

Phuket Gazette

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New 'lifelines' to save tourists' lives

By Atchaa Khamlo

CLUB MED at Kata Beach has dived in to provide a second "safe swim area" floating cordon in the wake of a Russian tourist being run over by a speedboat off the beach earlier this month.

Safety issues at the popular west coast beach were highlighted when Russian tourist Nikolai Nefedov, was hit by a parasail boat on December 2.

He survived the incident by attempting to dive below the boat. However, Mr Nefedov's leg was still badly mangled by the boat's propeller, the operator of which was never sought by the police.

Despite the extra precautions being taken for the tourist high season, lifeguards continue to worry about the safety of swimmers and snorkelers who venture outside the float ropes and into the path of speedboats and jet-skis.

On December 26 a British tourist posted on the Phuket forum of the popular ThaiVisa.com website his experience similar to that of Mr Neddov:



An exit channel for jet-skis at the north end of Kata Beach, to ensure swimmers and water craft are safely separated. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

"Yesterday I was swimming at Kata Beach when I was nearly run over by one of the powerboats. I think it was the parasail one. When I shouted at the driver he then maneuvered his boat between me and the shore and proceeded to try and whip me with a coil of rope!

"I attempted to report the incident to the police but they seemed uninterested. They even sniggered.

They told me that if I wanted to make something of it I would have to travel to the police station in Chalong to file a report," he wrote.

To see what improvements have been made to the beach since the start of the high season, the *Gazette* contacted Wijit Dasantad, a community liaison officer at the Club Med Resort.

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Investment leaps 60% in one year

MORE than 8.7 billion baht flowed into Phuket as capital investment in the first 10 months of 2011, according to statistics released by the Office of Phuket Provincial Commercial Affairs (PPCA).

Board of Investment (BOI) projects in Phuket approved from January to October totalled 4.8 billion baht – an increase of 63 per cent compared with the same period last year.

"Although there are not as many BOI-approved projects this year, the volume of money invested is actually higher than last year," explained PPCA acting Chief Jarus Phetpakdee.

He noted that in the first 10 months of 2011 the BOI approved five projects in Phuket, compared with eight during the same period last year.

Of the five, three are Thai-foreign joint-venture hotel projects in Patong, one is a food production and preservation Thai venture in Mai Khao and the

other is a collagen oil production Thai venture based in Rassada, he said.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,341 new businesses were registered with the office, comprising a combined capital inflow of more than 3.9 billion baht, he added.

"Most of these ventures are real estate companies, tour operators or construction contractors," he said.

The PPCA office also released figures which show a 32 per cent increase of island arrivals over the same period year-on-year.

See 'Tourist arrivals sky high' on page 10

– Warisa Temram



Jarus Phetpakdee

Persons of the Year



Phuket King's Cup Regatta stalwarts (from left): Duncan Worthington, Santi Kanchanabandhu, Pamuke Achariyachai and Simon James. Photo: Dean Noble

A Sailor's Salute

AS WITH our Person of the Year Award in 2009, we have opted for the plural again this year and are delighted to announce that the honor goes to four of the driving forces behind the annual Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Many forces are required to stage an event of this magnitude, but because of the length of their service and the true "driving" nature of it, we salute Regatta stalwarts Duncan Worthington, Santi Kanchanabandhu, Pamuke Achariyachai and Simon James.

That the King's Cup is a tradition gone global for Phuket, there can be no doubt, and Khun Santi, having first sailed in the event in 1991, is the most 'traditional' of our winning quartet.

He joined the organizing committee in 1997 while serving as Commodore of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, an institution under royal patronage bestowed by His Majesty the King, himself a frequent participant in the Club's many sailing events.

Duncan, who has now been on the committee for more than a decade, and who is accustomed to working 15-18 hour days for the event, is primarily responsible for relationships with the media, 133 of which covered the Cup this year.

See inside for our 'Best of Phuket' for 2011

But Duncan is in fact a committee generalist for whom Regatta success is the sole goal, year after year.

Thirteen years ago, when he was president of the Phuket Tourist Association, Khun Pamuke was approached by the committee for help with hosting events. He immediately offered his Kata Beach Resort and continues to sponsor parties and many other services during the week-long event every year.

Simon James joined the committee in 1997 and began setting the courses for the event in 2000. He continues as Race Director, setting two courses every race day. He also defines the classes, sets the handicaps, trains volunteers and produces the race results – all critical and at the heart of the Regatta.

What drives these drivers? Duncan sums it up: "Sure, it's a lot of work, but the event is such a great showcase for Phuket, for Thailand and for sailing. We are lucky to be able to support all three," he says.

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This Week

Letter from the Governor



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Asia's top cricket reps to attend opening of ACG. **Page 46**

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Cops nab festive thief

By Atchaa Khamlo

KAMALA Police arrested a Russian national on Christmas day, suspected of robbing several homes during the festive holidays.

Pavel Zhuravlev, 35, was arrested at 3am at a house where he was staying on Soi Massayid Naka in Kamala. He was found in possession of 800 milligrams of *ya ice* (methamphetamine) and drug-taking paraphernalia.

He was also found with many items that police suspect were stolen.

"We tracked him down by following the signal from a Mac notebook, that was stolen in Chalong," said Kamala Police Superintendent Nathapakin Kwanchaipruek.

Mr Zhuravlev was charged with possession and use of drugs, robbery and is also looking to face overstay charges once his visa status has been confirmed by the Phuket Immigration Office.

One victim has already identified a Mac Air notebook, two 3G iPads, a watch, a driver's license and a mobile phone as his. Mr Zhuravlev confessed that he broke into the victim's house in Chalong on December 24, said police.

The rest of the items seized in the raid, such as bags, mobile



Anti-Santa Pavel Zhuravlev at Kamala Police Station. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

phones, cameras and binoculars, Mr Zhuravlev said belonged to him.

However, police said that they were skeptical and planned to continue their investigation of both him and his partner Mathurin Sophapol, 29. Ms Mathurin tested positive in a drug test and will be charged with using drugs.

Currently police are looking for more people to step forward and identify their belongings.

A Swedish woman whose home in Patong was broken into on December 7 was summoned to identify whether or not Mr Zhuravlev was one of the thieves

that broke into her home.

"From the CCTV camera in the house we were able to see that two foreign men broke in at about 3am. Over 200,000 baht of things were stolen," she said.

The Swedish woman tried to identify the items stolen from her house, but didn't find any until she noticed a white watch Mathurin was wearing, which she said was hers. Ms Mathurin said Mr Zhuravlev gave the watch to her. However, the Swedish woman was unable to positively identify Mathurin based on the CCTV footage of the break-in.

Seven days of danger ahead

16-year-old struck dead

A 16-year-old Burmese girl was struck dead by a pickup truck while crossing Thepkasattri Road, the main road to Phuket Airport, in Thalang on the evening of December 23.

The girl, named only as "Dao", was crossing the busy road with her father just before 10pm when the pair were hit by a black Toyota Vigo pickup truck.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers arrived at the scene to find that her father only minorly injured.

Dao's body, however, had been sent flying onto the median strip.

The force of the impact left the front of the pickup, which was loaded with large ice boxes, with a dented hood and crushed grille.

Dao lived with her father at the



The girl was crossing the street with her father when she was hit.

labor camp behind the furniture store.

"The truck came at high speed and hit the girl," said a local villager who witnessed the accident.

Thalang Police consider Dao's death to be the result of a genuine accident, so the driver was released.

OVER the festive period drivers will undoubtedly notice the increased police presence on the roads of Phuket. It is a sad fact of reality that the New Year festivities have traditionally coincided with a sharp rise in fatalities caused by road traffic accidents. This year, as in the past, it is motorbike riders and passengers who are at most risk.

The 'Seven Days of Danger' road safety campaign for the New Year holiday, kicked off with a parade at Saphan Hin on December 27. Organized by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket, it aims to make people aware of the heightened danger during this time.

"Phuket has a lot of tourists and the roads will be busy during the new year. During this time, the number of accidents on Phuket



A not so happy New Year for some. Photo: Wichai Witthawat

roads is three times more than normal," said Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket chief San Jantharawong.

"Over the Seven Days of Danger last New Year, Phuket suffered four deaths and 71 people injured in the 64 accidents reported dur-

ing the period," said Chief San. "Our target this year is to have a reduction of at least 5 per cent overall on the road toll statistics from last year."

The news came as Tung Tong Police on Tuesday reported a motorcycle accident in which a Swedish tourist died and a Norwegian tourist was seriously injured.

"They were riding back from the Red Mountain Golf Course," said Lt Col Chana Sutthimas.

"The Swedish woman lost control of the bike and crashed into a pole beside the road. She was not speeding. Perhaps she was simply unfamiliar with the road. The woman was wearing a helmet, but her Norwegian friend was not. The Norwegian is now receiving treatment at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

- Warisa Temram



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PITCHALAI PREPARATORY SCHOOL, HATYAI

Kata Beach floating cordon boosts safety for bathers

From page 1

Mr Wijit confirmed that the resort had now deployed a floating cordon off the beach.

"Club Med's roped off area is 200 meters wide and extends 100 meters from the beach.

"We set it out every high season and it stays till around April. It cost about 50,000 baht, including installation," he said.

Another "safe swimming area" was set

up in front of the Kata Beach Resort earlier in the high season.

Mr Wijit said most parasail boats and Thai jet-ski operators stay 100 to 200 meters offshore, where swimmers are few. However tourists who rent jet-skis often come too close to the shoreline, endangering swimmers, he said.

A tour operator at Laem Sai said that Mr Nefedov was snorkeling about 50 meters offshore when he was hit by the speedboat.

Uten Singsom, head of the Kata-Karon

Lifeguard Club, told the *Gazette* the increase in activity at the beach from December through February makes accidents inevitable if clearly delineated zones for swimmers and marine vessel operators are not established.

To further increase safety, the Kata-Karon Lifeguard Club has asked the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization to request the Karon municipality to set up a system of red and yellow flags, which lifeguards would use to indicate to tourists

where it is safe to enter the water, he said.

"Until such a system is in place, accidents can happen at any time," he said.

While Kata Bay is generally free of riptides during the high season, increased activity poses its own set of risks, including tourists who go in the water while drunk or who suffer from medical conditions that put them at risk, said Mr Uten.

He offered the example of a Russian tourist who died in waist-deep water last month as a case in point.

Brazilian dead after sex romp

By Atchaa Khamlo

BRAZILIAN tourist Daniel Rocha Jordan Brasileiro, 30, was found dead in his Phuket room on Wednesday after staying just one night in a Patong guesthouse.

Though Brazilian born, Daniel had moved to New Zealand, reported police.

A staff member at the guesthouse, near Soi Bangla, said Mr Brasileiro checked in with a male friend on Tuesday.

The men returned at about 3am Wednesday with two bar girls, all sharing the same room on the second floor.

"I saw one of the two girls leave our guesthouse at about 6am. I don't know about the other girl, because I went out to buy some



The crowds and entertainment take to Soi Bangla once the sun goes down. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

food in the morning," said the staff member.

"At about 8am his friend came down and told us his friend had

died, so we called the police," he said.

Mr Brasileiro's body was taken to the Patong Hospital morgue at

about 11:30am, after which time the friend checked out and quickly left, she added.

Hospital staff were to conduct

further examination of the body in the hope of establishing the cause of death.

According to Patong Police, the friend told them Mr Brasileiro was having difficulty breathing on the night he died.

The duty officer at Patong Police Station on Wednesday morning declined to disclose to the *Gazette* any further information about the case.

A reliable source who was at the scene told the *Gazette* that erectile dysfunction medicine was found in the room.

Although such medication is a prescription drug in Thailand, it is sold over the counter at many pharmacies in Patong, the center of the island's tourist-oriented sex trade.

Top cop on the move

PHUKET Police Chief Pekad Tantipong will transfer out of the province following a nationwide reshuffle of commanders and superintendents released by Royal Thai Police Headquarters in Bangkok.

Maj Gen Tantipong, who took up the Phuket posting in early May 2009, took the Christmas Day surprise in stride.

"I have not seen the official order yet, but I heard I will be removed from Phuket. I don't know where I will be working next or when my next assignment will begin," he told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"I do not have any problem being transferred or working elsewhere. My top priority is to follow orders and I believe my superiors will keep my best interests in mind. I am glad to have been given the opportunity to work in Phuket," he added.

Maj Gen Pekad has had some ups and down during his tenure as Phuket's top cop.

Last year he suffered a dislocated hip in a car accident as he raced to an accident scene. It was later revealed that he was not wearing a seat belt at the time.

Then in April of this year his home in Surat Thani was robbed. The thieves got away with items valued at about one million baht, including gold, jewelry and Buddhist amulets.

A regular fixture at important provincial events, Maj Gen Pekad in May stepped into a boxing ring



Phuket Police Chief Maj Gen Pekad Tantipong soon off to fight crime elsewhere.

with a former Thai champ in a charity bout to raise funds for the families of policemen living in Krabi, Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat following floods in March.

The *Gazette* will announce his replacement and other aspects of the reshuffle as soon as information becomes available.

— Chutharat Plerin

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Pirated consumer goods seized in Phuket

OFFICERS from Region 4 Customs Bureau on December 23 seized pirated goods from a warehouse in Phuket valued in excess of 15 million baht.

On December 26, Director Prayut Maneechote revealed that the operation had seized fake consumer goods that included copies of many well-known brands.

"We had been following this

group. We believe they are a large illegal import operation responsible for pirated goods entering the southern region. Despite recovering fake goods, no arrests were made during the operation.

"The gang may have been tipped off. The confiscated consignment was taken to Sadao checkpoint for further investigation," he said.



Fake Gucci was part of the haul.

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Second incinerator 'onstream by March'

THE second trash incinerator currently under construction at the Saphan Hin facility in Phuket Town is expected to be operational by March.

Chief Prachum Suriya, Phuket City Municipality, Environmental Division, detailed the progress made so far in the construction of the incinerator, which started in 2009 and is now about 80 per cent complete.

The new incinerator is expected to have the capacity to dispose of 600 tons of waste a day. It is a stoker-firing incinerator, which will burn at over 950 °C and has a clean-burn system, meaning its emissions can be controlled in order to comply with pollution regulations, said Chief Prachum.

The project is set to cost 940 million baht and will produce more than five megawatts of electricity per hour once it is running, he added.

"When the second incinerator is complete, we will close the first incinerator for upgrades and maintenance over the following 16 months.



The extra burn capacity will be used to burn off the rising landfills.

"After refurbishing the first incinerator, we will have two incinerators working together and they will be able to handle 900 tons [of rubbish] a day. This is more than enough [capacity] for right now, as we have only 600 tons of trash to dispose of [a day].

"It [the combination of the two incinerators] will be able to handle Phuket's waste for the next 10 years," said Chief Prachum.

All residential trash from waste disposal kept at the 120-rai landfill at the Saphan Hin site will be burned off by the second incinerator, because the landfill is now almost full of trash, Chief Prachum said.

— Warisa Temram

Empty Phuket turtle nests spark fears for survival

By Warisa Temram

PHUKET's marine wildlife experts have expressed concern that turtles are not laying eggs on many of the Andaman beaches historically used by the turtle population.

"The nesting season for sea turtles along the Andaman coast is usually from November to March. Their preferred nesting sites are Mai Khao Beach in Phuket, Tai Muang Beach in Phang Nga and some coastal areas in Satun province," said Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the Marine Endangered Species Unit at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

"Unfortunately, the turtles are not laying eggs on the usual beaches even though it is the nesting season," he said.

The number of Leatherback, Olive Ridley and Green turtles are lower than before, a worried Mr Kongkiat explained.

"Climate is a major factor. It determines turtle population size



Dr Kongkiat (right) fears for the survival of Phuket as a turtle nesting site.

as well as affecting the gender of the turtle's offspring. The optimum temperature [for turtle nesting] is 29 °C. If it's too hot they won't lay eggs," he said.

An officer stationed at the Khao Lampi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park, in Phang Nga, also confirmed that no turtles had laid eggs on the beach this year.

National park officers are to

monitor the situation closely, Mr Kongkiat explained.

"Encouragingly though, the turtles have continued to lay eggs on the beaches of the Similan islands, off the Phang Nga coast, all year round.

"Since January, about 100 nests have been counted, most of them made by Olive Ridley turtles," Mr Kongkiat added.

Browning free to leave the country

MIXED Martial Arts (MMA) fighter Junie will continue his fight to clear allegations against him in court, with the hearing likely to start in February, the *Gazette* has been told.

However, the investigating officer in the case has told the *Gazette* that Mr Browning was given permission to leave the country so he could return home for the festive holidays – on the condition that he returns to Phuket for the court hearing.

Mr Browning turned himself over to the Chalong Police last Thursday. He walked into the police station with his lawyer and filed a counter-complaint against Australian Simon Menzies.

Mr Menzies had already filed a complaint against Mr Browning after two were involved in a brawl in a bar in Karon on December 11.

The two men continued to fight at Patong Hospital, where they were receiving treatment for injuries sustained in the bar brawl, before Mr Browning absconded.

Mr Browning's arrival came at the public request of the police, as he was wanted for questioning over the incident. Capt Chianchai Duangsuwan confirmed that at no time had an arrest warrant been issued for Mr Browning as "it was not a serious case".

Hoping to resolve the dispute without court action, police called Mr Menzies and his wife to come to the station to talk with Mr Browning. In order to avoid any further confrontation between the two, Chalong Police asked Mr



Junie Browning shows one of two head injuries sustained in the brawl.

Browning to leave while his lawyer negotiated with Mr Menzies.

Mr Menzies rejected an offer of 15,000 baht to settle the dispute, claiming that damages to his bar cost at least 200,000 baht.

After 30 minutes of fruitless talks, police called Mr Browning to return to the police station to speak directly with Mr Menzies. The bar owner refused to budge, sticking to his original complaint of Mr Browning attacking him and damaging his bar. He showed wounds with stitches on his right arm he said he sustained when Mr Browning allegedly hit him with a beer bottle.

However, Mr Browning maintained that he did not start the fight, and that he only fought back in self-defense. He also stuck to his police complaint against Mr Menzies for attempted murder, stealing his diamond earring and some money, and for trying to extort 300,000 baht from him over the phone to settle the dispute.

Police will now continue their investigation into the brawls, and Mr Browning and Mr Menzies will meet again – but this time in a court hearing likely to start in February, the *Gazette* was told.

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Tourists are waiting up to an hour and a half in Immigration queues during peak flight arrival periods at Phuket International Airport. Photo: Provided by a Phuket Gazette reader

Long airport queues to stay

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

TOURISTS waiting in long lines for periods of up to an hour and a half to clear immigration at Phuket International Airport during peak periods are unlikely to receive any reprieve until the expansion to the international terminal is complete.

Maj Wannee Songsanguan of Phuket Airport Immigration told the *Gazette* that her office is well aware of the situation, but could do nothing more to speed up processing times.

"We are aware of the overcrowding prob-

lem of tourists arriving, and during peak periods we already have Immigration officers at all 18 counters in the arrival hall," she said.

"The problem occurs when there are many flights landing at the same time. The largest number of tourists we have had arriving at the same time since the high season began is 900 people. Although it is overcrowded, it is manageable," she added.

Maj Wannee said that airlines notified Airport Immigration ahead of any impending busy landing periods.

"We are usually notified how many people

will be arriving [at specified times], so we can arrange to have a full staff working the counters," she said.

"There is nothing more we can do. We have limited space. We have officers on duty at every single counter. All we can do for now is wait for the airport to provide us more space. Then we can arrange for more officers so we can cut down the waiting times," Maj Wannee added.

Meanwhile, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha told the *Gazette* that expansion of the international terminal at the airport – which will result in a larger arriv-

als hall and give Airport Immigration more space for more clearance counters – will begin in March.

"Overall, this mega project [the entire expansion project at the airport] will cost 56 billion baht. The project will take approximately three years to complete," said Governor Tri.

"The new international terminal will be built where the cargo building and the AoT Office buildings are now. Once complete, we will have the domestic terminal and international terminal separate from each other in different buildings," Governor Tri added.

Mum holds hope for missing daughter

THE desperate mother of a Phuket girl who vanished without a trace on December 8 will seek the help of the renowned Paveena Foundation in Bangkok in tracking her daughter down.

Although the search for 12-year-old Samudchaya "Nong Pin" Yanpanpunya is now nationwide, her current whereabouts remained unknown as this edition went to press.

"It has been really quiet. I have not heard anything, not from the police or anyone," Mrs Samruay told *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"I check on Nong Pin's Facebook page. The latest activity on her 'wall' was on December 23, when a person accepted to being her friend," said Mrs Samruay.



Nong Pin, pictured here from a photo on her Facebook page, has not been seen since December 8.

However, there is no way of knowing when the invitation was extended.

"I don't have the password to Nong Pin's Facebook account, but I asked my friend at work who

uses Facebook to help me access her wall on a regular basis," she added.

Local efforts to locate Nong Pin have thus far proved fruitless.

