working hours

Bar Manager

Key Criteria:

- Minimum 3 years experience in recognized restaurant or hotel
- Demonstrates strong leadership skills to lead, train, motivate and manage a team
- Good Wine & Beverage knowledge
- Self-motivated and disciplined
- Speaks, reads and writes English fluently
- Good Computer Knowledge (Microsoft, Excel) and experience with monthly inventory
- Quality service oriented
- Effective Communicator
- Flexible working hours

Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related documentation to: pn@amanpuri.th.com

or contact Personnel Department,
118/1 Moo 3, Soi Pansea, Srisoonorn Rd., T. Cherng Talay, A. Thalang Phuket 83110
Tel: (66) 76 324 333 ext 731,787 Fax: (66) 76 324 100/200
www.amanresorts.com

Paradise Koh Yao

island hideaway near phuket

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort, is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket
Our eco-chic environment is complemented by our 'conscious living' ethos of barefoot luxury philosophy
We are looking for a superb leader to join our dynamic team

SPA MANAGER

in charge of the tropical resort spa - complementing our vision toward 'a healthier living'

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- Fluent in English
- Leader personality, creative with new product innovations
- Thai national

YOGA INSTRUCTOR

spearheading our Yoga operation - a NEW component of our holistic approach to wellbeing

BAR MANAGER

our 'chill-out' beach bar needs a 'bar personality' ... two more bar outlets to look after!

We are looking for the very best people! Contact us gm@theparadise.biz
www.TheParadise.biz [facebook/theparadise.biz](https://www.facebook.com/theparadise.biz)

URGENTLY REQUIRED!!!



The famed and legendary Boathouse in Phuket, set on the amazing beach of Kata, was recently acquired by Montara Hospitality Holdings, and has just been totally redesigned and beautifully renovated. We are currently urgently looking for the following positions:

Management Level

Financial Controller
Sales & Marketing Manager
Re Ka Ta Beach Club Chef
Re Ka Ta Beach Club Manager
Purchasing Manager

Front Office

Receptionists
Driver & Bellboy

Kitchen

Chef de partie
- Western cuisine

Housekeeping

Room attendant

Engineering

Painter
Electrician
Engineer

Food & Beverage

Bartender
Waiters/waitresses

Interested applicants, please e-mail full resume and a recent photograph to sales@boathousephuket.com or panwadee@boathousephuket.com

Boathouse

182 Koktanode Road, Kata beach, Phuket 83100, Tel: 076 330 015
www.boathousephuket.com



Phuket's leading beach resort, the Village @ Coconut Island (Koh Maphrao), Phuket

HR Manager

- Male or Female
- 3-5 years' experience
- Proficient English skills
- Professional, always using initiative and able to work under pressure
- Managerial and leadership skills for Human Resources Management
- Interpersonal skills, strategic vision, problem-solving skills, knowledge of legislation, and strong training skills

Spa Manager

- Female
- Previous experience in spa management essential
- Bachelor's degree in any field
- Positive mentality and attitude with good personality
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken

Assistant Chief Engineer

- Coordinate department activities and special projects to ensure quality and meet deadlines
- Perform preventative maintenance on electrical facilities & machinery
- Direct staff in the development, analysis and preparation of reports
- Supervise staff in accordance with company policies and procedures
- Assist staff to resolve complex operational problems

Assistant Reservation Manager

- Female or Male
- Thai nationality with Degree in any related fields
- Experience as Assistant Reservation Manager essential
- Good command of English
- Computer, Internet, E-mail and MS Office literate essential

Purchasing Officer

- Female or Male
- Bachelor's degree in any field
- Knowledge of procurement would be an advantage
- Computer literate

All positions

- ▶ Minimum 3 years' experience
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure
- ▶ Proficient English skills

Interested candidates should apply in writing with full resumé, stating present and expected salaries, and attaching a recent photograph, to:

Email: hr@thevillage-coconutisland.com or
dao@thevillage-coconutisland.com

Tel: 076-352153 Mobile: 081-9686912 Fax: 076-352154
www.thevillage-coconutisland.com

Articles For Sale

MOVING SALE

Potted red palms, plants and flowers, earthenware, craftsmanship fountains, new TV decoder and black dish antenna. Tel: 087-282 2699 (English & Thai).