Mrs Samruay, who sent her daughter to live with her grandparents after the breakup of her marriage, said, "I still have high hope that I will be able to find Nong Pin."

"Since no one in Phuket can find her, I have decided to ask for help from the Paveena Foundation for Children and Women in Bangkok.

"I will go there on January to give them all information. I hope they can help me. It could be my last hope in getting my daughter back," she said.

– Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai



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

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Tsunami victims honored

By Chaiyot Yongcharoencha

A DIGNIFIED silence settled over Patong Beach on the evening of December 26 as hundreds gathered to light candles in remembrance of the people who were killed or went missing in the 2004 tsunami that devastated Thailand's west coast.

Thai official figures state that the tsunami killed 5,398 people and more than 3,700 others went missing that day. Hundreds of them were from Phuket.

The Light Up Phuket memorial service was attended by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising and Dutch Honorary Consul in Phuket Seven Smulders.

The ceremony started at 7pm with a performance by Phuket Rajabhat University's students, which was followed by the opening speech by Governor Tri.

"I was the deputy governor of Mukdahan province when the tsunami struck Phuket in 2004. I remember donating many things for those who were affected by the tsunami," said Governor Tri.

"It was sad that we lost so many lives and so much was destroyed. But we saw how people care and are willing to help each other. The tragedy was sad, but everyone showed their generosity and never left anyone to suffer," he added.

"I would like to tell all Phuket residents, Thai and foreign, who either live here or plan to visit in the future, that we now have a comprehensive operational emergency warning system. You can be at ease when you stay in Phuket. Any unusual [seismic] activity will be detected by our early warning system," Governor Tri emphasized.

The opening ceremony was



Patong beach was set aglow as hundreds gathered on December 26 in remembrance of those lost to the 2004 tsunami. It was a much bigger turn out than was seen at the morning ceremony held at the Tsunami Memorial Wall in Mai Khao. Only about 50 people come together for the morning event to listen to the multi-religious ceremony. After the ceremony, those that gathered at the refurbished wall laid out wreaths in memory of the more than 9,000 people lost that day.

— Chutharat Plerin

followed by a prayer by Pastor Brian Burton.

The highlight of the memorial service was a candle-lit ceremony, during which mourners placed candles into holes dug into the sand to form intricate designs, such as turtles, hearts, starfish and flowers.

Not wishing to give her name, one tearful woman clutching two lit candles told the *Gazette*, "I am from Germany. I was here with two friends on the morning of December 26 when the tsunami

struck Patong. I was the only survivor to make it back home.

"I come to Patong Beach every year at this time. I want my two friends to know that no matter where they are, I will always remember them. I would return for December 26 every year, even if there weren't a memorial ceremony," she confided.

The beach was illuminated by the candle light provided by the many people who wanted to be a part of the event. Not only those who had lost love ones, but also people who

wanted to pay their respects.

"I didn't lose anyone [in the tsunami]. I've just moved to Phuket for work," said Wijiit Thammasorn, a hairdresser in Patong.

"Today is my day off and I was just out walking around the beach area. I didn't know about the ceremony until I walked by. It felt like something pulled me here," Miss Wijiit said.

"I arrived for the beginning of the ceremony. Listening to it I got goosebumps and started to cry for no reason. I will light a candle and

pray for those who lost their lives in the disaster," she added.

Long-term Phuket resident Larry Amsden, 73, has attended every memorial service since 2004. He has lived in Phuket for decades.

"I had many friends who were victims of the tsunami.

"I almost lost my wife to the tsunami. She was down at the market [when the waves struck]. She had to run away from the water. I was very lucky," Mr Amsden told the *Gazette*.

"At that time I had a small business in Kathu, but my home is in Patong. We could see the tsunami from my home," he added.

As part of the memorial service, the *OrBorJor* organized a public debate during the morning aimed at educating the students of Phuket. Dr Smith Dharmasaroj, former head of the National Disaster Warning Center, staged a public discussion on disaster management.

"We should consider including a study of natural disasters in the high school curriculum. Students should have a basic knowledge of what to do in response to a tsunami, wildfire or flood," said Dr Smith.

"It's been seven years since the disaster. We should have better warning system, not only along the Andaman coast, but also along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand.

"The big waves that hit the Gulf of Thailand on December 25 indicates that we need a better system. Luckily, no one died and no people were injured," he said.

In his closing address, Dr Smith stressed, "Don't listen to tsunami predictions by people who claim that they know. Tsunamis are unpredictable. All we can do is monitor for unusual activity and then give a warning of when it will hit land."

Saving the wall

ANYONE looking at the Tsunami Memorial Wall in early November could be forgiven for doubting it would ever be ready for the annual December 26 ceremony.

With waist-high grass, warped flagpoles and tattered flags, it looked as if the wall had never been maintained.

However, volunteers from the USS *Pinckney*, the US Navy League, local business Environmental Solutions Phuket (ESP), Phuket's Tourist Police Volunteers and the MSC Company rose to the challenge. They put in the work and money necessary to restore the wall and tidy the surrounding area in time for the annual memorial ceremony.

The Navy League also talked with officials and police about the three countries represented on the wall that had recently been separated from the rest of the countries by an intersecting wall that had been contracted by police.



Crew of USS *Pinckney* helped renovate the Wall of Remembrance.

Police agreed to pay for the Tsunami Memorial Wall to be extended at the other end, so the three countries could again be represented.

"We promised the *OrBorTor* that we will repaint the wall and cut the grass and make the site ready for the December 26 memorial ceremony. We've taken that on. We will do that for as long as we are here," said Brad Kenny of the US Navy League and Patong Rotary Club.

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Yingluck meet makes history

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra became the first foreign leader to meet Burmese democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi during a historic meeting that took place in Rangoon last week.

Titima Chaisang, chief Thai government spokeswoman, told AFP that Mrs Yingluck's 30 minutes of talks with Mrs Suu Kyi were held in a "good atmosphere".

The pair discussed forthcoming by-elections, in which Ms Suu Kyi plans to run for office for the first time.

Her party, the National League for Democracy, recently registered at the Burmese election commission. It had previously been declared illegal after it refused to take part in November's historic general elections, claiming the polls would be unfair.

Nevertheless, after witnessing the new civilian government of President Thein Sein carry out some promising democratic reforms, it decided to contest fresh polls.

AROUND THE nation

"Aung San Suu Kyi told Prime Minister Yingluck that she hopes to win in the by-election and Yingluck offered her support and her hope that Aung San Suu Kyi will win," said Mrs Titima.

Mrs Yingluck also met with President Thein Sein. She expressed support for his efforts to promote reconciliation between Burma's ethnic minorities.

The Thai premier also called for an expansion of business ties, particularly in developing the deep-sea port at Dawei on Burma's Andaman coast, and in energy.

The occasion was somewhat overshadowed by controversy, however, after Mrs Yingluck's elder brother Thaksin told the press

he had "smoothed the way" for the meeting by visiting Burmese leaders days earlier.

Mr Thaksin, who had good relations with Burma's military government while he was prime minister of Thailand, visited President Thein Sein and Senior General Than Shwe, who many analysts believe still pulls the strings behind the government today.

Mr Thaksin's claim that he had cleared the way for the meeting between his sister and Ms Suu Kyi, forced Mrs Yingluck to deny that Mr Thaksin was working for the government.

Mrs Yingluck later even denied that his involvement had led to the historic meeting.

"Thaksin works on his own [initiative], but the power and final decision rests with the government," she said.

"I don't think the government's reputation was tarnished," she said.



PM Yingluck Shinawatra meets Aung San Suu Kyi. Photo: Soe Zeya Tun

Thais, Cambodians to withdraw troops



Aerial view of the disputed temple of Preah Vihear Photo: The Nation

THAILAND and Cambodia will simultaneously withdraw all troops from the border area around the disputed temple of Preah Vihear, following an agreement between the two sides earlier this month.

The two countries' defense ministers and army chiefs agreed to set up a working group on "re-deployment of their military personnel completely and simultaneously from their current positions in the provisional demilitarized zone at the earliest in a transparent manner," according to a joint statement released after the meeting in Phnom Penh.

At least 28 people have been killed in border clashes over the past year in areas surrounding Preah Vihear and other disputed border territory.

A 1962 International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling awarded the temple to Cambodia, though both sides claim an adjacent area covering 4.6 square kilometers.

Speaking at a press conference following the move, Cambodian defense minister Tea Banh said the latest General Border Committee meeting had "run smoothly with a warm atmosphere", MCOT reported.

The withdrawal is in line with an ICJ mandate issued in July, ordering the two countries to pull their troops from a 17-square-kilometer demilitarized zone (DMZ) and to allow observers from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to enter the disputed area.

No timetable was given for the troop withdrawal, though Gen Tea Banh said it would happen "as soon as possible".

The two sides have also agreed to cooperate on clearing landmines in the DMZ.

The injunction is pending an interpretation of the ICJ's 1962 ruling, requested by Cambodia to clarify whether the land around the temple is under Cambodian sovereignty.

MP wanted for murder

POLICE are hunting a Member of Parliament for the alleged premeditated murder of the president of Samut Sakhon Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) last Sunday.

Democrat Party MP Khanchit Thabsuwan, 41, allegedly shot dead local Pheu Thai Party politician Udon Kraiwat-nusorn, 49, at a gas station.

The provincial court on Monday approved a warrant for the arrest of Mr Khanchit, the son of veteran Democrat politician Anek Thabsuwan, a multiple-term MP for the province.

The police were set to seek permission from the speaker of the House of Representatives to arrest Mr Khanchit, since he has parliamentary immunity.

Abhisit Vejjajiva, Democrat Party leader and leader of the opposition, was aware of the warrant but decided not to react, pending



MP Khanchit Thabsuwan is wanted for murder. Photo: The Nation

police action on the case, said party spokesman Chavanont Intharakomalsut.

Lt Gen Harnphol Nijwibool, commissioner of Police Region 7, told a press conference that Mr Khanchit's conflicts with the victim "were well known".

"The victim and the suspect were often seen nagging each other when they met. This could have multiplied their political rivalry," he said.

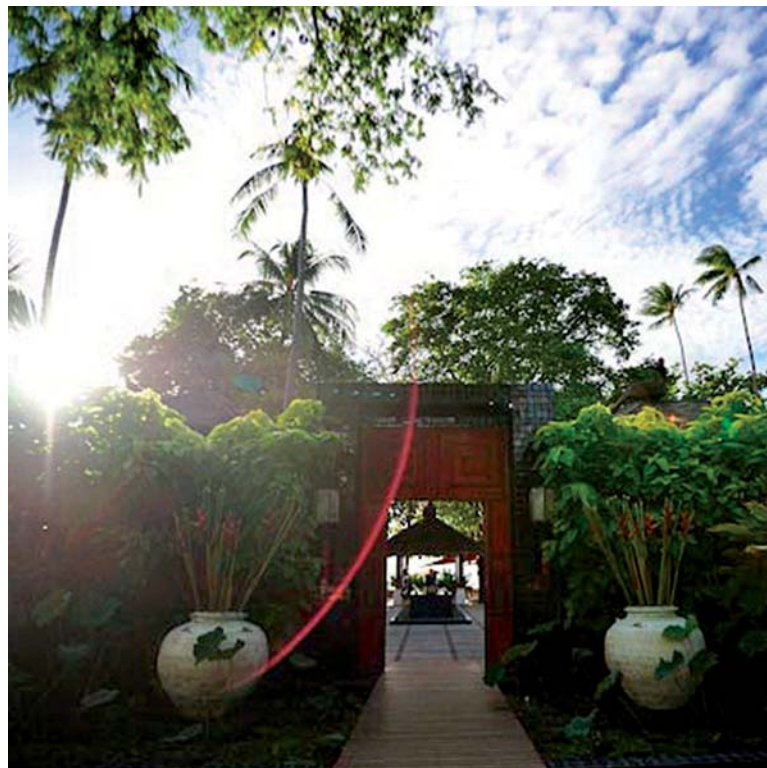
Lt Gen Harnphol said police had collected CCTV footage of a man resembling Mr Khanchit shooting Mr Udon at the gas station in the coastal Muang district of Samut Sakon.

A police sketch obtained from eyewitnesses also matched Mr Khanchit, he said.

Mr Udon was the president of the Samut Sakhon *OrBorJor* and chairman of Samut Sakhon Football Club.

A trajectory study was underway on the murder weapon, a .40-caliber automatic handgun permitted for use by the public, Lt Gen Harnphol said.

Mr Udon was shot while on the way to a wedding reception, he added.



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Year of the Rabbit, not good for turtles

The *Phuket Gazette* would like join the Phuket Governor in wishing all of our readers a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012 (see facing page).

As our annual review (see pages 14-15) shows, the past 12 months, the Year of the Rabbit, have seen continuing growth in the tourism sector, but Phuket's ongoing transformation into a vibrant, international destination has not come without a steep price in terms of the environment.

Phuket was largely spared the flooding that inundated much of Thailand over the past year, starting with floods in other southern provinces in March.

As bad as those were, they paled into afterthought during the catastrophe that left much of the Central Plains flooded for months, killing more than 500 people and causing 1.4 trillion baht in damages, according to World Bank estimates.

No strangers to deadly inundations, the hearts of people here in Phuket go out to all of those who suffered and continue to suffer, from the flooding. At the same time, we need to learn a lesson from it.

All over the island, excavators continue to claw into hillsides and reduce rolling pasture land into flat, ready-to-build-upon plots, stripping them of their protective plant cover and exposing the soil to erosion. Some residents of Phuket have seen the results firsthand, their homes and places of work crumpled by small-scale landslides.

The effects extend much further than structural damage, however. Even as the island continues to be covered in concrete and bitumen, most of the eroded topsoil is washed into the sea.

The result is less dramatic but no less destructive, killing offshore corals and covering the natural sea floor in life-choking silt.

Perhaps the best bellwether of all is the decline in local sea turtle populations. As this issue went to press almost two months into nesting season, there were virtually no reports of nesting at traditional sites on the island. This is despite numerous programs aimed at raising turtles in captivity and endless turtle release ceremonies going back decades.

With a survival strategy evolved over the eons to compensate for huge fatality rates due to predation, healthy female turtles can lay hundreds or even thousands of eggs over their long lifespans. Of these, only two hatchlings need to survive, on average, to keep populations stable.

The inability of our coastal waters to support such a modest figure speaks volumes. We can only hope that 2012 is the year local officials take measures to better prevent erosion, encroachment, illegal fishing practices and other deadly factors that have combined to drive Phuket's most iconic creature to the brink of extinction along the Andaman coast.



Get smart about donations

Re: *Gazette online, World Vision rolls out anti-polio campaign in Phuket, December 15*

I am happy to hear that World Vision is spending donations received for a worthy cause in Phuket. However, caution is required when donating money to high-profile charities. The question is always the same: How transparent are they with their accounts? Some charities have a history of spending more on themselves than they donate to those they claim to help.

Kamala Resident
Phuket

Letters to the Editor

to do, so why should it be any different for foreigners in Thailand? Are they perhaps less adaptable?

Bjarne
Gazette forum

Sick reenactment

Re: *Gazette online, Facebook 'predator' arrested as Phuket mum pleas for help, December 17*

In a reenactment of one of the rapes at a hotel in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Muang District, Wimol used a teddy bear in place of one of the girls to show, how he claimed, consensual sex took place. What is wrong with this place? It's just plain sick and he is smiling!

A Williams
Gazette forum

Pheasantly pleased

Re: *Gazette online, Peacock delivers 'pheasant surprise' in Krabi, December 17*

Chained-up might be a bit too strong an expression; nevertheless, a big 'thank you' to Khun Jamrad and the rest of the crew. Well done. Let's hope there will be more Pavo cristati [found] in the wild. It's a proud bird with a proud history spanning back to ancient times.

Kamala Resident
Gazette forum

Move to Thailand – learn Thai

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket's 'labor shortage' more imagined than real, December 18*

Good piece of information. I agree 100 per cent and would like to add that foreigners on non-tourist visas should, within a certain time frame, be required to demonstrate some basic knowledge of the Thai language in order to continue to reside here. This is exactly what foreign spouses in the UK from outside Europe have

Shameful photo

Re: *Gazette online, Facebook 'predator' arrested as Phuket mum pleas for help, December 17*

I have never understood the concept of [crime] "reenactment". Unless it is a way for the cops to publicize how "efficient" they are. This photo is the worst. The Phuket Gazette shouldn't haven't published it.

William
Gazette forum

Thai 'Capone' and his tommy gun

Re: *Gazette online, Machine gun seized in Phuket meth raid, December 21*

It's possible that an American G.I. sold it [the .45 Thompson

submachine gun] up in Pattaya during the Vietnam War days. Along with M1 Carbines and Colt 45s there should still be a lot floating about.

At the risk of sounding alarmist, Phuket appears to be not far away from a drugs turf war. It looks as if the dealers are certainly arming themselves. They are either readying for a push to expand their territory, or to defend their territory. Not good for Phuket.

Grunt
Gazette forum

Thank you PG

Thank you Phuket Gazette for another good reading year. We wish you all a very good Christmas and a very good 2012. We hope to be back in Phuket for our usual time slot in October next year. A very good thumbs up to old Phuket for a great stay this year.

Richard
Australia

Cloth bag come back

Re: *Tesco Lotus captrues 'moral' high ground, December 24*

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to you and the staff.

Growing up in Dublin in the 50's and early 60's prior to the arrival of supermarkets, you went to the local shop with mum's shopping bag. Just a year or two prior to coming to live here in Phuket, the Irish Government passed a tax on plastic bags. Within months shoppers could be seen carrying their environment-friendly cloth bags, just like we all did a generation ago.

The disappearance of wind blown plastic bags was a sight to behold. I was disappointed with "The Island View" this week.

Michael G Finn
Rassada

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Love and regards to all Phuket residents

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

ON THIS special occasion I would like to wish everyone a very happy 2012. I would like to send my warmest regards and love to all Phuket residents, both Thai and foreign.

The overall situation in Thailand during the past year was not so good and the flooding in central Thailand had a wide-ranging impact. Although Phuket was lucky not to have been directly affected, we were still affected economically.

Fortunately, the flood situation is now back to normal and everything is getting better. I want everyone to leave all the bad things that happened over the last year behind and start afresh in the new year.

Phuket has developed into a world-class tourist destination, which means we have to develop our human resources accordingly. We also have to ensure the safety of tourists and residents alike, allowing them to live here in peace and safety. This requires a reduction in the crime rate and beautifying the island, so that it can rightly be called a reception room and gateway to the entire Kingdom.

Phuket is just one of five provinces that comprise the Andaman tourism cluster. The others are Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang, and



Tri Augkaradacha, Phuket Governor, took up his position in October 2010 after serving almost four years as Phuket vice governor. Having already reached the mandatory retirement age of 60 years, he will finish his career in the civil service at the end of October, 2012. Here he wishes a happy and prosperous 2012 to all our readers.

Ranong. As the center of the cluster, I would like to encourage people to travel to all Andaman coastal provinces, all of which have many interesting attractions.

We have promoted Andaman coast tourism with two promotional roadshows, the Andaman Explorer and Andaman Trade Travel Fair. These events provided the perfect chance for buyers to meet sellers. We have also promoted Andaman region tourism outside of Thailand and are very pleased with the positive feedback we got at these events.

There are still many people concerned about the readiness of the tsunami and natural disaster warning system in Phuket and other Andaman coastal provinces. Actually the system is good already, but I have developed a plan to improve it even further.

With a budget of 140 million baht, we plan to build a central

warning center for the Andaman coast here in Phuket. We will install high-technology components, equipment and facilities, including a telecommunication center and an information technology database center able to link with other warning centers along the Andaman coast.

We already have 19 warning towers installed in Phuket and we plan to have the complete warning center for all five Andaman coastal provinces ready by the end of 2012.

I would really like everyone who lives and visits Phuket to feel safe here. I hope the projects I have planned will be nice presents for both local residents and visitors to the province. I hope we can continue to attract more people to Phuket, especially quality tourists. Hopefully, we can screen the con artists, mafia and other troublemakers out of Phuket to make this province more livable.

Ciao baby, ciao

Island View

By Dan Garrette

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



Trading in the motorcycle for a moped. Photo: Gazette file

EDDIE Izzard's great show *Dressed to Kill* has a small skit of him being Italian, being cool and riding a scooter. He greets the world with a wiggle, say a elongated "Ciao" – the crowd laughs.

Whilst I do not have the same style or dress sense I can appreciate the imagery.

Currently having to ride a beat-up Honda Wave, rather than my usual speed-machine, it has slowed my travel times considerably and has unfortunately brought my surroundings back into focus.

Suddenly, I see all the things my eyes have missed...but I don't.

There is the super cool English teacher, dressed like a playboy: sharp-creased trousers, smart casual shirt, helmet slung between his legs to the clip on his Fino, ready for quick application when reaching known check areas. He skips the lights as he flies to his adoring students, who will no doubt mimic this star-like behavior.