HONDA GENERATOR EU10I

Honda generator Eu10i. As new: 28,500 baht. Tel: 084-443 5050.

SOFA FOR SALE



12,000 baht at Laguna home. Contact K.Chai. Tel: 081-894 7595.

TWO SANYO DRINKS FRIDGES

Single door. One for 9,500 baht (14,800 when new). One old and needs paint, but works great: 1,500 baht. Tel: 088-440 9324 (English). Email: night relaxbar@hotmail.com

IPAD 1 64GB WI FI 3G

Ipad one in super case with bluetooth keyboard BLACK 64GB 3G card WI FI mint condition (from USA) also selling my IPhone 4G 16 black in box like new 0832142270. Email: edward.climson@gmail.com

ARAI HELMET

RX7 Corsair Kenny Roberts replica, brand-new, never worn. Size XL. 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 2916.

TCL TV, OLD BOX STYLE

800 baht, with remote. Only 2 years old. Call for details. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

PIONEER DJ EQUIPMENT



2 x Pioneer CDJ 800 Mk 2s, Pioneer DJM 600 4 channel mixer housed in a brand-new flight case, 1 x Crown amp in cabinet, 2 x XXL Speakers. 80,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-086 9821. Email: jpoole-robb@knightsbridges.com

ALPINESTARS BOOTS

Alpinestars No Stop Trials boots, brand-new, never worn, size 11 (US). Price: 10,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 2916.

LIVING SALE

- Vibration workout machine. Model: FLABÉLOS FL. 3,000.
- The fast track to great abs (for press)
- Running track DM fitness
- LG TV 47"
- LG DVD home theater system
- DVD player Phillips
- Forsen camera. Model: Sanden intercool.
Contact Natalie for pictures. Tel: 083-636 1435. Email: natadubai@inbox.ru

7-PIECE FURNITURE SET FOR SALE

Like-new condition, priced for quick sale. Includes large matching mirror not shown in photo. 19,500 baht for entire set. Tel: 081-892 3559 (English & Thai). Or contact for more details at email: siamtexan@gmail.com

Bulletins

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please contact to K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Email: info@phuketiwc.com

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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: 088-9440460 Swe, 085-4647450 Swe

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

Svenska kyrkan PHUKET

is here for you, Swedish or Scandinavian speaking.
Weekday Mass, Wed Oct 12, 18.30 pm
Welcome Service for Rev Maria Eksmyr and assistant Ingvar Olofsson, Sat Oct 22, 10.30 am at Restaurant Trädgården in Rawai. Brunch 350 baht. Please Book! Call 08 74 67 67 82
Welcome!
Weekday Mass, Wed Oct 26, 18.30 pm
For details, see our website or call mobile 08 74 67 67 82
www.svenskakyrkan.se/thailand

Business Opportunities

PROFITABLE LAUNDRY BUSINESS

Profitable laundry business in 2 storey, 2 bedroom house. Great accommodation and can be used or rented out. Good established client base of hotels/guest houses. Has 2 employees and 9 machines in total. Manage it and get the money back in a year. Asking price: 590,000 baht. Tel: 087-267 9280 (English). Email: philsk@ihug.co.nz

LAUNDRY SHOP FOR SALE

Laundry with 2-bedroom apartment. Asking price: 280,000 baht. Tel: 086-115 2184.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

8 rooms, 1 apartment, internet café. Price: 1.4 million baht. Tel: 085-794 6530.

PHUKET GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

22-seat restaurant, bar, 5 rooms. Lease 2+3 years. Rent 37,000 baht per month. No key money, well maintained. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 080-361 5356. Email: pelleviktorsson@hotmail.com

BUSINESS FOR SALE



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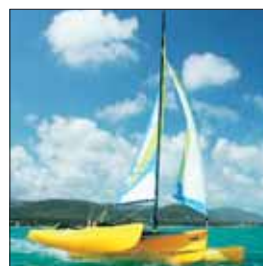
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12	S	O	O	T			13	B	E	A	U	T	15	M	I	N	E		
16	A	T	R	A			17	I	S	T	L	E		18	S	S	N	S	
19	P	A	N	G		20	L	O	S	S	I	A	21	N		22	P	E	T
			23	E	E	L						24	S	E	T	A			
	26	K	E	R	N	O	S		28	Y	E	A	R	N	S	30			
31	T	A	I		32	A	G	I	L	E		34	P	A	I	L	S	35	
36	I	N	S	O			38	Y	E	A	S	T		40	M	O	A	T	
41	E	J	E	C	T		42	G	I	N	Z	A		44	L	I	L		
	46	I	N	H	A	L	E			48	O	I	L	M	A	N			
		50	H	O	B	O					51	M	E	A					
52	O	V	O			54	S	U	R	S	U	M	C	O	R	D	A		
61	D	A	W	N			63	T	O	R	T	E		64	I	O	U	S	
65	I	S	E	E			66	S	P	A	N	S		67	S	T	E	T	
68	E	E	R	O			69	E	S	E				70	M	E	S	A	

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Jaray completes Kona

JARAY Jearanai of Phuket has reached a new high in his athletic career after completing the pinnacle of endurance events, the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii, in a time of just over 11 hours.

This was an outstanding accomplishment for the Laguna marketing executive considering that it was his first attempt at the full Ironman course, and only weeks after he completed the Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Las Vegas.

Jaray, 31, sponsored by his employer Laguna Phuket and Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (where he trained to compete in Las Vegas and Hawaii), crossed the Kona finishing line in a time of 11:04:35 after completing the swim course in 1:04:35; the bike section in 5:48:27; and the marathon in 3:51:22.

Exhausted yet ecstatic, Jaray expressed his delight with his own efforts and the support he has received.

"It was the toughest experience of my life and I'm so happy to have completed it. It's always been my dream to take part in a full Ironman, I just didn't expect my first one to be the World Championship in Kona alongside some of my biggest heroes," Jaray said.

This race and the Las Vegas Ironman 70.3 have been incredible experiences and I'm so grateful to Laguna Phuket for helping to make my dreams come true," he added.

Jaray now holds the unique distinction of being the first-ever Thai to compete in back-to-back Ironman and Ironman 70.3

World Championships in the same year.

Australian Craig Alexander won the event in a new course record of 8:03:56 and Chrissie Wellington of Great Britain took the women's title in 08:55:08.

Alexander, who also won the Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Las Vegas to make it a 2011 World Championship double, has been invited to compete at the Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship at Laguna Phuket on December 4.

The annual Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii is considered the most difficult one-day endurance event comprising a 3.8km swim, 180.2km bike ride and 42.1km marathon, with its 1,800 entry slots highly coveted by triathletes worldwide.



RAY BEAMS: Jaray Jearanai is the first Thai athlete to complete back-to-back Ironmen.

On your bike for the kids of Koh Yao Noi community center

AMAZING Bike Tours is organizing a charity bike ride in Koh Yao Noi (Small Long Island) on October 30 to raise money for the Koh Yao Children's Community Center.

The Center is instrumental in teaching the island's youth about the importance of protecting the environment and preserving the history, culture and traditions of life in Yao Noi as well as teaching them the English Language.

In order to support them, Amazing Bike Tours is planning the trip from Phuket to Koh Yao Noi to spend the day cycling around the island. The ride is a gentle 30km circumnavigation of

the island including lunch at a beachside restaurant and a stop at the community center to meet many of the local children that attend the center. While there, the project director will explain about the center and its ongoing projects.

All cyclists joining this charity bike ride are required to make a minimum donation of 2,000 baht to participate on the ride, although more generous donations will be greatly appreciated. One hundred per cent of the money raised will be donated to the project.