Of course there is the ubiquitous student with an equally manicured appearance, perched side-saddle as she constantly adjusts her flowing black mane. Her fashion accessory of a boyfriend roars past, exhaust blaring away.

The scene isn't complete without a soi dog patiently waiting for the lights to go red. The light turns and it toddles across the road, with a double check for another teacher – just in case.

I can't help but appreciate the "smoothness" of the roads as my jalousy of a bike provides me with endless bouncing amusement.

A local family of four appear. The two-year-old is held up vertically by the mum, looking like a

puppy with its snout out of the window for the first time – loving every minute of it. I nod and smile; they return the greeting

Reaching the cross-roads at Tesco the spotlight's red and I imagine I am in the auditorium with Eddie, but our audience is a parking lot of kids sitting on their mopeds.

I look at them, smile and say "ciao" with my full racing-crash helmet securely strapped to my head – I go for the punchline and tap it, they smile, look at their bucket helmets in the baskets before them. They look back to me and laugh, appreciating the humor.

I will never be a stand-up comic. They didn't get my joke, though I hope I don't get the last laugh.

Issues & Answers...

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

Back from the future: too late to sell my car?

My friend left Thailand for a family emergency. She didn't have time to sell her car, so she left the car with me and gave me power of attorney to act on her behalf.

The sale of the car took three months and when the title was supposed to be transferred it was not possible because my friend's visa (she left Thailand) had expired. Why does the seller have to have a current Visa and how can I transfer the car without her having to travel back to Thailand?

George Yamamoto
Kata Beach



Power of attorney or a time machine might not be enough to sell you car once your Thai visa expires. Photo: Kevin Abato

Phuket Land Office, registration department chief Titima Yukumtorn replies:

According to the law a foreigner who would want to register a car must be legally living in Thailand. It is not true that a foreigner has to deal with the car transfer in person at the office; they can give power of attorney to someone as long as their visa is valid.

Sometimes the car dealer won't transfer the registration from the foreigner to themselves, but in-

stead lets the next car owner deal with the the transfer of the registration directly from the original owner to themselves, which means they are responsible for the transfer fee and tax. This is not how it should be.

According to land transportation regulations a car registration transfer must be done within 15 days after the purchase of the car,

even if it is bought by a car dealer.

For foreigners, their visa must still be valid during the process as proof that they are legally living in Thailand. Situations where the visa is expired will be handled on a case by case basis.

We don't want problems with foreigners, because when they have issues they start suing people. That is why we are very

careful when we process their registration. Our office will investigate a person who has power of attorney to make sure that the car owner has truly given the individual the power to sell the car.

In the case that the owner is not in the Thailand, the Phuket Land Office Registration Department will handle the case. We are always worried about getting sued, which is why we are so strict.

An example is a case we handled with a foreigner and his Thai wife. When the husband was out of the country his wife copied his passport and forged his signature. She then submitted the document to us to transfer the car from her husband to herself. We did so in accordance with the completed documents we were given. When the husband found out about the transfer he sued his wife. We had to go to the court to give testimony. This is why we are so strict.

As I said, the registration department will consider if they want to take a risk of dealing with power of attorney or not on a case by case basis.

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

Submit your issue at

www.P PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

I did drugs

Can a person convicted on a drugs offense in the United States – but not wanted by the authorities – enter Thailand with a tourist visa?

Bob

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamra replies:

You should go to the Royal Thai Embassy in the United States of America to check that you are not black listed [persona non grata]. If you're not, I think there's no problem with you applying for a tourist visa to enter Thailand. It is the Royal Thai Embassy that has the authority to grant permission, therefore you must consult them.

Tourist arrivals sky high

By Warisa Temram

ARRIVALS on the island during the first ten months of 2011 jumped more than 32 per cent year-on-year.

Jarus Phetpakdee, Acting Chief of the Phuket Provincial Commercial Affairs Office, revealed that Immigration Officers at Phuket Airport and Chalong Pier from January to October this year counted 2,034,479 [tourist] arrivals, up from about 1.5 million arrivals dur-

ing the same period last year.

Of this year's figure, he noted that 1,834,052 arrived by plane while 200,427 arrived by boat, including both cruise ships and private yachts.

Mr Jarus said that tourism performed particularly well in the first financial quarter due to it being high season. He believes tourists felt more confident about the political situation in Thailand, which was relatively peaceful compared with the same period during the

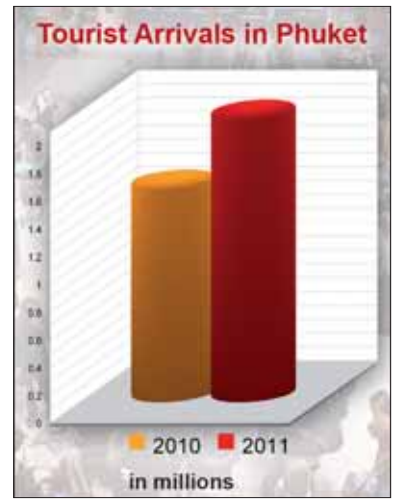
previous year.

He also gave credit to the comprehensive and ongoing, tourism marketing campaigning by the Thai government, noting that the majority of the island's tourists arrived from other Asian countries.

Mr Jarus pointed out that the second and third fiscal quarters were typically quieter, and noted fewer European tourists. He cited the economic turmoil in the Eurozone as the prime factor.

Recent floods in the central and northeastern parts of the country have not had a major impact on Phuket tourism, he said, pointing out that there are 40 direct international flights to Phuket [that do not require transit in Bangkok].

"There were 11,003 international inbound flights to Phuket during the first 10 months of the year, compared with 9,107 during the same period last year. That's an increase of 21 per cent year-on-year," he said.



Tourist arrivals in Phuket during the first 10 months of this year rose 32% from last year.

Construction modules to cut in-house costs

LABOR shortages, tight project deadlines, and inferior-quality construction materials will all have less of an impact upon the property development sector, thanks to an innovative construction technology currently being demonstrated in Phuket.

"Our Construction Module system replaces conventional construction methods that use columns, beams and drywall," explained Kenth Fredin, Chairman and CEO of Inzente Technologies (Thailand) Ltd, the company spearheading this latest innovation in Thailand.

Kenth, a Swedish national, noted that his firm developed the system through research and development from its office and factory base in Samut Prakarn, just outside of Bangkok.

"After we've proven our product in Thailand, we plan to expand to markets across Southeast Asia, Asia and the Middle East," he said.

The company is on the verge of completing two demonstration projects including a villa at a resort in Kanchanaburi province and another development on Cape

Yamu in Phuket, he said.

At the core of the Inzente's module system is a material known as "cement bonded particle board", which Kenth points out is like a wood-cement hybrid.

"It's got all the desirable characteristics of both wood and cement – it's strong and can be used in any type of structural element – yet it can be nailed into without cracking. It doesn't rot, attract fungus or termites and it doesn't burn," he said.

The material itself is not new, but the way it is applied is.

"Our system is based on a similar modular system that was invented in Northern Europe, more than 20 years ago," he notes.

Kenth went on to outline the clever-yet-simple system, which involves erecting an interior and exterior module wall in place of the temporary plywood forms used in conventional concrete formwork systems.

"The modules are transported to the site ready-made according to pre-planned project specs that have incorporated mechanical and reinforcement systems into their design.



EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE: Kenth Fredin (inset) says that his module system requires only a fraction of conventional project labor and time.

Working with a crew and crane, the modules are easily set in place.

Then the electrical conduits, plumbing, gas pipes and rebars are installed in the empty spaces before the cement is poured. After the cement dries, the modules are kept in place and serve as permanent, insulating walls that require only minor finishing touches," he explained.

The modules can also be used as slabs to form ceilings and floors. Since no beams or columns are required, wasted height space is minimized, he noted.

Kenth went on to highlight the

amount of time and labor saved on site, noting that his system requires only a fraction of the labor, and a third of the time required by conventional construction methods.

"We can finish a project in four months that would usually take a year. Since more time goes into planning and engineering at the factory, our system provides for up to 70 per cent faster completion on site. Conventional construction methods have basically remained much the same since World War II," he said.

Not only are project target dates dramatically reduced and the prod-

uct delivered faster, but the amount of labor required is only a fraction of what is usually required.

"To erect and concrete a single level floor plan, for example, we would need only a crew of four and a crane to complete the job in about ten days. The same job would call for up to 40 laborers and as much as three months by current means," he said.

Production efficiency doesn't detract from product quality, however.

Kenth noted that a key advantage of the system is the modules' insulating qualities, which from early on contribute to the integrity of the inner concrete form, and thus the overall structure.

"When the concrete is poured, the modules help the drying concrete maintain its moisture for a longer period, resulting in a stronger and more homogeneous structure."

"In tropical and humid climates like Thailand, moisture tends to evaporate quickly, which is why you'll see conventional methods applying plastic and water spray mechanisms. Our system doesn't need to do that and the result is a longer-lasting, crack-free structure," he said.

For more information, visit [W: Inzenteasia.com](http://W:Inzenteasia.com)

– Steven Layne

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Ingredients of good showbiz

The mastermind behind Siam Niramit Phuket theatre talks about what it takes to perform well.

By Steven Layne

SIAM Niramit Phuket recently launched the second edition of "Thailand's Must-See Show", opening a massive new theatre on the bypass road near Phuket Town to house it.

Good news for the local entertainment and tourism sectors, Siam Niramit Phuket's "Journey to the Enchanted Kingdom of Siam" show provides one more compelling itinerary for tourists and residents alike.

Pannin Kitiparaporn, Chief Executive Officer and founder of Siam Niramit Bangkok and Phuket theatres, gave an exclusive interview with the *Phuket Gazette* on the eve of its soft opening in Phuket.

Vibrant and articulate, Miss Pannin recollected the various challenges and trials she endured leading up to the launch of one the world's largest stage productions right here in Phuket.

Involved in show business since a young age, Miss Pannin had experience running movie theaters and indoor play parks before eventually getting into the amusement park market. Having established Bangkok's first large-scale amusement park, the now-defunct Magic Land, as well as Dream World, currently Bangkok's most popular amusement park, she went on to realize her true calling.

"Show business is where it's at for me, and though amusement parks do have some shows, they are not on a large scale," she said.

"To create a world-famous amusement park would have require billions of dollars of investment, which I don't have. And even if I did, I wouldn't invest it [in an amusement park]. A large scale show is more viable, with a broader market reach," she said.

She established Siam Niramit in Bangkok about six years ago.

"When we first started, we thought we were 70% prepared. However, it ended up taking us five years to get everything



STARDUST: Pannin Kitiparaporn (left) CEO of Siam Niramit smiles for the camera. Above right: a classical dancer; Bottom right: Krabi Krabong performers. Photos: Suchart Changate



right. I think in actuality we were only 30% in-the-know and 70% was actually what we didn't know," she said.

"The first year was spent correcting everything," she continued.

"It's like cooking the perfect dish. You have the best kitchen, best equipment, best cook and best ingredients. But when it's all put together and cooked, it doesn't taste quite right," she said.

She explained that Siam Niramit comprises five key "ingredients", or dimensions: scale, beauty, special effects, cultural authenticity, and entertainment.

Despite an initial investment of 1.5 billion baht, the first Siam Niramit show in Bangkok sold only 60 tickets out of a total 2,000 seats. This is in stark contrast with Phuket's sold out opening, with all 1,740 seats filled.

"Though I was down about the slow start, business gradually started to pick

up due to word of mouth. We were doing pretty good by the second year, but by the third year, sales dropped back down as a result of turmoil in the capital.

"This pattern continued year after year – the yellow shirts, coup, curfew, red shirts, and now the flooding. So about three years ago, we figured we had the show about right and Phuket was the most appealing new market.

"Even without the turmoil [in Bangkok], I would have eventually come to Phuket anyway, but the turmoil is indeed a driver for me to readily come here," she said.

Miss Pannin noted that the total starting investment for Siam Niramit Phuket theatre was about 2.5 billion baht, which covers land and construction costs in addition to recruitment.

With only one foreign national on the Phuket team – an AFX special effects specialist – she said she doesn't plan to recruit any other foreigners, citing a suc-

cessful local recruitment campaign.

She pointed out that the facility employs a staff of about 400 Thais, of which 385 were recruited locally and the rest were transferred, by choice, from the Bangkok team.

Asked about her return target, she responded, "I expect to break even within five years, though it would be nice if I can do so in the first year," she said, adding that her monthly overheads are to the tune of 20 million baht.

Questioned about the local target market groups, Miss Pannin confirmed that her key market is foreign audiences.

"Thai people typically don't come to Thai shows. And when they do, they think I'm doing it all for the country. Government officials from other countries assume that the show is a [Thai] government effort to preserve and promote culture," she said.

"Siam Niramit does not have a specific target segment and the show is for everyone. It's quite challenging to make a show that can be consumed by all audiences, no matter what language they speak or what nationality they are. So we try to keep it non verbal, without strong story lines so as not to risk losing some audiences," she explained.

Asked about how she positions Siam Niramit against other competition in Phuket, she replied. "I don't consider myself as someone's competitor. People go to Las Vegas because there are many shows available.

"Likewise, tourists in Phuket can come to see my show and also see someone else's. Variety is necessary in show business. Just like movies, no two are alike, and just because you see one doesn't mean you should not see another."

She concluded with yet another food analogy. "You can not know how good the food is until you taste it."

For more information, visit Siam Niramit's website: siamniramit.com.

Little respite for labor shortage

THE Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) job fair in Phuket Town on December 22 attracted few job-seekers, despite repeated calls from the island's tourism industry seeking to hire more qualified staff.

Representatives from more than 59 firms turned up at the Phuket Software Industry Promotion Agency building at Saphan Hin to offer in total more than 1,500 jobs.

Most of the positions on offer were in Phuket's critical hotel and tourism industry. Among the other positions were sales representatives, customer service staff, restaurant cashiers, hospital workers, real estate agents and spa staff.

"It was really quiet. Only about 100 people came to apply for jobs," said PPEO officer Phuang Songnam.

Mr Phuang attributed the small turnout to a combination of local residents already being employed or already having their own business, compounded by job-seekers in other

provinces being dissuaded from coming to Phuket because of the high cost of living.

"Although [Phuket] salaries may seem higher than in other provinces, the cost of living is quite high. Even a bowl of noodles can cost 45 baht here," Mr Phuang added.

Employers offering jobs at the fair received little reward for staffing a booth the entire day.

"Our company is now looking for employees for more than 85 positions, but so far only three of those positions have been filled," said Aree Khunchit, manager of the True Move branch in Phuket.

"We have also advertised our vacancies through the university information center and many people have applied because we offer good benefits to all of our employees, but not many people have showed up here today," she said.

PPEO Chief Noppadol Ployudee is hoping future job fairs will help ease Phuket's labor shortage.

"We currently have more than

3,000 positions available on our register. We will continue having job fairs in order to solve this problem as soon as possible," he said.

"We usually hold one big job fair, and about nine small fairs in Phuket each year. We also try to recruit employees from other provinces,

especially from the northeast, but not many apply for work in Phuket.

"They realize that the cost of living here is high, and some of them are still scared of the tsunami that happened years ago," Mr Noppadol added.

– *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*



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Don't lose that number

IN THE past few Live Wire columns I've tried to answer some of the questions I hear frequently about computers, phones, tablets and TVs in Phuket. Here's the next common question – and, surprise, it has a good solution.

“Woody, I want to get a 3G phone (or I want to get 3G service on my current phone), but I don't want to change my phone number. Is that possible in Phuket? I have a DTAC telephone number, and I want to use that number on my new iPhone 4S. Are there any problems?”

The short answer: yes, there are lots of problems, unless you switch your telephone number from DTAC to AIS or Truemove. A year ago, switching phone numbers from one carrier to another was difficult, if not impossible. If you had a number that was issued by True, for example, you were stuck with True, unless you wanted to change your phone number. Now, switching carriers is easy, and you can keep your current phone number, if you know the tricks.

First, let's look at why you might want to change carriers. There are currently three “3G” companies in Phuket: AIS, Truemove, and DTAC. Within a month or two, CAT should be in the game, too.

These are some common reasons why you may want to switch carriers:

AIS has a good network, based on TOT's 900 MHz HSPA technology. Unfortunately, if you have an iPhone 3G, 3GS or original iPad (some call it the iPad1), your phone or pad won't work on the AIS network. You can use the phone for voice calls, SMSs and slow GPRS/ EDGE data – but you can't get 3G. That list isn't exhaustive and other phones and tablets won't work on the AIS/ TOT network. If in doubt, go to gsmarena.com and look up your phone. If gsmarena.com doesn't specifically list 900 MHz HSPA (or HSPDA) support, AIS's 3G won't work with your phone.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

The Truemove-H network runs on CAT's 850 MHz HSPA+ technology, and it also works well in almost all parts of Phuket. But if your phone doesn't speak HSPA or HSPDA at 850 MHz, you need to drop Truemove, for example, the original Samsung Galaxy S can't pick up a 3G signal on the Truemove-H network, and there's nothing you can do about it. The iPhone 3G, 3GS and iPad1 all work with Truemove, as do the iPhone 4 and iPad 2. Again, check with gsmarena.com if you have any doubts.



Losing a number can be traumatic. Photo: Mom Smackley

I've heard a lot of complaints about the DTAC 3G network. As best as I can tell – DTAC doesn't publicize the details – the DTAC 3G network only works in Patong, Kamala and some parts of Phuket Town. If you have a phone with a DTAC number, buy a new iPhone or Android phone and want to use 3G in most parts of Phuket, then you have to switch to either AIS or Truemove.

All of this sounds ridiculously complicated I know. 3G technology has a long and tortured history in Thailand, resplendent with powerful people, lots (and lots) of money and a succession of governments that haven't been able to get their 3G act together. The bottom line is that some phones and pads work on AIS, some work on Truemove, some work on both, and there's nothing you can do about it. If you want 3G service, you have to switch to whichever carrier can talk 3G with your phone or tablet.

Remember that I'm specifically talking about 3G. If you have a DTAC number, for example, your phone undoubtedly works all over Phuket – all over Thailand, and even to the outlying islands, no sweat. If you have a 3G phone and DTAC ser-

vice, you're fine, as long as you don't want to use the 3G. But if you need the speed of 3G and you're not sitting in one of DTAC's limited service areas, you'll be dropped back to a much slower connection.

I bet they never told you that, huh?

Now for the good news. You can switch carriers without changing phone numbers. About a year ago Thai legislature enacted a law that required carriers to implement something called Mobile Number Portability. There's now a clearinghouse set up that manages the transfers and I can tell you, firsthand, that it works.

The process is basically the same for pre- and postpaid accounts. Here's the easy way to do it:

1. Go to your current carrier. Make sure your bill is paid, and verify that they have your correct name, address, passport and work permit numbers and/ or Thai ID number.

Any of the carrier's offices should be able to get everything set for you (for AIS, go to Telewiz).

2. Go to your new carrier. If you're transferring to Truemove then you need to go to the True office downtown, next to Ocean Center and Robinson.

For AIS, I would suggest going to the main office on Thapae Road.

3. Tell the new carrier that you want to switch carriers from the old one to them.

They will have you fill out a form that's similar to (if not identical to) the form you fill out when you get a new phone number. Make sure they get your name spelled correctly, have the right address and that the passport/ work permit/ ID numbers you give them match the ones at your old carrier. You will have to pay 99 baht for a new SIM card and may have to pay a month's advance billing if you have a pre-paid account.

4. Wait... Some people get their number transferred in a day but for some it takes two to four days. When the transfer's complete, you'll receive an SMS saying that everything's ready. Slip the old SIM card out of the phone, and put in the new carrier's SIM card. You're done.

With Woody hunkered down writing a book, the weekly Computer Clinics are taking a new turn. Until Woody emerges with an 860-page copy of “Windows 8 All-In-One For Dummies” under his arm, around May or June, Seth Bareiss will hold computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions at the Sandwich Shoppes. Details are in the Events Calendar. The Computer Clinics are sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketLiveWire, or “like” his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.