Amazing Bike Tours are organizing this event and will arrange

and cover the expense of transportation to (and from) Bang Rong Pier by boat to Koh Yao Noi. Trek mountain bikes, helmets and a bike guide will be provided, as will drinks, snacks and fruit.

Sabai Corner Restaurant and Bungalows, who are co-sponsoring the event, will be providing a Thai lunch and drinks for all the riders joining this charity bike ride.

The *Phuket Gazette* is also a co-sponsor of this worthwhile project.

For more information contact Amazing Bike Tours.
T: 08726 32031
W: AmazingBikeToursThailand.asia



SPOKESPEOPLE: Cyclists will raise funds for local community projects.

Patong CC all fired up

PHUKET'S cricket season got underway last Sunday with a friendly between last year's Island Furniture league champions, Patong CC, and new boys Thanyapura News Tigers (TNT) at Cherng Talay.

It was a baptism of fire for TNT with Patong batting first and posting a score of 214 for 4 after 20 overs. In reply, TNT scored 39 runs

in 8.4 overs thanks to a clinical fielding display by Patong. Captain of Patong, Richard Folds said, "it was good to finally get on the field after all the net practices. TNT have talent and I'm sure will improve as the season progresses."

This Sunday sees Patong play Village Cricket Team in a 35 over game scheduled for 9am at Cherng Talay.

Hooks, lines and sinkers

PHUKET'S seventh international sport fishing tournament has event organizer's gearing up for another big catch of participants from around the world which will run from November 23-26.

The island's premier fishing competition has already reeled in 80 fishing enthusiasts who comprise 20 teams, with entries still being accepted via the tournament's website.

The tournament practices "catch and release" rules, and anglers will be catching Black Marlin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Tuna, Dorado, Barracuda, Giant Trevallies and many more. Sharks do not count in this competition and competitors are urged not to harm them if encountered.

Trophies are awarded to the winning teams in the following categories: heaviest fish of each species; most billfish; most points overall; top team for each of the three days; best lady angler and best junior angler.

The entry fee per team (maximum of four anglers) is 12,000 baht with a discount for early registration, while free participation is 3,000 baht. Registration on Wednesday evening at the Tamarind Bar provides an opportunity

for the teams to meet each other and discuss tactics.

The tournament finishes on Saturday with prize giving, a live band and late night party on the water's edge in Chalong Bay. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are sponsors of this event.

If you would like to participate visit W.phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com or contact Uwe at E: uweschittek@yahoo.com or T: 081-7195766



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Thailand World Cup campaign update

THAILAND held Saudi Arabia to a goalless draw on Tuesday evening in front of a sell-out crowd at Bangkok's 65,000-capacity Rajamangala Stadium. The match was both team's third match in round three of the Asian-region qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. It was the 13th time the two sides had met and the 0-0 score turned out to be Thailand's second best finish against the Saudis – their best being a 3-1 win in Jeddah back in 1984. For now, Thailand maintain their 2nd place seat in group D, behind Australia who have won all three of their matches. Thailand will next play their away-leg against Saudi Arabia on November 11, while Australia travel to play Oman on the same day. Thailand will host the Socceroos in Bangkok on November 15, and finally travel to Oman on February 29, 2012.

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Group D		
Team	Pts	GD
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Thailand	4	2
Saudi Arabia	2	-2
Oman	1	-6



SOUTHERN SULTANS: Krabi's Anuwat Phromsakul (7) shoots past Phuket's Sutee Sakdiwong and Leuchar Juntawong. Photo: Apinun Saithong

Krabi edge Phuket in friendly

DESPITE having no Thai Premier League (TPL) Division One game last weekend, FC Phuket kept themselves honed with a friendly against AIS League Division Two Southern region champions, Krabi FC, on Sunday at the Krabi Provincial Stadium.

The Krabi "Andaman Eagles" are in exactly the same position Phuket were one year ago as the champions of the Thai Premier League Division Two AIS Southern regional league.