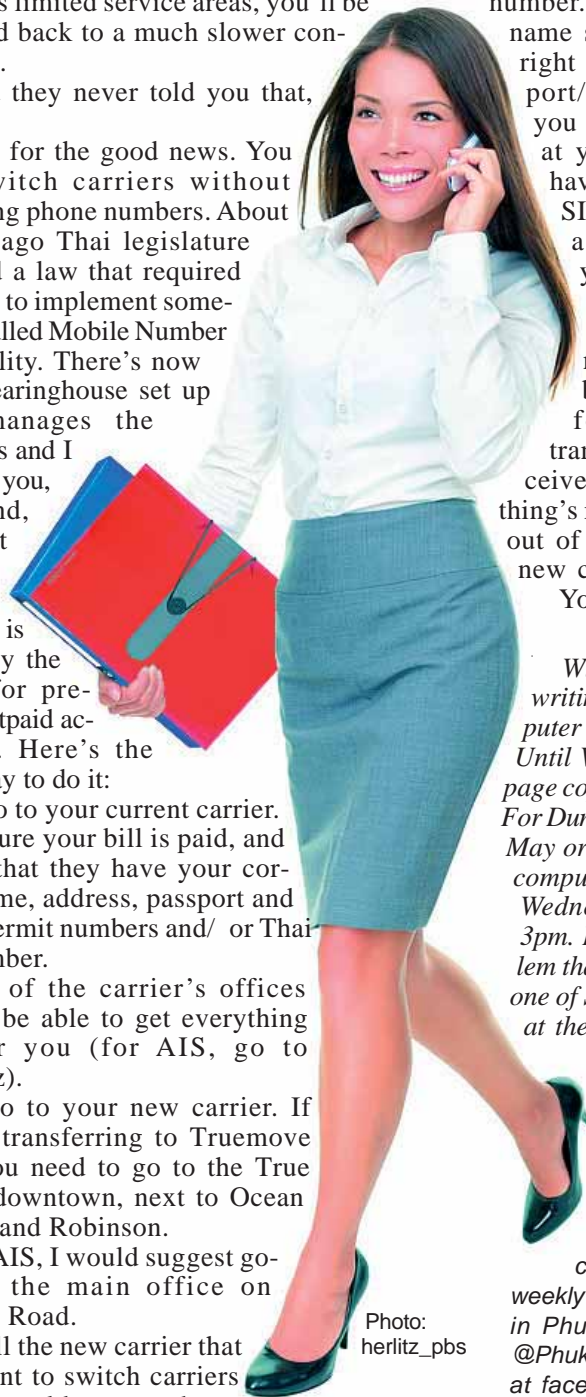


Photo: herlitz_pbs



2011's top ten tweets



1. “Welcome back Egypt #Jan25,” tweeted Wael Ghonim, a marketing manager at Google who was held in captivity for nearly 12 days for organizing protests.

2. “Helicopter hovering above Abbottabad at 1AM (is a rare event).” A local man in Abbottabad, Pakistan unknowingly live-tweeted the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound before any news agency broke the story of the terrorist's death on May 1.

3. “My daughter her name is sarah m. rivera” Through an initiative to help homeless residents in New York City speak for themselves, Daniel Morales was able to use a prepaid cellphone to create a Twitter account. He posted his cellphone number and her photo and was reunited with his daughter the next day.

4. “This lockout is really boring..anybody playing flag football in Okc..I need to run around or something!” During the 2011 NBA lockout, when Oklahoma City Thunder player Kevin

Durant tweeted the above. A student at Oklahoma State saw the tweet and invited Durant to join him and his fraternity brothers in a game. A few hours later, Durant arrived, ready to play football with them at a local field.

5. “Brooms up London!” After riots in the UK dirtied the streets this August, people rallied on Facebook and Twitter to organize a massive clean-up effort in the affected areas.

6. “Here's another Photo of the shuttle from my plane.” In May, NASA launched the space shuttle Endeavour. Stefanie Gordon, aka @stefmara, took a photograph of the launch from a plane and tweeted it, capturing the launch from a new perspective.

7. “Earthquake” On March 11, when an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan many people used social media sites to make sure friends and family were safe and to publicize emergency response information.

8. “Subtitles are always so bad. England, America, Switzerland put one uv repeat Scrolling-

verfahren + = high quality!” Julia Probst, a lip reader and soccer fan, reads the lips of soccer players and coaches during matches and tweets them, providing fans with a running dialogue that they would otherwise not be privy to.

9. “Ercis central mosque behind the apartment building...” After the earthquake in Van, Turkey, news anchor Okan Bayulgen sent information via Twitter. One of his followers gave him an address where people might be trapped alive under the rubble. Bayulgen shared the address with a relief agency, and two hours later the agency rescued two people at the location.

10. “Hey @Mortons - can you meet me at the newark airport with a porthouse when I land in two hours? K, thanks. :)” After this tweet when Peter Shankman landed at the airport, a tuxedo-clad Morton's waiter was waiting for him with a steak, shrimp, a side of potatoes, bread, two napkins and silverware.

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Time is money

ONE of the first concepts we needed to learn when studying finance was that of the time value of money.

In theoretical terms it is quite easy to understand, but when practically applying it to life decisions it can be a little more complicated.

Basically the idea is that 100 dollars today is preferable to 100 dollars in a year or 10 years. The first and obvious reason is that something may happen in the time before your payment comes that could affect the ability of the other party to make good – a bankruptcy for example.

The second and more important aspect of time is that the dollar today can be invested and would be worth more next year. Thus, you always need to compare cash flows in the same time frame when making a financial decision or you are not comparing “apples and apples”.

The trick is to know what rate of return to use for the “discount” either to the present value or to a future value. For example, if you could get five per cent simply by putting the money relatively risk free into a bank account, then your 100 dollars today would be worth 105 dollars in one year. 100 dollars

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

paid to you next year would in fact only be worth 95.24 (rounded to the nearest penny) in “today’s dollars”.

Obviously when trying to value a whole string of future cash flows, both going in or out, the math can get a bit complicated. Without needing any fancy formulas though, you can simply plug each year’s cash flow into an excel spreadsheet and convert to a common time, then add them up.

It could be a business such as a coffee shop or guesthouse, or a financial investment such as a bond which pays annual coupon payments, but you should always try to make sure you account for the time value of money when considering investments. Keep in mind that someone trying to sell you their business may not be 100 per cent accurate in giving you their cash flows, so I would always look at a variety of scenarios, such as 25 per cent or 50 per cent of what they tell you, and see if it still makes financial sense.

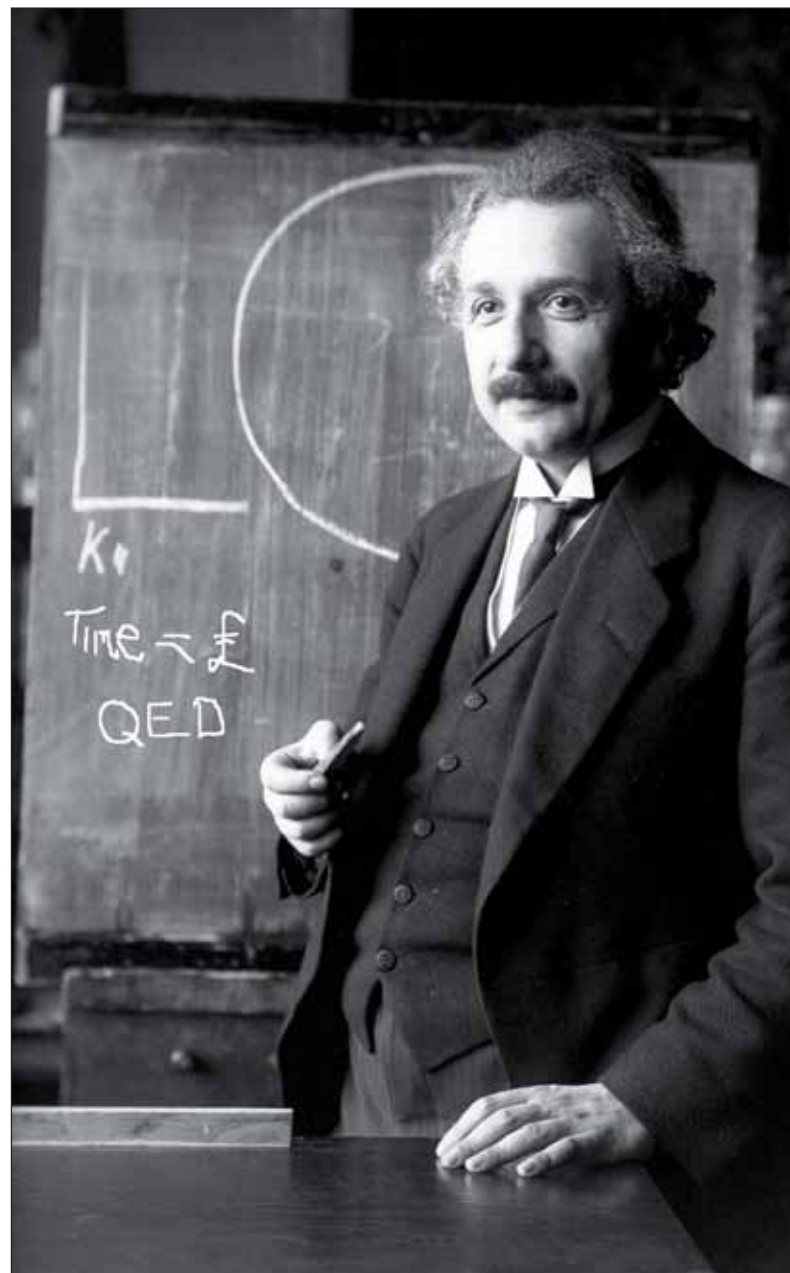
You don’t need to be a math

whiz to convert cash flows into one time frame, however if you have trouble with these sorts of things, you can always get an accountant to do a net present value for you and if they are any good this should be simple and cheap.

The results are often surprising, such as when considering the net present value of a string of payments in a defined benefits pensions scheme. The absolute value of payments going out 30 years or more may seem like a large amount, but when converted back into today’s terms it often isn’t worth very much at all.

I have done a lot of these recently when looking into pension transfers and even after doing these calculations until I was bored to tears during my days at business school, I still have to go back and check for mistakes and sometimes I am surprised at how small a net present value ends up being in certain scenarios.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be contacted at T: 0853358573 or E: david.m@faramond.com.



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Tourism 2011: 'It was what it was'

A look back at the roller-coaster ride that Phuket's tourism industry rode from start to finish in 2011

By Stephen Michael Fein

THE past year was marked by an ever faster and more furious flow of information as mankind continues its hair-raising ride on the crest of a digital technology wave.

Here in Phuket, of course, all events – local, national and global – are inevitably viewed through the narrow prism of local “tourism development”.

With each passing event that either helped or hindered tourism to Phuket, the more experienced local businessfolk on the island repeated their mantra: “It is what it is.”

Despite the tragedy in Japan early in the year and more recently the unprecedented flooding in the lower central plains, Phuket's tourism figures for 2011 were strong. Arrivals at Phuket Airport were up year-on-year in October and November, during the height of the floods. This was attributed to an increase in direct flights to Phuket from abroad as well as from Bangkokians trying to flee floodwaters. Arrivals and departures at Phuket Airport were set to top eight million for the first time, with long queues at Customs and Immigration as a result.

The Phuket Commercial Affairs Office revealed that the number of tourists arriving in Phuket during the first 10 months 2011 increased year-on-year, while financial statistics showed foreign up by more than 60 per cent.

Despite the locally unpopular Pheu Thai Party winning the general election in May, plans to boost the island's tourism infrastructure continued apace led largely by private investment.

In Phuket, perhaps the best indication is the number of new hotels, guesthouses and other tourism-related businesses that sprang up along Phang Muang Sai Kor Road behind Jungceylon in Patong.

Chief among developments in 2011 was the ongoing plan to expand passenger throughput capacity at Phuket Airport to accommodate up to 12.5 million travellers by 2014. By year's end there was also more talk of expanding the runway to allow the



Tuk-tuk drivers beating tourists, bus crashes, landslides on the only road over Patong Hill, and the island's original bridge to the mainland being reclaimed by pedestrians all featured heavily in the news.

largest airliners. More flights than ever flew between Phuket and the capital and other destinations in Asia, most notably China, but some regional domestic services were cut, including the Phuket-Haad Yai service by Phuket-based Happy Air.

Several new bus services were launched this year, including a “VIP” service to Chiang Mai as well as other long-haul services to points in Isarn.

On the maritime front, work is almost complete on the new Chalong Bay Marina. The 44-slip facility raises to about 1,000 the number of yachts that can be served at the island's five marinas, but this is still not enough to meet demand and the Marine Department is seeking funding to sink 300 more moorings in Chalong Bay and at Ao Por in 2012, and set up a GPS tracking system for all yachts in Phuket waters in 2013. The end of the year also saw the opening of the

new Krabi Boat Lagoon Marina. Phuket hosted yet another successful King's Cup Regatta and Superyacht Rendezvous in December, much to the delight of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Not all arriving by boat were welcome, of course. In February, 70 stateless Rohingya refugees landed ashore in Rawai. They were detained for a time, then presumably deported.

Whether by air or by sea, once here tourists without their own vehicles are still left to Phuket's world-famous public transport “system”. While tuk-tuks continued to reign supreme on the west coast, both in terms of fares and assaults on drunks, the real story of 2011 was a series of blockades by black-plate taxis of cruise ships and even US military aboard ships arriving at the Deep Sea Port.

Negotiations between cruise ship tour companies and the taxis ended with a tenable truce after the taxi drivers were guaranteed

access to a certain percentage of the passengers, yet another concession to the self-entitled transport syndicates.

While a new route was added to the award-winning *Po Thong* pink bus network in and around Phuket Town, there have been no takers in the private sector in 2011 who dare to take on available government concessions to operate hop-on, hop off bus services linking the airport with Kamala, Patong and Rawai: another battlefield victory for the taxi mafia.

Plans to free the streets of Phuket Town of lumbering inter-provincial buses remain on hold, held up by a single strand of red tape. Phuket Bus Terminal 2 on Thepkraassatri Road turned two years of age earlier this month, but has yet to serve a single passenger due to local opposition led by Rassada Mayor Suratin Lianudom.

Mayor Suratin, who happens to live right across the street, opposes breaking the median strip in

front of the station to allow buses to head north. It remains to be seen how much of an issue this will turn out to be in Mr Suratin's bid to retain the chair in the upcoming election.

Given the state of public transport on the island, it comes as no surprise that the number of vehicles on Phuket's roads continues to grow, with an inevitable rise in the number of road accidents. By mid-December, 61 motorbike riders and passengers had died in Phuket in 2011, with 28 more permanently disabled.

These figures came despite various road safety campaigns during 2011. In addition to the never-ending *mao, mai khap* (don't drink and drive) campaign, these included a “driving, don't talk on the phone” offensive and a short-lived push to stop *salaeng* (motorbikes with sidecars) from carrying passengers. Readers can judge for themselves how effective these have been.

On a more positive note, 2011 was the year when police did make a highly-publicized effort to enforce a long-ignored law requiring all motorbike riders, passengers included, don helmets. The result is that Phuket has the highest rate of helmet use in the country, at least according to the Public Health Ministry.

However, it remains unclear whether this positive result is from an initiative launched a year earlier by Phuket City Police, or just a common-sense reaction based on the above-mentioned road-accident statistics, because fatality rates in Phuket are among the highest in the country.

In terms of safety, no stretch of road in Phuket was more in the spotlight this year than Phra Barami Road, more commonly known as Patong Hill road or “Mount Mayhem”. After several dangerous sinkholes formed in recent years, one almost swallowing a car carrying the Patong Mayor, one might have thought the situation couldn't get worse – It did.

Just weeks after the completion of resurfacing work following the installation of the 9-million-baht Patong City sign, bright new lines



Phuket hosted a record-breaking mass massage on the beach.



The Tourist Police Volunteers opened an office in Chalong.



Jet-skis, for better or worse, remain popular with tourists.



Austrian Ambassador Johannes Peterlik warned Phuket's top officials of a Europe-wide travel advisory telling tourists not to use tuk-tuks;



Marine Office Chief Phuripat brokered a deal that sated local taxi drivers and cruise liners using the Deep Sea Port.



A tourist uses his iPad to record a video of a ladyboy dancing at the entrance to Soi Crocodile, on Patong's Soi Bangla. Photo: Chaiyot Yongchaicharoen

appeared and the treacherous thoroughfare was looking pretty good.

But appearance can be deceiving. Shortly thereafter two sections of the road slumped or washed away completely, leaving a dangerous situation that will persist well into 2012. The difficult work to shore up the road is now on hold, with the needed funding to come from emergency central government to repair flood-damaged areas.

There were far too many road accidents in 2011 to list comprehensively here, but some of the most tragic also occurred on the hairpin stretch of Patong Hill road at the base of the hill on the Patong side. The first, in March, claimed the life of one man and left about 40 more injured. Unlike most previous crashes, the victims this time were almost all Patong residents, who were just a few hundred



Phuket MPs Anchalee and Raywat kept their seats.

meters away after completing a week-long journey to the funeral of a revered monk in faraway Udon Thani.

The sole driver on the epic journey, who was among the injured, later disappeared and has not been heard from since.

The accidents once again raised calls in some quarters for the construction of the Patong Tunnel, but while backers insist the project will become reality there is still a long way to go due to local opposition in Ban Mon and, just as importantly, no clear indication on where the project funding would come from.

Other notable bus crashes included two in October: the first was a bus carrying Chinese tour-

ists that overturned on the Chalong-Kata Hill road, killing one and sending 29 to the hospital with injuries. Just four days later, a bus carrying 37 newly-arrived Russian tourists fresh from the airport crashed on Patong Hill, injuring many.

Just like wildebeest readying to cross a crocodile-infested river in sub-Saharan Africa, foreign tourists can be a jittery lot. It can take quite a bit to get them to take the plunge. Fortunately, there was no shortage of new attractions and events for tourists in 2011.

The end of the year saw the opening of the Siam Neramit, with a spectacular stage show glorifying Thai arts and culture, on the bypass road in Rassada. Further down the street, the September opening of the Aphrodite cabaret show opposite Tesco-Lotus will give the Simon Cabaret show in Patong a good run for its money.

Not to be out-lipsynched, the owners of Simon Cabaret have invested 100mn baht to build the Simon Star Show near Phuket Rajabhat University in Rassada. The venue is scheduled to open in January.

Another addition, again just in time for high season, was the opening of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's (OrBorJor's) Musical Fountain at Saphan Hin, which was featured at the first-ever Phuket World Musiq Festival to celebrate the 7th Cycle Birthday of HM The King.

At the north end of the island, the conversion of the old Sarasin Bridge into a pedestrian walkway was an immediate hit after its



Phuket Fun Fly captured the imagination and enthusiasm of tourists.

opening when its replacement span, the new Srisoonthorn Bridge, opened to traffic for the first time mid-year.

However, the biggest addition – literally – to the Phuket tourism constellation in 2011 was the the 45-meter-high Big Buddha image in the Nakkerd Hills of Karon, which was officially opened in 2011 after years of construction.

Late in the year the image was voted the number-one "must see" attraction in a *Gazette* online readers poll of five popular attractions, perhaps proving that after all that bigger really is better.

Another tourism mega-project that received much attention was the international convention and exhibition center planned at Tah Chat Chai. Funding for the 2.6-billion-baht project was approved by the Democrat-led government that fell in May.

Land acquired, project design set and the public hearing process virtually complete, the project stalled when its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was rejected by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental

Policy and Planning late in the year on economic and environmental grounds.

Many suspected a political fix, especially given the fact that the project was championed by Phuket's two Democrat Party MPs. Popular opinion was that the Pheu Thai Party government, reeling from the effects of the flooding, would let the project suffocate in red tape until the July 2012 deadline to sign a contract with a contractor had expired. However, good news came in early December when Cabinet threw the project a lifeline in the form of a two-year extension on the contract signing. The move assures that Phuket's dream of having such a facility, a dream that dates back two decades, will continue throughout 2012...and beyond.

Other tourist destinations scheduled to open in 2012 include the 5.4mn-baht Urak Lawoi Sea Gypsy Culture Center on Koh Sireh, construction of which is now well underway.

Extreme sports also expanded, with the eyeball-popping Phuket Sling Shot opening at JJ Plaza in

Patong. The attraction, which claims to be "The Fastest Ride in Thailand", also boasts the "Only Bumper Cars in Phuket", which might sound incredulous to daily commuters along any of the island's major arteries.

JJ Plaza itself was a story in 2011. A huge fire ravaged more than 200 stalls there in August, but by year's end it was back in business with a greater diversity of shops, including just what Patong needs: more beer bars.

Not all tourism-related businesses had a good year in 2011, however. The Crocodile & Tiger World in Phuket Town quietly closed its doors after two decades, raising the question of what happened to its 10,000 crocodiles and other wildlife.

One might keep an eye open for sale of crocodile handbags and shoes at any of the many new retail outlets that opened in 2011, including the new Tesco Talang Mall, the Big C Market in Rassada or the explosion of new mini-marts led by the rapid expansion of Super Cheap mini-marts that sprang up all over the island over the past 12 months.

Among the tourism non-starters in 2011 was a plan to build a 900mn-baht aquarium, resort and retail facility in Rawai. A dolphin show was planned as the feature attraction, but negative public opinion about the idea of holding dolphins in captivity is thought to have caused some of the investors to pull out. The developers were at last report considering other options.

Given all these developments, it is not surprising that tourism industry analyst Bhuritt Maswongsa half-seriously commented towards year end that "Phuket needs to 'shut down' for up to three years to solve all its problems."

Killing off the 'Quiet People'

MODERN man, people like us, known as Cro-Magnon, entered Europe from the Near East around 45,000 years ago.

Waiting on the scene were the Neanderthal shorter, stouter, much stronger but way less intelligent who'd had the continent to themselves for 200,000 years. A mere 15,000 years later, the last of the Neanderthals, confined to a small area around Gibraltar, died out.

Archeologist Brian Fagan addresses the question why along with how the unique attributes of Cro-Magnon man ensured his survival and eventual triumph. His book is *Cro-Magnon* (Bloomsbury Press, New York, 2011, 295), subtitled "How the Ice Age Gave Birth to the First Modern Humans".

Fagan is a facile writer, author of 24 books and editor of the *Oxford Companion to Archeology*. Though like many academics he is a bit too fond of his own voice and prone to repetition, he is the ideal person to write about what we can never know for sure.

Along with archeological evidence, he provides entertaining snapshots of enlightened speculation. He calls the Neanderthal "the Quiet People" and sees them spying from hiding on the new intruders, much as American Indian tribes did on the first Europeans.

Among the varied interactions between the two groups, one

Books

By James Eckardt

was killing. As the Cro-Magnon thrived in numbers, the Neanderthals were marginalized into extinction.

He also provides vivid scenes from his own imagination: a trio of Cro-Magnon hunters at a riverside stealing a deer that a pair of Neanderthals have long been stalking, a Cro-Magnon clan gathered at a fall campground to massacre a reindeer herd at a ford, a family in winter quarters at a cave, preparing weapons, subsisting on stored fat and setting out trap lines for Arctic fox.

While Neanderthals relied on simple thrusting spears to bring down big game, the Cro-Magnons employed a vastly superior toolkit of spear-throwers, bow and arrows, barbed harpoons, snares for small game, nets for fish, and needle and thread to fashion trousers and parkas.

"What gave the newcomers the real edge was their intellectual awareness and imagination, their ability not only to cooperate with others, as the Neanderthal did, but also to plan ahead and to think of their surroundings of a living, vibrant world," the author writes.

"This they defined with art and ritual, ceremony, chant and

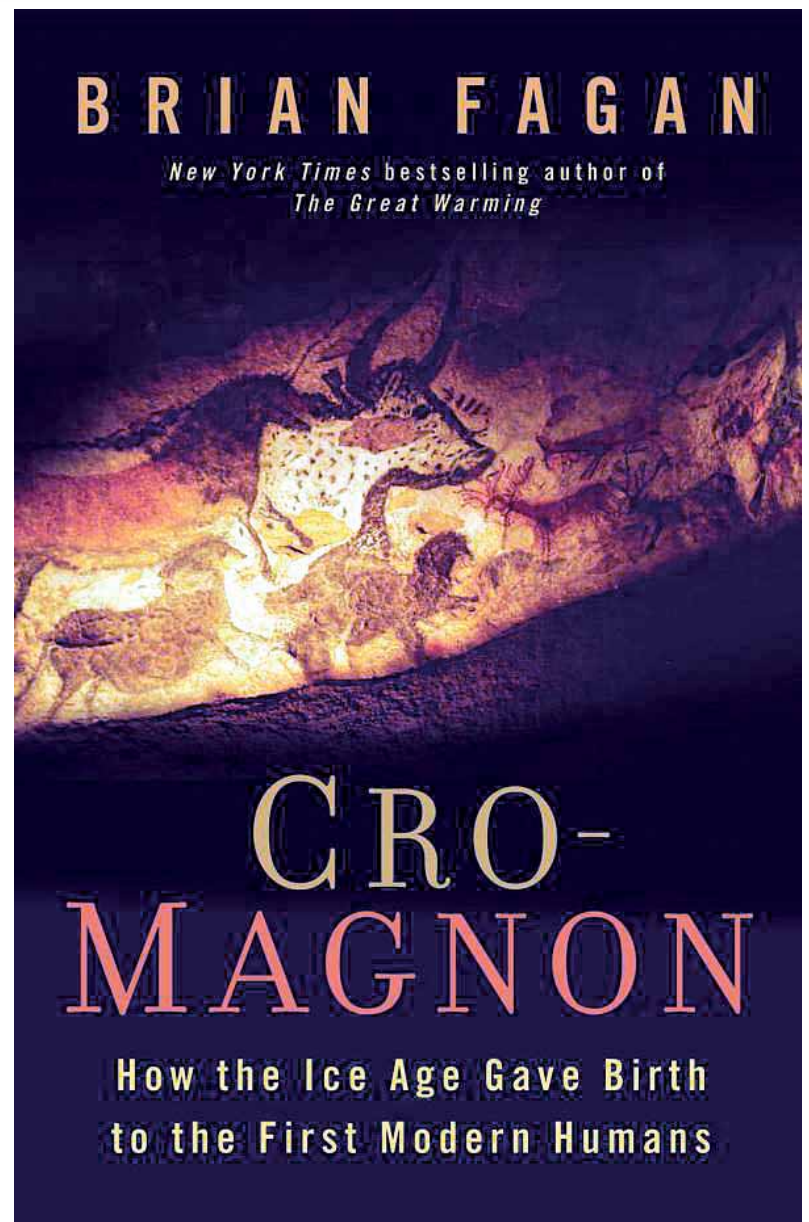
dance, which helped them ride out the punches of rapid climate change... Their imaginations, their rituals, gave them a far more important cushion against harsh environments than any technological devices."

The author provides lavish descriptions of a great many cave paintings and sculptures. They are crammed with complex supernatural symbols the meaning of which, he admits, we will never know. But our ancestors were most of all keen observers of the exotic bestiary around them: woolly mammoths, rhinoceros, lions, aurochs, bison, wild boars, reindeer.

"The Cro-Magnon surrounded themselves with depictions of the most challenging and formidable members of the bestiary, some of whom were too dangerous to be stable prey."

It's a mistake to think of Cro-Magnon art as being confined to caves and other places far from daylight. Every hunter carried a small arsenal of more permanent weapons that he decorated for himself, perhaps with slashed lines or geometric or curved patterns or with depictions of the animals that surrounded him on every side."

As the years passed, populations increased and art became more ornate. People maintained a traditional cycle of hunting camps during summers and



caves in wintertime.

"For all their artistic genius, we know nothing of the full pageantry of their life: the colors, the smells, the chanting, flutes, drums and dancing that was, undoubtedly a rich and essential ceremonial life," the author notes.

In their underground dwellings they left painted evidence "of the complex spiritual beliefs that were a buffer between the living and the powerful forces of

the supernatural".

Some caves were inhabited for many thousands of years, but with the coming of agriculture and domesticated animals, the clans eventually abandoned them for permanent year-round settlements.

The caves were left in darkness for many more thousands of years before their descendants would rediscover them and wonder at what their amazing ancestors had wrought.

A Game of Shadows is afoot

Film

Director: Guy Ritchie

Actors: Robert Downey Jr, Jude Law, Noomi Rapace, Jared Harris, Eddie Marsan, Stephen Fry

Genre: Action/Adventure/Thriller

Phuket Release: December 22



THE setting is Europe at the brink of The Great War, with many seemingly unconnected events occurring across nations. Sherlock Holmes (Downey Jr.) believes it to be the work of the brilliant Professor James Moriarty (Jared Harris) and again enlists the help of his sidekick, Watson (Law), to help him uncover the truth, before it is too late.

With a stronger plot and a significantly more interesting villain, "A Game of Shadows" outdoes its predecessor in many respects. There are lots of action scenes that keep the film exciting and keep the film running at a constant, fast pace. The action sequences are louder,

more explosive, and much more energetic than those of its predecessor. The action scenes are a real spectacle, again employing great camera work and slow-motion that intensifies the battles. Once again, we have a mystery that really messes with your head and, as Sherlock once put it, even the smallest detail has a good value of information. Moriarty proves to be Sherlock's intellectual equal, which further raises the challenge for our dear detective.

As with almost all Guy Ritchie films, A Game of Shadows is technically strong, incredibly detailed and intricately crafted. And not forgetting Hans Zimmer's powerful score that's a natural companion piece from the first film.

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Phuket jet-skis on the rise

PHUKET: The Phuket Marine Office has decided to take it easy on jet-ski rental operators who haven't registered their jet-skis, the quarterly meeting of Phuket's honorary consuls was told at Phuket Provincial Hall yesterday.

"Since we started managing jet-ski rental operations in 2007, we have had 219 jet-skis [for rent]. We are still trying to control the number of jet-skis [for rent]. However, we have found 70 jet-skis that are unregistered," Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut told the consuls.

The Marine Office is not planning to take legal action against the offending jet-ski operators, but instead has asked them to cooperate with his office's efforts, he said.

The 70 jet-skis are planned to be brought into the system and registered under a specially created category with the Phuket Marine Office.

"Also, the jet-skis will be registered for particular zones, which means that jet-skis being rented out in Patong cannot be used in other areas," he added.

The primary aim of the move is to be able to make sure that all rental jet-skis in Phuket are covered by first-class insurance, said Chief Phuripat.

Phuket jet-ski operators with unregistered jet-skis will not be punished, in the hope they will join a scheme and get first-class insurance.

Phuket Regatta to start in early December

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Where the seafood's @

On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

KAN Eang @ Pier is a Phuket institution and has been so for more than 30 years. Originally called 'Kan Eang 1', this famous Phuket seafood restaurant underwent a major renovation and name change in 2007. The sprawling grounds stretch more than 200 meters along Chalong Bay just south of the pier and here you'll find several al-fresco and air-conditioned eating spaces, a dessert section and a bar – all of which enjoy views of the busy pier and the moored yachts in the bay to the north.

The natural shade afforded by the grounds' leafy tropical almond trees, along with brisk sea breezes ensures that this is a comfort zone. In short, Kan Eang is a class act and a seafood lover's nirvana. Squid, red snapper, tuna, salmon, catfish, cockles, lobster, crab, shellfish, shrimp, oysters, sea cucumbers, octopus, tiger prawns, king prawns, cuttlefish, you name it; if it swims Kan Eang serves it up with panache and if fish fingers could swim they'd be on the menu, too.

One of the most singular characteristics of this restaurant is that for grilling it uses coconut husks instead of charcoal so the kitchen area is redolent of fragrant husks – and that lends a certain charm.

Located on what was previously a sleepy Chalong soi, nowadays Soi Sunrise (so-named because it faces due east) is the sort of street that sailors cannot walk along without all sorts of



SETTING THE TABLE: Kan Eang@Pier offers stunning views of the pier and moored yachts as well as fantastic seafood.

exotic delights being offered but thankfully Kan Eang distances itself from such temptations and sticks to what it's good at: gastronomic aquatic delights. Mind you, who's to say that a bit of rumpy-pumpy and seafood don't mix? After all, they say Casanova ate more than 50 oysters a day.

Worldwide, seafood represents some 16 per cent of animal protein consumed but surely this statistic is much higher in Phuket, where guzzling marine creatures is near the top on the must-do list of many visitors' itineraries.

On arrival at Kan Eang, one of the first impressions diners get is of smiling waiters walking around talking to themselves; a bizarre touch, to be sure, but on closer inspection, it turns out they're taking orders and relaying them to the kitchen staff via clever hands-free-mike-and-touch-

screen setups. We're shown to our table next to the restaurant's recent extension that makes this – probably the biggest restaurant in Phuket (it has 500 outside and 350 inside covers) – even bigger, yet the wonder of it all is that Kan Eang has none of the "pack-'em-in" feel so apparent at other east coast seafood restaurants; the service, led by the excellent Khun Ching and Khun Joe, is decidedly personal.

Minutes later, we're tucking into a "water weed" with shrimp tempura (120 baht), fresh oysters with garnish (90 baht for two) and spanking-fresh sliced tiger prawns on a bed of ice (180 baht 100gms) along with a typical Phuket dish – *hor mok* (steamed fish curry mousse wrapped in a banana leaf which costs 25 baht per parcel). It's all delectable and definitely not

for red meat lovers, although diners can easily order a red beefy steak from the adjacent Vset restaurant. The happy juice, a light, very reasonably priced Pays d'Oc rosé, is sourced from those clever people at Wine Connection, who have an on-site shop.

A live jazz trio kicks in and what with all the first-rate service, varied dishes, reasonable prices and a rosé buzz, the evening is a memorable one and extremely enjoyable, not least of all because Kan Eang is a relaxing place to be where there's no rushed atmosphere, no visible tour bus crowds, and a lot of class: Recommended.

Kan Eang @ Pier 44/1 Viset Road Moo 5 Rawai. Open daily: 07:30 – last orders 10:30, T: 076-381212 E: sales@kaneang-pier.com



Guzzling marine creatures is near the top of the list of many visitors' itineraries.



SEAFOOD BASKET: Spanking fresh as always at Kan Eang@Pier.



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Ingenious forms of jeans

From Daisy Dukes to hippy flares, denim continues to influence fashion

By Abby McMillan

EVERYONE has their favorite go-to pair of jeans, great for weekends and perfect for an array of casual events.

Denim is a classic material that is versatile and flattering for every age, figure, gender or style. It's always changing and giving us new reasons to fall in love with it again and again.

No matter the era or the season, denim will feature within a trend. Two years ago we saw a huge skinny jean wave hit the main stream. This sleek look evolved last year to include a rainbow of colors from hot pink to lemon yellow. Jeggings

(stretch leggings that look just like tight jeans) were all the craze as the skinny jean reigned on.

This year, the boys seem to be keeping colored denim alive, going far beyond the basic blues. Their look is usually fitted or flared, paired with a favorite T or a vintage cowboy shirt if something collared is desired.

Go monochrome head-to-toe to really emphasize the colored jean look. With one spin of the color wheel you can show people you don't have to have the blues when choosing this favorite trouser.

The ladies on the other hand have traded in length for daytime shorts in traditional worn-

in blue hues, showing some skin and looking just as cool as they hope to feel. But don't expect to see frayed Daisy Dukes making a comeback any time soon. Cut-offs have been given a mature update with a double-cuff, giving these classic blues a cleaner edge.

Baggy tops are still hot this season but with an unexpected, airy twist- crochet! These tops are far from old fashioned though - from cropped to sheer, cream to pastel, they are the perfect companion to vintage denim bottoms. The allure of this look is best achieved with a small camisole showing underneath.

While donning this girl-next-door look, keep

accessories at a minimum. Dainty silver and turquoise pieces can really enhance denim's style. A handmade leather bag will prove an excellent sidekick. A big floppy hat can make any normal day feel like a holiday while natural make-up and easy-going sandals seal the deal.

Keep your eyes open for new upcoming trends with this enduring wardrobe favorite. Patch-working details are starting to replace old rips and holes, evidence of a shift in the fashion world from rocker to indie. Denim dresses are popping up more and more as the jean skirt gets pushed to the back of the closet. There's no telling what forms denim will take on next.



COOL MAN: Men seem to be keeping the colored denim trend alive.



DOUBLES: A double cuff gives denim shorts a mature update.



PURPLE HAZE: Monochrome head to toe emphasizes the fun of colored denim.



GREAT GENES: Simple accessories give this look a relaxed feel.

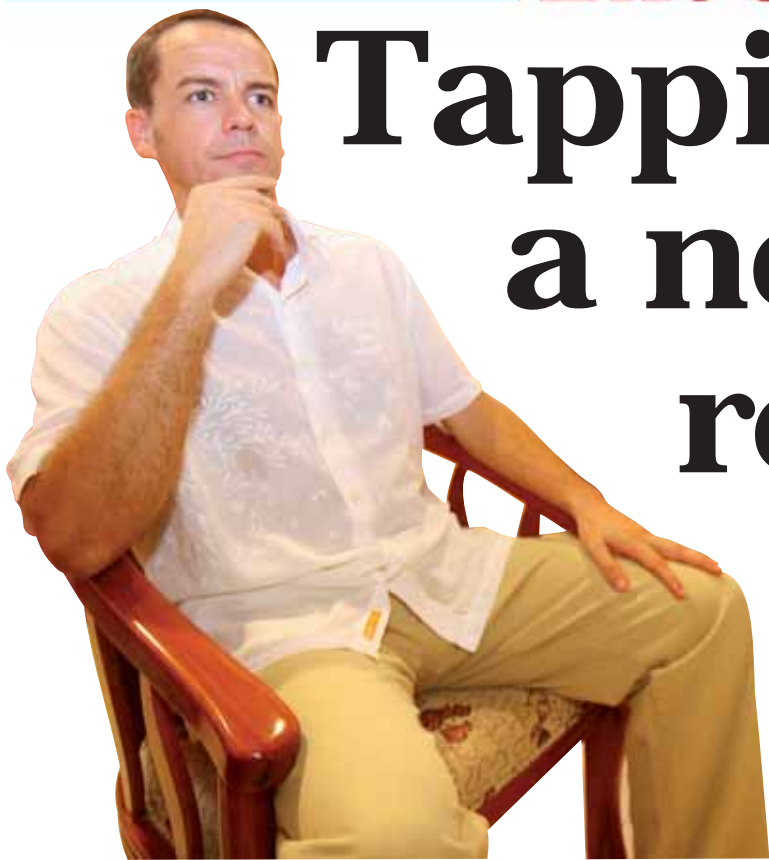
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EURO CREATIONS



A pensive Tim Robbins. Photos: Fraser Morton

By Fraser Morton

MY EYELIDS are pinched together as the man taps repeatedly on my throat with his fingers.

There's no pain. The tapping stops, there's a shift in the room and I can feel him now sitting across from me, a few feet away, staring at me, studying my expression.

He says nothing, just sits silently and waits for me to take another drink of the poison in my hand. I do. The taste is revolting. It's like someone peed into a beer can. Even the can feels uneasy in my grip, coated in an invisible lacquer of foulness.

I want to drop it. The last sip is the worst. There's a gag reflex somewhere in my throat, but I manage to keep it down. I open my eyes. I am back in a small office in Chalong.

Thirty-four-year old Briton, Tim Robbins, is smiling back at me looking pleased with himself. He sits straight-backed, wearing white linen attire and no shoes. We both know that something out of the ordinary had just happened. He has distorted my perception of what beer tastes like. He has ruined

beer for me. He is a genius. Thirty minutes earlier, he ruined cigarettes for me. How does he do it?

That was five months ago, and that was the only Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) session I had with Tim. It's all I needed to sideline cigarettes from my life, although they do still loiter somewhere in my field of subconscious. I am still wary of every beer after that day. I still smell pee sometimes when I think of beer.

Like I said, Tim ruined beer for me, but I did ask him to. It was research for this story. A form of psychotherapy, EFT is also known as "tapping" due to practitioners' using two fingers (index and middle) to tap on emotional blockages on the body. In my case, the blockage Tim was trying to help me with was my addiction to nicotine, but we also did an experiment with beer, which produced amusing but foul-tasting results.

EFT is based on the idea that energy flows around the body on meridian lines, which can become blocked by negative emotions. The tapping follows the same principles as acupuncture to release energy, but without needles. By Tim tapping on my throat, or wherever I felt an emotional response to a subject we were discussing – cigarettes, alcohol – he was able to hone in on a blockage

(mainly in my throat) and tap on it while saying aloud his EFT mantra.

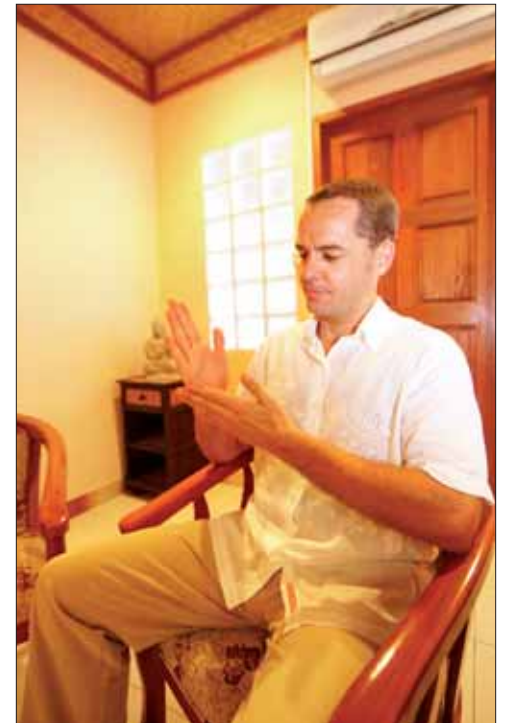
At the end of one session, I no longer felt the need to pick up a cigarette and the thought of beer made me want to vomit. EFT derives from Thought Field Therapy (TFT) of the 1980s, morphed from Kinesiology. Both fields are evolutions of ancient Eastern meridian energy techniques, dating back to 1000 BC. But don't roll your eyes just yet. It works.

Professional golfers on the US PGA are tapping; health boards in the UK use it to treat trauma patients and the www beats with the sound of a million followers spreading the word of the tapping movement. It can help with disturbing emotional blockages which can cause physical pain, anxiety, depression, phobias and – yes – addictions.