As such, Krabi are scheduled to play Rayong FC on Sunday October 16, in their first group match for the Division Two league playoffs in the hope of gaining promotion up to Division One.

Though not a serious affair, last Sunday's match was an opportunity for both sides to experiment with new line-ups and fine tune their strategy for the coming months.

Krabi's defense was controlled by Michael Liade from Burkina Faso and Nigerian Onuora Anayo Cosmas. Jirat Watee and Sutat Wajadee were also in the back with Wirasak Ji-un and Yuttichai Liemkrai in midfield. Saranuwat Nasatsang and Anuwat Phromsakul were given the task of attacking Phuket's flanks.

Wamba Oliver Ghislain from Cameroon and Ghanian Tackie Prince Nill Owusu were Krabi's strike targetmen.

Phuket's main lineup included Kone Adama, Tameezee Hayeyusoh, Jongrak Pakdee, Niran Phanthong and Watcharapong Jun-ngam.

FC Phuket looked to be the better team from the kick off, controlling possession for the first 10 minutes. However, it was the home side who scored first in the 10th minute when Jirat Watee crossed for Yuttichai Liemkrai who took the ball past Phuket's defense.

Yuttichai pulled his shot wide of the far post, but Ghislain had charged through in support and was able to redirect the wayward strike into Phuket's goal.

Jongrak Pakdee equalized for Phuket in the 27th minute, scoring from point blank range in the center of the Krabi penalty area, capitalizing on a defensive blunder by the home side.

Both teams began to adjust their formations in the second half with a series of substitutions.

The winning goal came from Krabi's captain, Anuwat

Phromsakul who latched on to a weighted pass to Phuket's far post, and netted Krabi's second goal of the match. That goal was indeed the last score, with the final result of 2-1 going to Krabi.

Phuket's coach, Somphong Wattana, said he wasn't too concerned about losing the match.

"This match was a chance for us to try out some players who don't usually get a lot of playing time. It was also an opportunity to prepare for next week's match against Customs United," he said.

He complimented Krabi FC's form and remarked that if they continue to play like they did they have a good chance of promotion.

Krabi are set to play their first group playoff match against Rayong FC on Sunday. However the match is subject to postponement pending the flood situation.

Also in group B with Krabi and Rayong are North Krungthep FC, Roi Et United and Nakhon Ratchasima FC.

The other southern team to make the playoff round was the Southern region runners up, Pattalung FC who are in group A pooled with Kasetsart University FC, Ratchaburi FC, Loei City, Pichit FC, and Phitsanulok TSY FC.

Pattalung FC will play their first match this Saturday at 4pm in Bangkok against the Bangkok regional champs, Kasetsart University FC.

At the end of this year, only four of the 12 teams in promotion contention will be promoted to Division One, where they will most likely meet Phuket, likely to remain there for next season.

Sitting in 7th place, Phuket are looking to climb the Division One table on Sunday evening when they host 13th place Samut Prakarn Customs United at Surakul Stadium in Phuket town with kick off scheduled for 6pm.