New Year is always tough. Self-help books with titles like *Stop Smoking Now*, or *Managing Your Career in 10 Easy Steps* are on the lips of people catching the New Year's bug. This article is part of the resolutions crowd, too. I acknowledge that. I deplore people telling me what to do, or how to live my life, and I guess you are the same. That is not the intention. The intention is to – well – let you know that this technique, the one they call EFT, is here in Phuket if you want to smash the hell out of a few emotional blockages you never knew you had.

If you are going to buy into the "lets-be-that-person-I've-always-wanted-to-be" gush, then there are far worse ways to spend an hour than with Tim.

In one session with him I cried, thought



HEALING HANDS: The technique Tim uses is also being tapped by sports professionals.

beer was pee, almost vomited, laughed, thanked him, felt a million times better about myself, and most importantly, no longer felt the need to smoke.

Just saying...it's an interesting way to spend an hour. Happy New Year.

If you would like to find out more about about EFT on Phuket, contact Tim through his website at timrobbins.net.

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Phuketians' top 10 realsolutions for 2012

1. Visit a beach at least once this year.
2. Eat papaya salad with the black crabs.
3. Stop *waiing* pretty waitresses.
4. Learn two Thai phrases, three Korean, four Chinese and five Russian.
5. Try to eat durian.
6. To never again dump a whole container-full of Prickly Heat powder in the washing machine thinking that it would just save time.
7. With beer – promise to give up the bar-girl chaser.
8. Learn to spell realsolution.
9. Learn the meaning of resolution.
10. To stop teaching my 6-year-old every profanity in the English language while cursing brain-dead *salaeng* drivers, aggressive passenger van operators, mafioso in Fortuners and motorcycle maniacs that we are forced to "share" the roads with.



Oraual Paethong

ORAUAL Paethong looks cool and fresh in a blue floral-printed blouse.

As she *wais* me, her gentle demeanour belies the fact that this is the lady who single-handedly established and runs the successful Taurus Travels Company, in Patong.

Oraual started her tourism career at 21 years old, during which time she already had her life plan mapped out.

"My precise plan was to move through the ranks of tour companies, each time more prestigious than the last, and to have my own business and a lot of money by the time I reached 50 years old."

All of these aims were fulfilled when she turned 40, a decade years earlier than planned.

Twenty years ago, when the company she worked for, Phuket Pacific Leisure (PPL), was winding down its business here, Oraual, undeterred by the impending redundancy, spotted an opportunity that would change her life. She bought one of PPL's offices in Patong and opened her own agency.

"I worked very hard to get IATA accreditation. The business was brisk as there were very few competitors. Technology was not as it is today so people needed the kinds of services I had to offer."

Indeed, Oraual is renowned for her sharp business mind; she could

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

work out the most complex of travelling routes and fish out the best hotel deals.

Business prospered and she was elected to the board committee of the Phuket Tourist Association in the late 1990s. Then followed a period in which a series of disasters dealt several blows to the tourism industry – Thailand's economic crisis, the events of 9/ 11, SARS, and finally the tsunami tragedy in 2004.

One of Oraual's jobs, to revive the tourism business, was to help set up the Phuket Tourism Recovery Center and convince the Bank of Thailand to take over a barrage of tour companies' debts thereby lowering lending rates and helping save many businesses from going bust.

With these achievements already behind her and the ticketing business running itself, Oraual turned to another enterprise. In the early 2000s she bought two old shop houses in Patong, renovated them and turned them into a hip boutique-style hotel. Amanta House's 10 rooms were richly decorated in the Sino-Portuguese tradition.

All the rooms had different styles and colour schemes. Oraual worked with a French interior designer and together they created a unique space long before boutique hotels were fashionable.

"I had so much fun doing up this hotel, but hated having to pay back the bank so in the end I had to sell. I don't regret it though – I had the experience of doing it and that was enough for me."

With another of life's achievements ticked off, Oraual now turns to organic farming and dreams of having a piece of land somewhere where she can get her hands dirty digging and growing rice and vegetables. For now, the lack of space compels her to cultivate mushrooms in her own shower.

"I am inspired by His Majesty the King's concept of sufficiency economy and want to eat what I grow. I long to use my hands to do something tangible. I've even ventured into furniture making and am now being trained by a top-notch carpenter in Bangkok. My first project is to make a *too kap kao* (a Thai-style food cupboard), inspired by an old Thai design."

We will see what is next for this soft-spoken but determined lady who, in her own words, "never refuses any of life's callings".



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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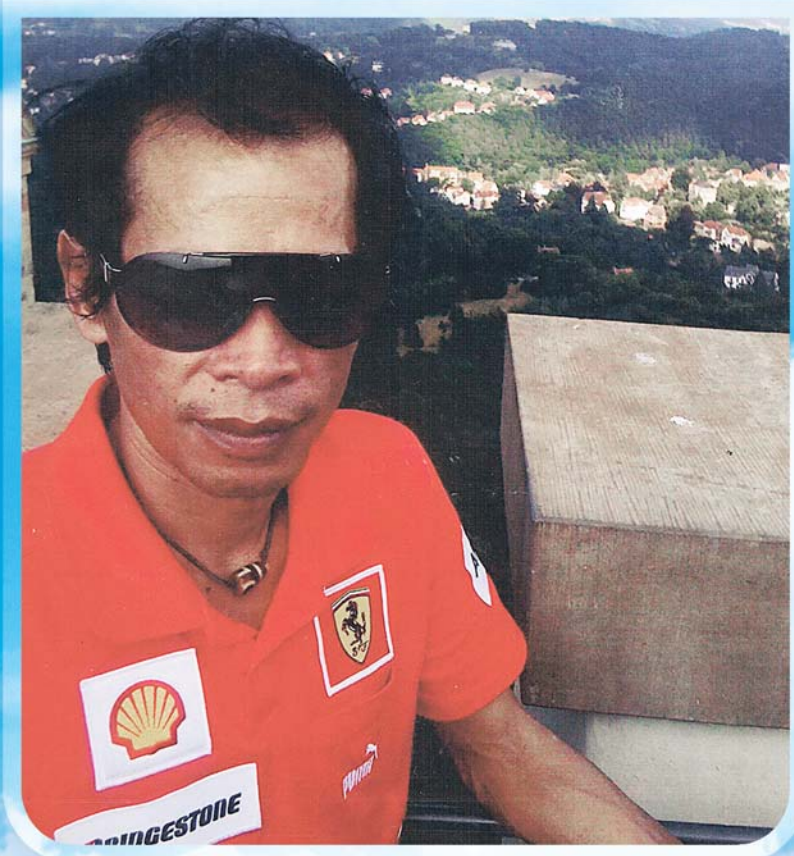
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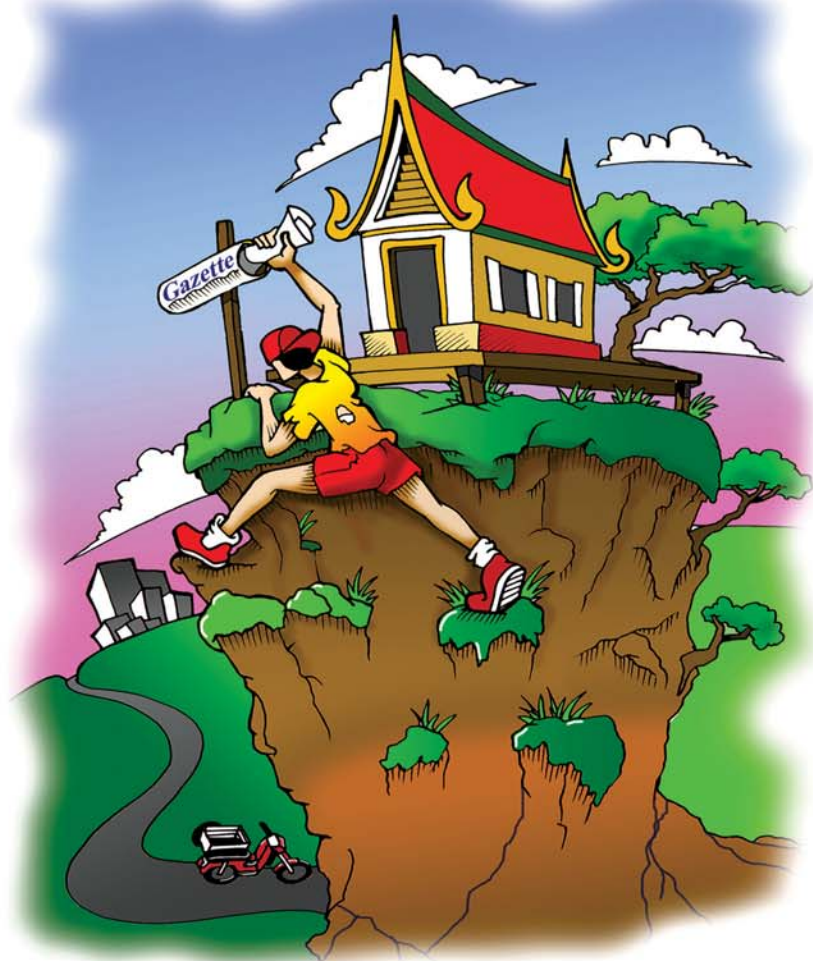
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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 30 to 31. Phuket Electronic Music and Dance Festival 2011

This two-day festival from 7pm to 2am at Karon Beach that will showcase an exciting line-up of more than 30 DJs from both Thailand and around the world. Top Thailand-based DJs include Jay Montonn Jira and Dome Pakorn Lum, Mark Brain, Slick and Domination, winner of the Best Video DJ of the World Contest in Dubai 2011. Fashion TV, the world's Number One fashion and life style channel and co-organizer, will feature this exciting event through their channel to audiences around the world. This mega-event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and partner Blue Wave 90.5FM, the island's main radio station. Contact Nan at 086-3405600, media1.rakchatgroup@gmail.com.

December 31 and January 1. New Years Eves

THAILAND: This is a public holiday in Thailand.

December 31. New Year @ Two Chefs restaurant!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Two Chefs are celebrating New Year's Eve with a four course dinner starting with a Carpaccio of Pepper Smoked Pork Tenderloin, Classic Lobster Soup flavored with Brandy and Saffron, Cognac Flambé Beef Tenderloin served with a creamy Chanterelle Mushroom Sauce, Butter Sautéed Asparagus and a Potato Pie. OR Scampi Flambé in Calvados served with a Champagne and Pink Pep-

per Sauce, Sautéed Green Asparagus and Potato Pie, Raspberry & Blueberry Tart with Homemade Vanilla Sauce. Only 1,295 baht for this menu. So what are you waiting for? Hurry up and make your reservation before it's fully booked. From 5pm to 2am at Two Chefs restaurant. Reservation at 076-330065, info@twochefs-phuket.com or visit twochefs.com.

December 31. New Years Eve Dinner Buffet and Party @ Friendship Beach

This year we are presenting a variety of wonderful entertainment. Live music with Maa Baan (funky, jazzy world beat) and a special opera performance by Andrew Snape (9-10pm). Then dance the night away with DJ Bobby D. Spectacular fireworks display, free champagne at midnight, party favors and of course our fabulous holiday buffet featuring imported fillet of beef, grilled salmon filet, award-winning BBQ ribs and a large assortment of appetizers, sides and desserts. Adults: 1,600 baht ++. Children under 12: 450 baht ++. From 7 pm to 12:30 am at Friendship Beach Waterfront Resort, Rawai beach. Contact Charlie at 089-7285304, chef@friendshipbeach.com or visit friendshipbeach.com.

January 6 and 13. Special Promotion for Indian Feast

Royal Phuket Marina is pleased to

introduce you to our new Special Friday Indian Feast. We are delighted to offer a 25 per cent discount on the Indian Buffet and 10 per cent off the listed menu on Friday nights. This Authentic Homemade Indian Buffet will be prepared and served by our very own in-house Indian Chef, Padum Kahtri. Only 495++ baht per person. From 7 to 10pm at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

January 6 and 13. Curry Fridays

We present Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant from 7 to 11pm in Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet on Friday only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservations at 076-286464 ext 4, sm@karonseasand.com or visit karonseasand.com.

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HANGER ON: A flying Hanuman at err... 'Flying Hanuman'.

HUMANS AND HANUMANS: Khun Wanlee and her daughter with Hanuman.



NATIVITY SPEAKERS: The kids at Kajonkiet International School Phuket put on a Christmas play.



I BELIEVE I CAN FLY: Khun Wanlee and her family and friends at the official launch of the 'Flying Hanuman' jungle experience. Photos: PhuketBESTEVENT



FESTIVAL DESIGNERS: John Underwood (left) and Michael Earle at the opening of the ThinkDesign art festival.

BORN FREE: Aleenta Resorts Founder, Anchali Kijkanakorn, releases a turtle at their recent 'Help Save Marine Life' charity dinner.



SWIRL GIRL: Sejal Sood mixes dancing with painting at the recent ThinkDesign art festival.

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TSUNAMI MEMORIAL 2011

On the seventh anniversary of the tsunami that struck Thailand and other coastal regions, commemorative events were held at the Wall of Remembrance and along Patong Beach.



The Light Up Phuket memorial service was attended by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, PPAO President Paiboon Upatising and Dutch Honorary Consul in Phuket, Seven Smulders, among others.



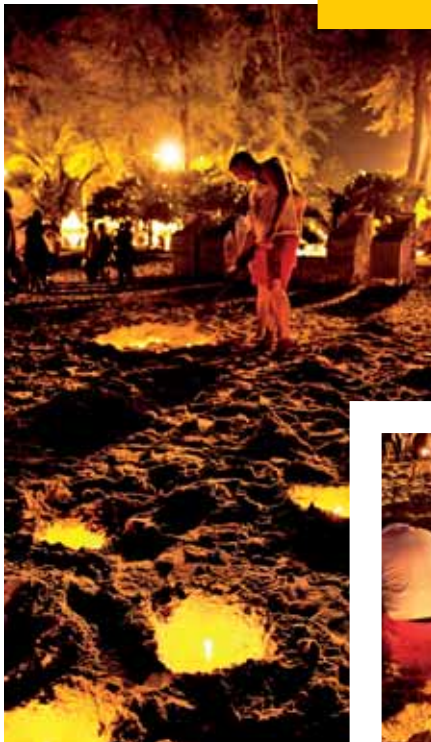
The Wall of Remembrance has a flag for each country that lost citizens to the tsunami.



Mrs Cindy Bratton and Mr Dana at the Wall of Remembrance.



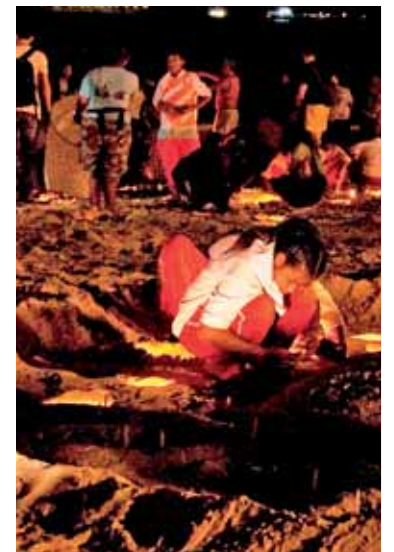
Wreathes were laid at Loma Park.



Thai floating lanterns were also released.



Despite strong winds candles were lit along the beach.



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GAZETTE CONNECT QUIZ

There is a single connection between all the quiz answers. Can you get it before the last question?

- Which country's capital is Valletta?
- Which body of water lies between Sweden and Estonia?
- Who sang the song *Stand by Your Man*?
- What is the name of powerful, warm and swift current that originates at the tip of Florida and crosses the Atlantic Ocean to heavily influence UK climate?
- Which organ on a fish is used for propulsion?
- Which striker signed to Liverpool from Ajax in 2007?
- According to the Bible, whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she turned and looked back at Sodom?
- Who in 1980 successfully stormed the Iranian Embassy to rescue seven hostages?
- What is the name of the peninsular that encompasses Andorra, Spain and Portugal?
- What is the connection between the answers to the above nine questions?

What's the connection between all of the answers?

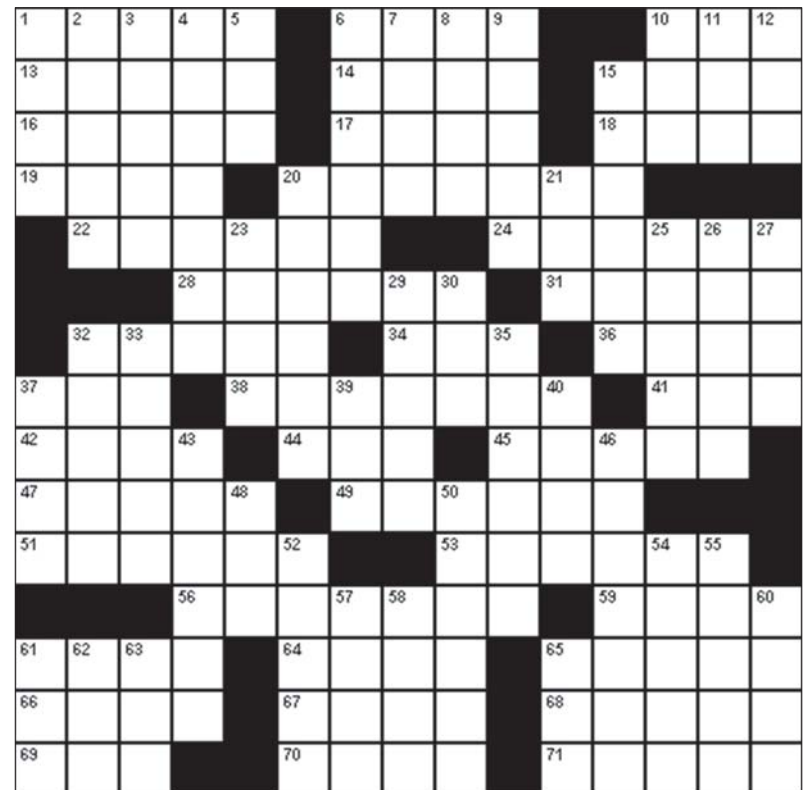
Quiz answers on page 41

Across

- Instruct
- Asleep
- Actress Charlotte
- Chilean pianist Claudio
- Go it alone
- Drum sound
- Either of two Chinese dynasties
- Spahn teammate
- How sweet -- !
- Biting
- Lighter-than-air craft
- Straightens
- Haunt
- Beethoven's Third
- Dull finish
- Radioactive gas
- Form of poem
- Come again?
- Pro -- --
- Large-leaved European elm
- Decade divs.
- The -- Dead*
- Fannie -- --
- Bridal path
- Tricks
- Grab
- Lipton competitor
- Approached
- Sieves
- As previously given, in footnotes
- Like some juries
- Famous last words
- Madonna role
- Analogy words
- Official records
- John Brown's Body* poet
- --jong
- Author Silverstein
- Proclaim noisily

Down

- Currency unit in Western Samoa
- Author Jong
- Thin as -- --
- Incrusted with sugar
- Embrace
- Birthplace of St Francis
- Male swine
- Some Ivy Leaguers



- Tiny Bubbles* singer
- Balderdash
- "Rope-a-dope" boxer
- Golfer Ernie
- Special saw
- Assumed name
- Maker of "Deep Blue" chess master
- Increase in size
- Antiknock fluid
- Blank look
- Goes down
- Rumsfeld's predecessor
- Citrus cooler
- Theatrical entertainment

- Not quite right
- Thrills
- Sea swallow
- in Charlie
- Flaky mineral
- Releases
- Wither
- Brief instant
- Yearly
- Bailiwicks
- Liberian port, named after Edinburgh
- Discourage
- Draw with acid
- Kitchen addition
- Spouse
- God, biblically
- Between Canada and Mexico
- Advanced degree?
- Backward tidal movement

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
Puzzle solutions on page 41

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): There are signs that a New Year resolution could be compromised by news this week. Those who thought they had a clear idea of where life was taking them will be looking at options. The stars predict more free time after a busy first few months. With romance, commitment is highlighted for late 2012. Those celebrating a birthday in the days ahead should become more flexible in the coming year. The number 3 is lucky this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are raring to go in new business as 2012 begins. Tuesday and Wednesday are auspicious days to present your ideas to those with influence. Work is well-starred for 2012, with positive focus on property. Be more realistic and you will earn respect from colleagues. Complications in relationships could cause problems mid-year, but true love will win the day. The number 9 can bring good fortune this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Where work is concerned, Pisces who missed the boat in 2011 should have ample opportunity to

get on board in the year ahead. More confidence and several strokes of good luck are starred. Expect a fire sign to result in a lucrative offer in early 2012. You will seek more romantic independence. Hooking up with a water sign late in the year is highlighted. Think "lucky number 2" this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians are forecast to more easily balance responsibilities and relaxation in 2012. Your instincts should be very sharp for the first half of the year, especially your ability to separate time wasters from people who can help you reach success. Money matters will be subject to compromise during the third quarter. Be clear with business partners to avoid being pinched. In romance, do not to spend too much time away from a committed partner. The number 4 is lucky for you this week.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Progress is forecast for early 2012. Your creative energy will flow, leading to more earning power. Joining forces with an earth sign can result in success later in the year. Single Taureans will meet a water sign late 2012. This may mean that relocation. Money mat-

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

ters are better starred than in 2011. It appears future financial security is within sight. The number 1 brings good fortune this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): 2012 is auspicious for business and finance, but do not leave loose ends. Pay attention to detail as others could take advantage of you. It is likely you will keep your distance from an air sign who has been cramping your style at work. Finances improve later in the year. Romantic commitments could be made too quickly in the last quarter. Your lucky number this week is 8.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Avoid blowing things out of proportion, and there is much happiness and satisfaction on offer in 2012. Wait until later in the year to make major changes in your life. Explore opportunities to enrich your existence, particularly on a social level. Work is challenging in January and February. Don't be pushed into de-

cisions. Love comes when least expected, about June. The number 5 is lucky this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos' are forecast to shine. Some of you may have to wait to find your dream job. Water signs will be helpful in showing the way, but an earth sign's tips may lead to disappointment. Those hoping to be reunited with a lost love could see this happen. Long-term financial planning becomes feasible in the last months of 2012. Your lucky number is 6.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Co-operate with others in 2012. Your stubbornness could prevent progress, particularly early in the year. At work, an earth sign is ready to meet you halfway in January and this person can open doors to success later in the year. Romance with an air sign could encourage a move to distant shores in July or August. The last quarter of the year will be the most profitable. Your lucky number is 2.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Having weathered a turbulent past year, calmer astral conditions set the scene for more security and relaxation. Starting a new business

may bring rewards and more job satisfaction. In romance, those who have shunned commitment could have a change of heart. Finances are better starred during late 2012. Your lucky number this week is 8.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Saving for a rainy day becomes a priority. Focusing on your own needs is highlighted in the next three months and this could trigger disagreements in a romantic relationship. Those who are single are likely to see that their expectations have been unrealistic. Family problems demand attention in the last quarter. The number 5 can bring good fortune this week.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Enjoy the simple pleasures of life in 2012. Those who found it hard to stay in one place this year will find peace at home. Family and friends become more important during the first half of the year and you will find it easier to accept that people have different opinions. Investments are not well starred until the last quarter. Casual romantic relationships will be left behind and finding true love is highlighted during January and February. Your lucky number this week is 1.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

PIA expansion set to bring 12.5mn visitors

Superjumbo passenger planes will be able to take advantage of a planned 700 meter extension to the current runway at Phuket's airport

PHUKET International Airport will be able to receive 12.5 million visitors per year by 2014 following a planned 5.7 billion-baht expansion, Thailand's deputy transport minister told reporters during a recent visit to the island.