THAI DIVISION ONE LEAGUE

FIXTURES

October 15 4pm

RBAC FC VS Chiangmai FC

@ Rattana Bundit University Sports Complex, Bang Kapi, Bangkok

JW Rangsit FC VS Bangkok FC

@ Tupatemi Stadium, Lam Luka, Pathum Thanni

October 15 6pm

Bangkok Utd VS PTT Rayong

@ Thai – Japanese Stadium, Din Daeng, Bangkok

October 16 6pm

FC Phuket VS Customs United

@ Surakul Stadium, Phuket Town

Airforce Utd VS Buriram FC

@ Tupatemi Stadium, Lam Luka, Pathum Thanni

BB Chula Utd VS Thai Honda

@ Army Stadium, Din Daeng, Bangkok

Chainat FC VS CT Chantaburi

@ Chainat Provincial Stadium, Chainat vs Songkhla

Suphanburi FC VS Saraburi FC

@ Suphanburi Provincial Stadium, Suphan Buri

Rajpracha FC VS Songkhla FC

@ Mahidol University, Salaya, Nakhon Pathom

Match postponed due to flooding crisis

Team	P	Pts
 Buriram FC	25	58
 Chula Utd	26	52
 Chainat FC	26	51
 Songkhla FC	24	42
 Rajapracha	25	42
 PTT Rayong	25	41
 FC Phuket	25	39
 Bangkok Utd	26	38
 Saraburi FC	24	33
 Airforce Utd	24	31
 Suphanburi FC	25	30
 Chiangmai FC	24	25
 Customs Utd	25	25
 Bangkok FC	25	25
 JW Rangsit FC	25	24
 RBAC FC	25	20
 Chiangmai FC	26	19
 Thai Honda	25	18

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Triathlon Tips

By Jürgen Zack

COMING to Phuket for the first time as an athlete 14 years ago had me quite excited.

I did not have to worry about cold weather. I could leave my shoe covers, arm and leg warmers at home. I could work on my physical fitness and my tan.

Having been here for a while, I now recognize the special challenges of riding a bike in Phuket. It's not a walk – or a cycle – in the park at all.

Here are a few things you should keep in mind:

Choose your ride according to your fitness.

If you are a beginner stay on a flat or rolling course. The hills in Phuket are pretty steep. It's better to build a base first before you challenge the mountains.

Be aware of dangers.

You are not alone on the road, so obey the traffic rules. Be aware of tuk-tuks, cars, motorbikes, trucks, buses and pedestrians around you.

Watch out for potholes, speedbumps and dogs.

Your bike should be in good technical condition.

Make sure your brakes and shifters are working right. Lubricate your chain regularly.

Pump your tyres up to 6-8 bar = 110-120psi – is the ideal pressure for the roads here.

Carry spare tubes and a pump on your rides. Learn how to change a tyre. Carrying a mini-tool kit might also be helpful.



OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY: Jürgen regularly leads groups of cyclists in Phuket.

Stay hydrated.

Getting enough fluids is essential during your workouts, especially in this climate. Water alone doesn't do the trick. Having a drink with minerals and some calories makes you go longer and prevents cramps.

Use sun/UV protection.

Getting sunburned suppresses your immune system and raises your body temperature. This negatively affects your performance.

Join a group ride.

Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club offers group sessions every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sundays which leave at 7am. Training for all levels and work on riding skills, strength and endurance is offered. With the right preparation riding a bike in Phuket will be a wonderful experience. Enjoy the view and make new friends.

Director of Triathlon Training at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, Jürgen Zack, will offer training tips and advice for Phuket Gazette readers who intend to participate in these most demanding of events.

FIVB record entries



TRIPLE THREAT: April Ross and Jen Kessy (US) return to Phuket in search of a third title.

THE Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT will complete the 2011 FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour, and fittingly has attracted the highest number of entries for a women's tournament out of 29 stages on this year's World Tour calendar.

Karon Beach will play host to 82 entries from 32 countries, including 28 of the top 30 ranked teams in the world.

Volleyball powerhouses, Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the USA will send their strongest pairings to the Swatch World Tour season finale which will run from November 1-6.

World Champions and the current world's number one ranked team, Juliana Silva and Larissa Franca from Brazil will compete in Phuket for the first time and will be aiming for a record 7th win this season.

Teams from the USA have dominated the Phuket event, having won this tournament four years in a row with two-time winners April Ross and Jen Kessy (World

No.5 team) from the USA returning in search of a coveted third title.

Last year's beaten finalists Greta Cicolari and Marta Menegatti (World No.7 team) from Italy, 2006 winners Xue Chen and Zhang Xi (World No. 3 team) from China and Sanne Keizer and Marleen Van Iersel (World No.6 team) from the Netherlands, will all hope to prevent the USA leaving with a fifth title.

Germany has entered the largest number of teams with nine, followed by Brazil and Spain who travel with five teams each while Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the USA will each bring four teams.