Kittisakdi Hathasongkorh said the airport's runway would be lengthened by 700 meters to allow the new generation of "superjumbos", the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747-8, to fly to the island from Europe.



Deputy transport minister Kittisakdi Hathasongkorh in Phuket.

Passenger-terminal capacity will also need to be expanded in order to cope with the larger arrival numbers projected over coming years, he said.

The plan to extend the runway was approved by the government and Airports of Thailand (AoT) in May 2008. Extending the runway is not expected to be a straightforward task. It is bounded at one end by the sea and at the other by jungle-covered hills. The project will therefore require either land reclamation in the sea or the levelling of the hills using explosives.

Mr Kittisakdi said there would need to be further public consultation to decide on the best approach.

He was speaking after receiving a tour of Phuket International Airport's air-traffic control center.

The minister also discussed the island's strategy for managing air traffic with related officials.

Present at the meeting were Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Aeronautical Radio of Thailand (AEROTHAI) Managing Director Prajak Sajjasophon and Phuket Air Traffic Control chief Sompon Phetprasit. — *Phuket Gazette*



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2011
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BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY: The capital city of Bangkok has cool weather as one of the seasonal treats there at this time of year. and can be pretty cheap to get to as well. Photo: Mike Behnken

Rocking or rolling this season?

WHENEVER anyone mentions 'The Rock' I am always inclined to think of that other island just off the dock by the bay – Alcatraz. Certainly there is little resemblance between that former maximum security prison island and our own destination resort of Phuket.

Getting off this rock is invariably easier than swimming in shark infested waters, though the proliferation of jet skies might pose an even greater hazard to your health.

It's high octane peak season and in the nightclub named desire, those behind the ropes just can't wait to



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

get inside that party that never stops.

Of course others look for a more sedate way of "getting their rocks off", or perhaps in more polite language, "rolling off into another temporary place".

Be it a day, a multiple of *daze* or even a week, the options remain tantalizing.

Nearest and dearest to our heart is the capital city of Bangkok and

cool weather is one of the seasonal treats there at this time of year.

Travel fares online offer some remarkable deals be it THAI, AirAsia, Nok Air or Bangkok Air. For those who value working on a budget, look for the best offers on restricted tickets which just means your stay is cast in stone.

A few weeks ago I checked into the chic new Aloft hotel on Sukhumvit Soi 11. Part of Starwood's trendy W boutique umbrella, the product is a fresh look at pinstriped accommodation.

With opening rates just over

2,000 baht, and across the street from the Bed Supperclub, what more could you want? It's a wired wonderland, and next door the recently opened Catalana tapas bar and restaurant offers mean cuisine.

I had time to catch the new, much anticipated Zuma at the St. Regis. This Japanese inspired eatery has caused a sensation at other international locations and has now set up shop at a very upmarket address.

If you don't fancy a meal, go to the outdoor lounge which is already gaining a reputation for people watching and a quick chill out.

Another stop could be the new Hotel Muse on Soi Langsuan. Combining a total immersion design theme that harks back to the golden age of travel, both the hotel and restaurants are well worth a look. High marks go to Medici Kitchen

and Bar on the downstairs level for something very extraordinary.

Leaving Thailand remains another option if you are keen to battle the lines at Phuket's immigration counters. One of the region's most affordable flights is the AirAsia direct flight to Bali. In my experience, and depending on the booking period book, the total cost of a return ticket ranges from 7000-9000 baht. Get one of those hot seats and then pre-book a chicken and rice meal. Perhaps the only negative is the early departure time from although you do get into the 'Island of the Gods' before noon. Returning is a mid day flight, and the daily service is a plus.

Perhaps you want to trade one

island paradise for another? Come on in – Koh Samui. You can fly, drive or even cycle.

New branded offerings include the Conrad and Le Meriden, while the InterContinental opens in February.

On top of the island's detox and yoga centers is Kamalaya. This award winner in holistic retreats has gained a worldwide following and certainly ranks as one of the country's top offerings. After all the excesses of Christmas and those to follow at Near Year's Eve, perhaps a refresher course may be just what you need.

I hate to stop here, there's so much to do and so little time. You might think that getting off the rock for the holidays might be stuck in the "all-too-hard" basket, but never ignore the obvious.

Getting away from Phuket often just makes you love coming back – all the more.

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



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Sino-Village
by Garden Place
All images are artist impression

In brief...

Compass opens 2 new Phuket hotels

COMPASS Hospitality Group are set to open two hotels in Patong by the end of January.

The three star 249 room Citin Plaza will debut in the next two weeks, while the 77 key four star Citrus Heights rolls out next month.

Claude Baltes who has worked extensively in Phuket and Thailand is heading up both properties as General Manager.

Compass now operates 31 hotels in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore under the Citrus, Citin and Ananda Spa brands.

Both Patong hotels are developed by Thai entrepreneur Wittaya Thaweewongsap. He is currently pursuing a substantial hotel portfolio on the island which includes the Centra Ashlee and two new Starwood managed properties in the Fisherman Harbour project under the Aloft and Four Points by Sheraton brands. – **Bill Barnett**

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Construction of the townhomes is scheduled to be complete by mid 2012

Baan Tak r Kard moves forward

RESIDENTIAL real estate developer Living Vis Co Ltd are to go ahead with the second phase of construction of Baan Tak r Kard tropical town homes near Layan Beach.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the development was approved in February with the final approval awarded by provincial authorities last month.

"We are now moving full-speed ahead to complete construction on the entire Baan Tak r Kard development comprising two home types: Emotion One and Emotion Two," said Living Vis co-director Mr Sunchai Nuengsit.

With 70 per cent of the homes sold out within the first six months of the project's pre-sales launch, all 59 units are expected to be complete and occupied by December 2012.

Priced from 2.69 million baht, the 2 to 3 bedroom tropical town house concept was well received with Thai and foreign mid-range home buyers.

Project Director Torsak Jaichuen said, early buyers saw the ideal opportunity to invest in a home designed with a variety of features to maximise, space, privacy and convenience, offering luxurious tropical lifestyles at affordable prices.

By taking a low density approach that doesn't focus on maximising profits, we have been able to offer 30 corner units with large gardens, more communal green space and wider roads for convenient parking," said Mr Torsak.

For more information visit W:baan-tak-r-kard.com. T: +66 (0)76 248 135 or 088-766 1961-3.

E: torsak@baan-tak-r-kard.com.

Pattani property boom

WHEN news about Thailand's deep South breaks in the press, images of strife and unrest are usually conjured up.

And while this article is an update about a massive uprising in the heart of downtown Pattani, one of three troubled provinces near Thailand's border with Malaysia, this latest development does not feature any unrest, but rather cranes and concrete pillars. Indeed, Pattani is on the verge of a boom and the numbers are explosive.

The Pattani Place development is a 600 million baht mega-project being developed on a 10 rai (16,000 square meters) plot of prime real estate in the central business district of Pattani City.

The development is currently undergoing its fourth and final phase of construction: a 200 million baht commercial shopping complex, The Pattani Mall, will feature a world-class Halal food center in addition to a vast array of retail stores.

With a target completion date set for September 2012, the five-story mall will be the final addition to what looks to be a lucrative venture that will further stimulate the economy in the troubled South.

Projects already completed in Pattani Place's portfolio include a 60-room four star hotel touting three-star prices and complete with a seminar room and two additional conference rooms; a four-building, 260-unit condotel



SOUTHERN COMFORT: The mall site with Condotels in the background.

complex that is reportedly already sold out. The quick sell-out is no surprise considering that across the street from the site is the Prince of Songkhla University Pattani Campus.

Another key dynamic of Pattani Place's offerings is its International Education Center (IEC) which fills a demand by providing local students with an outlet for advanced language and academic tutoring, thus eliminating the need to travel to neighboring provinces; moreover, there is a 13-unit home office block, and an outdoor activity ground all of which are currently in operation.

Pattani Place is a star-project

of DRS development Co Ltd, headed by Ibrorheng Cheali, the firm's CEO, a devoted muslim and respected figure among the business community. The firm's other notable projects include a three-building, 256 unit condominium in Haad Yai called IB Place Hat Yai. DRS is also the same company behind the spectacular roof on Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The firm's team of engineering, development and hospitality professionals are based out of Bangkok, Haad Yai and Phuket.

Visit W:pattaniplace.com for more information.

— Steven Layne

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Construction commences Q2 2010 nd Completion during Q2 2012

Drying the seeds of success



Langsat on a tree. Photo: Mike Gonzalez



Shelled betel nuts with betel leaf and areca nuts. Photo: Eraheem



Papaya with seeds.



Raw betel nuts. Photo: Flickr



Collecting the ripened betel nuts. Photo: Wibowo Djatmiko

Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

A RECENT email from Clive in Karon poses a question about seeds. "Why do seeds need to be dried before planting?" he inquires and adds that he has seen lots of them drying in the sun here in Phuket.

The answer is more complex than you might expect. Seeds are produced by most plants and they vary in size from microscopic to the large "stones" of avocados or mangoes. What seeds all possess in common is a degree of residual moisture, even

when ripe. In the case of seeds produced inside fleshy fruit such as oranges, papayas and melons, the outside of each pit is initially moist or sticky, and therefore needs to be dried before it can be stored. This is also the case with drupes – soft fruit that usually contain one large stone that protects the seed within.

Exposure to the sun also has the effect of dehydrating the interior of the seed, so that it is less likely to be affected by mold, mildew, or other rotting agencies. Ideally, seeds should retain between three and seven per cent of moisture. In this condition, they

can be stored for a year or more. However, if they are too sere or hard, germination will be difficult.

Some seeds are edible, and are dried for preservation and packaging. But if these small seeds are intended to be sown, excessive heat may remove too much moisture. In this case, it is better to dry them slowly.

Larger edible stones, for example the seeds of the *areca* palm (better known as betel nuts), can be safely left in the tropical sun. Firm and green when fresh, they cure in the heat and attain a wood-like consistency. In this state, betel nuts are very popular as a mild stimulant, and for this reason, are widely consumed throughout Asia. Chilies may also be dried whole, since the entire pod contributes to the fiery taste.

Some fruit and vegetables, however, are eaten in a green state. The seeds of cucumbers, bitter gourds, *sataws*, peas and beans, for example, are rarely mature enough to be successfully germinated until the flesh is too ripe for eating. Left to their own natural

devices, the seeds would only germinate once the protective flesh had rotted away.

Not a fate you would wish on this week's fruit. The *langsart* (*lansium domesticum*) is right now appearing on market stalls everywhere. The drupe is a round, yellow fruit about three centimeters in size, grows in clusters of twenty or more – like grapes on a vine. While the outer shell is hard and thin, it peels away to expose translucent white flesh which is sweet/ sour, and similar in taste and appearance to that of the rambutan. Encased within is a jet black and inedible stone. The attractive flowers are furry and cream-colored, and hang down in spikes from large branches.

Grown commercially, especially in Uttaradit province, the *langsart* is an important cash crop in Thailand. However, the tree is unreliable if grown from seed, and should be bought in a container - if you intend to try it. It will fruit heavily in the right conditions (or-

ganic soil and plenty of moisture), but it comes from the Sumatran rainforest.

So it needs plenty of space. When have I said that before?

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

Tip of the week: Post-emergence herbicides



Herbicide being applied: Photo: Flickr

POST-emergence herbicides act on visible and mature weeds rather than on seeds, and are therefore more widely used.

Some are systemic and the chemicals must be absorbed through the weed's leaves, stems or roots. This process kills the plant by interfering with its metabolism (eg *glyphosate* or *glufosinate*). Contact herbicides are less effective since they kill only the plant parts on which they are sprayed.

Most herbicides are synthetic: that is to say they are manufactured compounds that do not normally occur in nature. Natural herbicides are products whose active ingredients originate in a plant or mineral.

One of the cheapest and most effective is a 10% solution of vinegar. Whatever proprietary product you decide to buy, first read the label to make sure how it works, on what kinds of weeds, and what active substance it contains.

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1 rai with Chanote title. 5 minutes to Rawai Beach, in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

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BAAN BENJAMAS

2-bedroom townhouse, 88sqm, refurbished 2007. 4 aircons, furnished. Price: 4.7 million baht. Tel: 086-272 2626. Email: danzong@hotmail.com

LAND IN PHANG NGA



26 rai, sea view, mountain view, waterfall. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Price: 235,000 baht per rai. Tel: 083-684 8789.

11 RAI AT KURABURI

with old fruit trees. 3 hours' drive north of Phuket. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 089-594 4017.

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2 bathrooms, pool, fully furnished. Freehold. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: nicolaas5@yahoo.com

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NEW LUXURY LOFT-STYLE VILLA



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45 sqm freehold with sea view. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 087-268 0680. Email: mattias@phuketdreamliving.com Website: www.phuketdreamliving.com

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

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Large 2-bed condo for sale. Fantastic sea views. Foreigner freehold. Top-end luxury including all furniture, etc. 19 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 082-813 3824 (English). Email: showbus1@msn.com Website: www.patongapartmentcondo.com

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BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 8.9 million baht (reduced from 9.7 million baht). Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos, please email jihshand@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

LAND & HOUSE

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1 RAI 39SQ WAH LAND

Land for sale in Bang Jo. Easy build land. Good location. Price: 4.2 million baht. Tel: 087-893 5052 (English), 086-547 1188 (Thai).

LUXURY VILLA, PHUKET LOCH PALM

Plot: 650sqm. Own water, solar. Living Area: 280sqm, furnished, carport, 80sqm pool, 4 bed, 4 bathrooms, 5 flat TV, ADSL, Cable TV. 19.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 088-381 0012. Email: office@palm-beach-entertainment.com



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This stunning Tropical Style Villa is on 800sqm land and situated in a sunny and secluded Cul de Sac Road between Chalong and Nai Ham. It is located on a private road in a small and exclusive Swiss-Thai Villa development. The building features a spacious living room and dining room, 3 large bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, European kitchen, maid, quarter, a guesthouse, basement, a double size garage and a 12m pool with sala. It is built with the highest standard, water-filter installation, 3 septic tanks, and premium standard materials like teakwood windows, terrazzo floors, sandstone walls and pillars. The water supply is secured by own well. Chanote title deed is available. Price 18 million baht

Contact Yupin Sidler at Tel: 081-817 4805, 080-890 5187. Email: residler@gmail.com



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VILLA FOR SALE



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. Land 1 rai at Nai Ham. Price: 14.5 million baht. Contact Shanna. Tel: 088-443 8704.

SURIN BEACH: HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, fully fenced c/w large garden. Outdoor kitchen and living area. Tel: 075-664600, 086-941 0410 (English & Thai). Email: here@fastmail.fm Please see website & link to photos at www.see.rental.here.fastmail.fm/

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**SALE: LAND AT
NAI YANG BEACH**



3 plots: 400sqm each. 5 mins from the beach. Chanote title. 2.6 million baht per plot. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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

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Nice land plot located in a quiet estate development with underground electricity and security next to Mission Hills Golf Course. For sale: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

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Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE

Urgent sale. Located at Mai Khao, Thalang. Total area 305sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, built-in furniture. 4.5 million baht. Contact Phant. Tel: 089-697 0928. Email: cps.supply@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 80% finance, 0% interest, 20% deposit. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

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**BEAUTIFUL LAND
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3 rai 40sq wah in Nai Yang. 6 million baht per rai. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE IN
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2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

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**OCEAN VIEW LAND
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Luxury hillside project, over 1,000sqm. Price: 5.5 million baht. Next to river w/waterfall. Road, utilities. Tel: 084-445 8880 (English). Email: philipagordon@yahoo.com

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6 plots at Nai Yang Beach, Chanote title. 350sqm each. 2.5 million baht per plot. 5 mins from the beach. Has inside road, water access, wall. Plot A1 is luxury villa for sale. 9.9 million baht. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

CENTRAL PATONG

Home for sale or rent. Close to Jungceylon, 2 bedrooms. Available Feb 5. For long-term rent: 26,000 baht per month. Sale: 6.7 million baht. Tel: 087-900 8445. Email: siriphant23@gmail.com

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In Thalang, close to PIA/Thanyapura and new Tesco Lotus. 5 bed, 4 bath, 17m pool, 1,890sqm land. Owner wants quick sale hence below market price of 23 million baht. Excellent investment. Tel: 076-338320, 081-272 7556, 086-694 3033. Fax: 076-338320. Email: thegarden.kptphuket@uk2.net For details please see our website: www.thegarden.kptphuket.com/

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For sale. Located on main road, Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 4 toilets, 3 floors. Price from 5.4-5.9 million baht. Contact Phant. Tel: 089-697 0928. Email: siriphant23@gmail.com

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BAHT**



3 beds, 3 baths, swimming pool with jacuzzi and Lake view. Superb location at Anuphas Golf Ville in Kathu. Fully furnished and ready to move into. View now. Tel: 081-273 3975 (English), 084-293 7923 (Thai).

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In Nai Harn. Great location close to beach. 3 stunning bedrooms. All with indoor/outdoor bathrooms. This villa has the lot: pool, jacuzzi, ducted aircon, high ceilings. Best quality furniture and fittings, European kitchen, laundry, electric gate. The list is endless. 16.5 million baht. Can't find better. Tel: 082-281 3422. Email: c.jnasr_import@yahoo.com.au

**LAND AT
CHERNG TALAY**

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

**TWIN VILLA
IN KAMALA**



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

**THE SUNRISE
OCEAN VILLAS**



After a great success of the first phase, the Sunrise Ocean Villas is now starting to build the 8 other villas of "Phase 2". The price of 17.9 million baht makes the project one of the most competitive on the island for being only 60m from the beach. Each villa has a living area of over 300sqm, has 3 spacious bedrooms, all sea views, 5 bathrooms, a 10x4m infinity pool, maid's quarter and a covered 2 car-parking. The houses are specially designed to guarantee a complete privacy, with an open panoramic view of the sea.



Come visit the villas and you will be wonderfully surprised by the quality of the project as well as the quality of life you can find here.

For appointment or more details, contact the project director **Khun Montha** at **081 343 0777** (Thai, English & German) Email: thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com

www.thesunrisevillas.com

**LAND NEAR
MISSION HILLS**



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

POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 80% finance, 0% interest, 20% deposit. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

VILLA ON 1 RAI

In Nai Harn, private, quiet. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. Must see. Price: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 087-209 5174.

CHALONG HOUSE

New 2-bedroom house for sale. Detached, close to sea, large walled garden. Price: 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-817 4864.