Thailand has entered three teams for the tournament, two of which will gain automatic entry to the main draw of the Phuket Thailand Open, as the host country.

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of the Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT part of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour.

Play the B side



A FAREWELL TO ARMS: At least until October 18, when Hemingways B team will set about defending their Patong darts league title.

THE Hemingways B team lifted the Patong Darts League champions trophy this week after winning the league by three points ahead of their home-venue counterparts, the Hemingways A team.

The trophies were awarded at the prize giving night at Hemingways that saw Tong of Pogue Mahone defeating Ryan of Shakers in a three-match final in the lucky draw, sudden-death playoffs.

Ryan won the first leg after opening with 140. Tong replied, winning the second leg after opening with 125 despite leaving far too many 60s on the floor. The final leg came right down to pegging out the double 1, but Tong proved he had the mental stamina to get the job done.

The lucky prize draw left nearly

every player with something in hand to go home with, while Aom of Beach House won a free dive training course donated by Kon-Tiki dive tours.

A special prize of the evening went to Jim of the Beach House. After receiving no less than three toilet seats for finishing last in the league in previous seasons, Jim this year received a wooden paddle. Apparently a wooden spoon wasn't good enough.

The Beach House, The Mouse Hole and Celtic bars are looking for players for the new season, due to start on Tuesday (October 18).

No entry fees for players and a free meal for team members on competition nights, players of all standards are encouraged to join. Email chrishusted@gmail.com for details.

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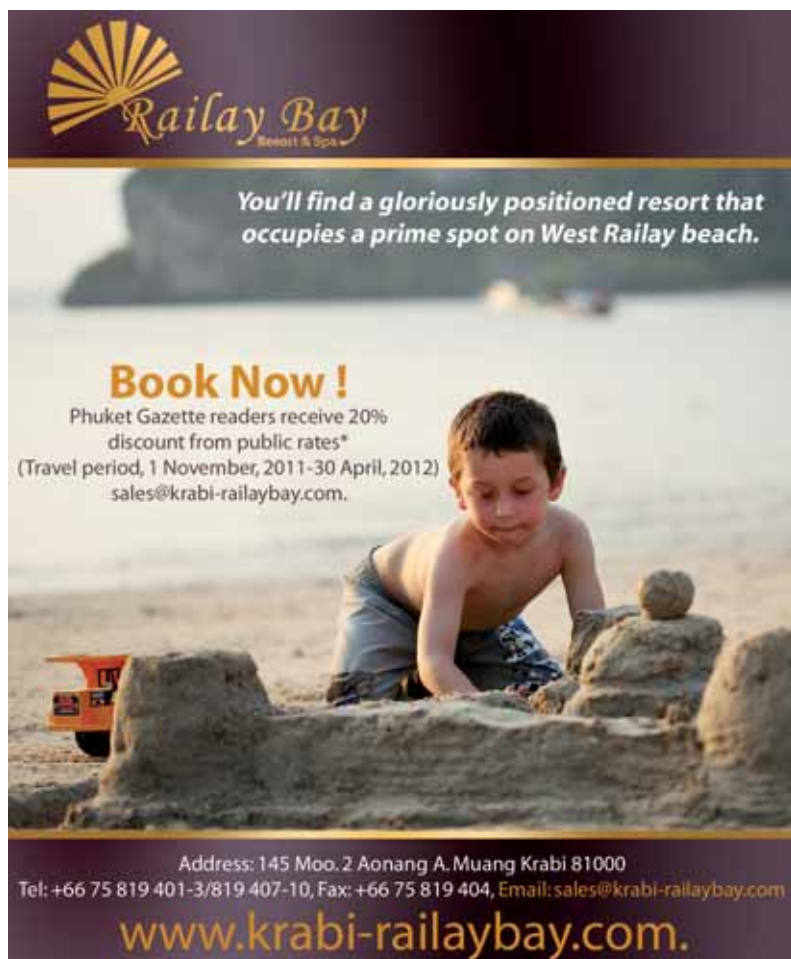
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