Properties For Rent

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3-bedroom duplex, furnished, quiet, secure, internet, cable TV, swimming pool. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-415 2900.

KATHU: 3-BED HOUSE WITH MAID

Amazing 3-bed, 2-bath, large garden house with daily maid service 30,000 baht/month. Tel: 082-498 0872. Email: shetz66@hotmail.com

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For rent by owner at Bang Tao Phuket. Price: 2 million baht/year net. Tel: 089-288 3047.

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2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, cable TV, WiFi. 10 minutes to beach. 30,000 baht per month. 50,000 baht per 2 months. Start from Jan 1. Tel: 084-716 0502.

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KATA SEA VIEW VILLA

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PATONG POOLSIDE STUDIOS

Furnished studio with 42" TV, kitchenette, aircon, cable, WiFi, parking. Long term rent 24,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.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

HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms 110sq wah. Fully furnished, in Land & Houses Park. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suk savat@hotmail.com Website: www.phuket-apartment-house.webiz.co.th

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

NICE HOUSE IN THALANG TOWN

fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath, aircon, cable TV, full kitchen. Good location in town. 5 min to Tesco Lotus. 15 min to the airport, near Laguna area. Can negotiate for one-year contract. Please call to Wa. Tel: 089-874 2960.

STUDIO FOR RENT

In Phuket Town, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, TV. Near Dowroong School. 5 mins to Central, Big C. Rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015.

KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, aircon, living, dining, kitchen, car park, internet and Cable TV. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

NORTH OF THALANG, NEAR PIA

New 3-bedroom home in secure estate, fully furnished. 15,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-892 6340 (English & Thai). Email: garry.kirkland@vacationclub.com

4-BED VILLA FOR RENT

Fully furnished, Great location, 10 mins to Central, Int schools, Golf courses. Available Jan 20. Min 1 year. 75,000 baht/month, owner pays common area, pool, gardening. Tel: 076-321738, 083-967 5777 (English & Thai), 083-967 5888 (English). Fax: 076-321738. Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



At Pa Khlok, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with a small garden, quiet area. Rent: 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

2-storey houses, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Quiet area, near Panwa Bay. For further details, please see our website at http://panwagreen.weebly.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN RAWAI



Brand-new house, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, with pool and big garden for long and short term. Maid provided. Contact Orawan. Tel: 090-159 9929.

HOUSE FOR LONG-TERM RENT

In Cherng Talay. Single house, 240sqm, with furniture, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room and parking for 2 cars. Located at "The Valley 2", not far from the Laguna area. Rent at 22,000 baht per month. Interested? Please call for more details or to view. Tel: 089-009 1006, 081-568 1120.

NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

Quiet, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, aircon, satellite TV. Only 500m to Nai Yang Beach and 2km to airport. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-667 1844 (English & Thai). Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

50,000 BAHT MONTHLY RENT



Hotel, bar, pool. 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, lobby, laundry, garden, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 100m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 100,000 baht. Low key money. Available February 17. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai dreamvilla.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach, for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

LERSUANG HOUSE SURIN BEACH

3-bed, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, fully furnished, land of 700sqm. Could also sell. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

POOL VILLA CHALONG

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished. Long or short term rent. Tel: 081-970 5940. Email: jae.apc@gmail.com For further details, please see our website: www.villaprana.com

2 BEDROOMS FURNISHED HOUSE

Convenient and safe location in Kathu, just 2km from Tesco Lotus. Large lounge and 2 double bedrooms with aircon, hot showers. Basic furnishings, plus TV, Fridge, microwave. ADSL / WiFi / Cable TV available (optional extras) Short term baht 15,000 per month. With big discounts for long term. Tel: 076-202679, 081-970 3526 (Eng), 081-676 2629 (Thai). Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

30,000 BAHT MONTHLY RENT



Thai Dream Villa guesthouse. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, living room, laundry, garden, 2 terraces, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 300m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 50,000 baht. Low key money. Available February 1. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai dreamvilla.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

BALINESE POOL VILLAS

Luxury boutique villas available for short or long-term rent. Swimming pool, two or three bedrooms. Rates from US\$89 per night. Tel: 076-384691, 087-264 9695. Email: enrico@easyhomephuket.com For further details, please see our website at: http://villasuksan.com/gallery.htm

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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.

BOAT LAGOON TOWNHOUSE

For rent, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, car park, very secure. Contact Khun So (owner). Tel: 081-344 4473, 081-862 2962.

35,000 BAHT MONTHLY RENT



Rawai pool guesthouse, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, laundry, covered parking, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 300m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 50,000 baht. Low key money. Available now. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidream villa.com

BRAND NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



New townhouse for rent. Near BIS and Boat Lagoon.
- 88sqm of luxury living
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- Fully furnished
- 4 air conditioners
- European kitchen
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Rent: 16,000 baht per month. Long term rent 15,000 baht per month. Contact John. Tel: 086-940 4267. Email: johngrieffphoto@yahoo.co.uk

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Experienced and able to speak some English. Needed for small guesthouse on the beach. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

NANNY WANTED

Thai or Filipino nanny, English speaking. 6 days per week. Contact Nadya. Tel: 086-028 6945. Email: myhoneyglenn@yahoo.com

GERMAN SPEAKING TELEMARKETER

I-net Advertising Company in Germany looking 4 home-based Telemarketers in Thailand. Must be German speaking! We provide contract with good pay. Tel: +49-223-499 9629. Email: bewerbungen_tae@publo city.de For further details, please see our website at www.publo city.de

DANISH STAFF

Danish-speaking female, 20-30 years old. Send CV & photo to: rainforestjob@gmail.com

MAID/COOK FOR HOLIDAY VILLA

English speaking maid who can also cook Thai food needed for a vacation villa in Kalim. Good salary and room available if required. Start immediately. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

SALES MANAGER AND SECRETARY

Sunrise Ocean Villas located at Ao Por is looking for motivated staff: female, 23-35 years old. Must speak English, with good computer skills. Salary, bonus and commission. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE HEAD CHEF

Medium-size hotel in Patong is looking for an experienced Executive Chef. The successful applicant should have at least 5 years' experience, speak good English and be familiar with high-end quality catering, including weddings, parties and boat catering. The position entails the management of two hotel-size kitchens and the staff therein. The applicant should be highly motivated, organized and punctual. This position is perfect for a self-starter who enjoys being part of a dynamic and successful team. Remuneration is negotiable. Applications to be submitted to: phuketgolfer@gmail.com

CLEANER, PART TIME

4 hours a day, 3 or 4 times a week. Patong beach road, behind football ground. Tel: 089-675 3861.

EMPLOYMENT SCUBA DIVING

Urgently seeking 2 instructors to run a small dive shop in Phuket. SSI Instructor is a big plus, good English a must. Please send CV to office@sea-bees.com or call 076 381 765.

MASSAGE SHOP STAFF

New massage shop needs staff for massage, facial treatment and manicure. Salary with commission. Open 12:00am to 12:00pm. 6 days/week. Tel: 085-019 3410 (English), 089-128 4783 (Thai). Email: la_terra@inbox.ru

GUEST SERVICE AGENTS

Urgent required: English speaking Guest Service Agent vacancy available in Guest House at the Patong beach. Competitive salary and other benefits guaranteed. Tel: 080-526 4158. Email: jaranya@hotel-patong.com Please visit website: www.hotel-patong.com

THAI MANAGER/ FOOD ENGLISH

Small, new fast food shop with simple farang food, needs experienced English speaking Thai manager. Work closely with owners to hire staff, set work schedules, finish training and open. Join this team early for promotion as we get bigger. Open to discuss hours. Monthly salary 700 baht per day plus benefits. Tel: 084-627 1301 (Thai). Email: flatstanleysfastfood@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST

Hotel in Patong requires Thai female receptionist with good English skills. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

50% COMMISSION

New idea search freelancer sales team. No MLM, your chance to be independent. Email CV to phuket55555@gmail.com

JOB WITH A SEA VIEW

Office Admin - Secretary (Thai) needed for property sales office in Naithon. Fluent in English and Thai (speaking, writing, computer skills, email, Internet) required. Tel: 084-840 7624 (English). Email: sales@vistadelmarphuket.com

RECEPTIONIST

Hotel in Patong requires female receptionist with good English skills. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

FEMALE STAFF WANTED

Shop helper for Khao Lak base shop. Salary with accommodation included. Tel: 076-344814.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

International company is looking for a Personal Assistant to one of its top managers. Key responsibilities:

- Remote management of the tasks and appointments
 - Type and dispatch all correspondence
 - Supporting director to manage workflow and output
 - Establish and maintain efficient management of liaisons with relevant individuals, external organizations, etc, locally and abroad
 - Arrange and co-ordinate meetings and business trips, visa and travel
 - Support our overseas partners
 - Guest relations: arrangement and coordination
 - Travel arrangements, booking hotels, flight tickets, driver coordination, etc
 - Any other duties as requested by the director
- Requirements:**
- Female, 26-30 years old
 - University degree
 - Fluent British English and Fluent French
 - Proven experience of administrative work
 - Advanced PC user
 - Experience of working within an international environment, international organization, NGO and/or private sector multinational
 - Experience of dealing with different time zones
 - Excellent organizational skills
 - Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written
 - Proven ability to work under time pressure
 - Well presented, with bright, confident personality
 - Flexible and mature approach with ability to work unsupervised.
- Please send CV to: peter.mkey@me.com



Position : Assistant Resort Manager
We are seeking an adventurous, motivated and experienced person to join us to work on the beautiful remote Island called Koh Pra Thong for the period of October through April.

Responsibilities:
Assisting Resort Manager in daily resort operation but mainly responsible for all administrative functions such as handling daily bills for the resort, bookkeeping, vendor payments, correspondence, and maintaining accurate reservation records.

Requirements:

1. Male or Female - Aged 28 years and up
2. B.A Degree
3. Good spoken and written English and Thai.
4. Good literacy with Microsoft Office
5. Pleasant personality, service-oriented and good problem-solving skills
6. Prefer Hotel/Travel or customer service-related experience.
7. Experience with billing and knowledge of PayPal system is an advantage

Interested candidate please send resume, a recent photo and expected salary to Khun Pissa Tipsombut Email: pena@goldenbuddharesort.com
www.goldenbuddharesort.com

Pinetree Development Services

We are principally engaged in the development and management of a large-scale mixed property development project in Phang-nga, Thailand. The site, located within the Thai Muang district, is planned to develop as an all-season resort with high-end residential real estate, hotels and other facilities. To achieve this aim, we invite high-caliber professional individuals to join our site team based in Thai Muang (30km north of Phuket).

(1) Assistant Accountant (Ref No. P01/11)

Prepare monthly account, AP, GL and bank reconciliations, liaise with Revenue Department on tax matters, review accounting documents and make appropriate accounting entries.

- Degree holder in accounting with 3 years' accounting/auditing experience
- Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
- Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
- Well versed with Microsoft office applications

(2) Accountant (Ref No. P02/11)

Prepare monthly account, financial statements and reports, handle tax matters, check and verify accounting entries and other ad-hoc accounting duties.

- Degree holder in accounting with 5 years' accounting/auditing experience
- Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
- Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
- Well versed with Microsoft office applications and accounting software

(3) Document Control Officer (Ref No. P03/11)

Responsible for documentation administration and records management of the project, manage and supervise the organization of a significant project document control system and software.

- Tertiary qualified with solid experience related to administration and records
- Good computer literacy, some programming experience is an advantage
- Detail-minded and with fluency in both written and spoken Thai and English

(4) Legal and Company Secretarial Officer (Ref No. P04/11)

Assist Legal Department and Company Secretarial Department on enforcement of corporate compliance issues, assist in simple translation work and ensuring proper and timely delivery and sign off on important documents from headquarters.

- Degree holder in Law with at least 3 years' relevant experience
- Experience in handling company secretarial documents and legal documents
- Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
- Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English

(5) Planning Officer (Ref No. P05/11)

Assist in preparation of planning submissions and building permits' documentation, prepare strategic programmes like design, procurement and construction schedules, review site progress reports, monitor and review development schedule trends and reporting delays, and recommend corrective action.

- Degree holder in Civil Engineering with at least 5 years' relevant experience
- Knowledge of full project lifecycle incl. design and procurement and planning software
- Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
- Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English

We offer attractive remuneration package and fringe benefits to the right candidate. If you have the ambition to create an exciting and rewarding career, please send us a cover letter highlighting your expertise and strength together with your detailed resume and expected salary immediately via email to recruitment@pcpd.com.

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Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/

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, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
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Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

PART TIME (FLEXI TIME) REAL ESTATE MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

- The ideal candidate must have a good command of English, be currently or has previously worked in the field of real estate marketing and have strong background in high-end real estate marketing.
- Good knowledge, skills and experience in how and where to market the properties, with good network connections not only in Thailand but also internationally, such as in Russia, Hong Kong and Singapore markets.
- Part time hours to suit (flexi time) with high rate of pay and good working conditions
- Open to both Thai nationals and foreigners.
- Company car available when needed.
- Office based in Kathu.

Want to know more?

To arrange an interview call **Mr Geoff** on **081-854 0061**

Resumé with current photo required before interview
Email to: mrgoeffcurry@yahoo.com

Windy Boats (Thailand) Co LTD)

Position: Office Administrator & Marketing Executive
Summary Responsibilities:

- ❖ Assisting Manager in executing a wide variety of details that involve the direct mail, email broadcast campaigns, outbound calls, marketing trade shows and events, public relations, other marketing plans. Interfacing with counterparts and building up relationship with marketing suppliers, agents and customers.
 - ❖ Attending tradeshow, company sponsored promotions and events.
 - ❖ Preparing standardize presentations, charter proposals, agreements, and other documentation when needed. Handle booking of charters, and ensuring the customers will be satisfied with the luxury Windy boats and service.
 - ❖ Manage petty cash and ensure accurate, timely and cost-sheet for charter and boat management. Perform a series of secretarial functions for the Manager.
- Salary: Negotiable + intensive + allowances

Bachelor degree in related field, a background within the marketing field will be an advantage. Good command of English language both speaking and writing and computer skills. Good communication skills, out-going personality, self-motivated, and capable to work without close supervision.

Contact khun Bow: jariya.sungdong@windyboats.asia
Mobile: 080-529 6928

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Qualifications required:-

Operations / reservations officer

- Fluency in spoken and written English (Some knowledge of other language is an advantage)
- Computer, Internet, E-mail and MS Office literate essential
- Self-organized and willing to accept the challenge of a very demanding position.
- Articulate with good interpersonal skills to work in a team.
- Able to work under pressure, tight deadlines and flexible work hours

The remuneration package will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications and experience. Interested applicants should send their curriculum vitae indicating their work experience, present and expected salary with a recent photograph to:

Asia Sensations Travel

7/3 moo 2, Soi Parlai 83130 Phuket

Tel: 076-282906 Fax: 076-282867 Mobile: 081-893 9925

Email: travelsia@3bbmail.com



Secure Wealth Management Portfolio Analyst (full time)

A unique opportunity to join this pioneering wealth management boutique in Phuket. We are looking for a highly-motivated employee, who has a passion for client service and the investment profession. Candidates will grow with our company and must be able to multi-task numerous projects. The role involves regular contact with our high net-worth clients around the world.

Remuneration: thb 30k - 35k / month + annual bonus

Working Place: Office in Phuket Boat Lagoon

Applicants must:

- ◀ be female and of Thai nationality;
- ◀ speak and write excellent English;
- ◀ have a university degree in finance or business;
- ◀ have a minimum of three years' experience in finance or business;
- ◀ have strong PC skills, in particular MS Excel;

The role consists of:

- ◀ investment portfolio performance analysis and reporting;
- ◀ investment product analysis and new product research;
- ◀ regular client contact, including new client account opening and ongoing account administration;
- ◀ liaison with our trading platforms and banking partners.

Please send your curriculum vitae to:
Jaruwan Naksalab, assistant to Managing Director:
jaruwan@securewm.com

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- HR & Training Coordinator
- Spa Therapist
- Housekeeping Attendant
- Commis (F&B service)
- Cook Helper
- Steward

Send resume with recent photo to:
manit.pimparien@lemeridien.com

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1 Accountant, Chalong office, Phuket

1 Thai booking staff, Chalong office, Phuket

For the accountant the following qualifications are needed:

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

For the Thai booking staff the following qualifications are needed:

- Knowledge of the English language
- Knowledge of the dive business
- Knowledge of hotel locations on Phuket
- Knowledge of working with a computer
- Presentable and flexible

Interested candidates are welcome to Email a resume immediately. We will then call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Chalong: Phone: 076-383052
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Bulletins

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Please contact K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Email: info@phuketiwc.com

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Thai Speaking Meeting
Mission Hospital - Phuket Town
Tues 7 PM

English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket Town
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket Town
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

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Good location. TV, fridge, whiskey, everything included. Price: 600,000 baht. Tel: 081-693 0671 (English), 089-731 1062 (English & Thai). Email: joakim_zip@hotmail.com

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

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Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

1. Malta - Air Malta
2. Baltic Sea - Air Baltic (national airline of Latvia)
3. Tammy Wynette - TAM (national airline of Brazil)
4. Gulf Stream - Gulf Air (national carrier for Bahrain)
5. Fin - Finnair
6. Ryan Babel - Ryanair (Irish low-cost carrier)
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8. SAS - Scandinavian Airlines
9. Iberian - Iberia (national airline of Spain)
10. Names of airlines

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International Sport

Spirited Wolves deny Gunners

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers Wales international goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey almost single-handedly secured a vital away point for his team against Arsenal in their battle to avoid relegation, while the Gunners missed a golden opportunity to move into fourth position on the table.

Hennessey played the main role in a spirited defensive Wolves performance against an explosive Arsenal attack which had 17 shots on target, compared to just four by Wolves.

Captain Robin van Persie was denied constantly, including a thundering free kick saved superbly by Hennessey. Both Thomas Vermaelen and Tomas Rosicky should have had their names recorded on the score

sheet as well, with opportunities either thwarted by Hennessey or squandered by a lack of composure.

Arsenal did take an early lead when Gervinho received a pinpoint pass deep in the Wolves penalty area from Yossi Benayoun, and slotted the ball into the bottom-right of the goal.

This was canceled out by a Stephen Hunt effort from the edge of the box, deflected home by Steven Fletcher past an unlucky Wojciech Szczesny eight minutes before half-time.

Manchester City and United top the league, each with 45-points, separated by a five goal difference in City's favor. Spurs trail by seven in third spot, though have a game in hand, and Chelsea sit in fourth.



ONE MAN WOLF PACK: Wolverhampton Wanderers' goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey blocks another shot, this time from Arsenal left back Thomas Vermaelen. PHOTO: AFP / ADRIAN DENNIS

Sport briefs...

DARTS: Fifteen-time world champion Phil Taylor crashed out of the PDC World Championship in the second round, losing 4-1 to Dave Chisnall.

NFL: New Orleans Saints quarterback, Drew Brees, has broken Dan Marino's 27-year-old record for passing yards in an NFL season.

The 32-year-old's final pass in the home win over the Atlanta Falcons saw him pass Miami Dolphins Marino's mark of 5,084 yards set in 1984.

HORSE RACING: Le Beau Bai won the Welsh Grand National. Trained by Richard Lee, the eight-year-old ridden by Charlie Poste, outpaced the well-backed Giles Cross.

SPORTSMAN: World champion and Tour de France green jersey winner Mark Cavendish from the Isle of Man, has won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.

Tendulkar shy of a ton

SACHIN Tendulkar, the leading test run scorer of all time is still looking for his 100th international first class century after losing his wicket on 67 to a Peter Siddie delivery in the final over of second day's play at the MCG.

Part of an expectant Indian team hopeful of securing its first test series win in Australia since 1978, Tendulkar, with the other stalwart of India's batting, Rahul Dravid made their 20th century partnership to bring the visitors into contention in the opening game of the four match series.

Chasing an Aussie first-innings total of 333, India on 214 - 3 at the close of play on day two, proceeded to collapsed to 282 all out.

Ricky Ponting justified his inclusion with two fine knocks of 60 and 62, though surely would have been disappointed not to have



LITTLE MASTER: Indian stalwart Sachin Tendulkar turns a ball to leg as Australian wicketkeeper Brad Haddin looks on. PHOTO: AFP/ William West

pushed on during either innings for his 40th test century.

To the consternation of the Australian cricketing fraternity, Cricket India's Board of Control have disallowed the use of the Decision Review System for this series, though it has benefited the visitors. Michael Hussey and Ed Clarke, both controversially dis-

missed given caught behind, when neither appeared to have touched leather with willow.

Australia, with a lead of 230 runs and two wickets remaining, including Michael Hussey on 79 not out at Wednesday's close set the game up for a dramatic win for either, or an enthralling draw.

- *Phuket Gazette*

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		
FRIDAY, 30 DECEMBER 2011 02:45		
Liverpool	VS	Newcastle
SATURDAY, 31 DECEMBER 2011 19:45		
Man Utd	VS	Blackburn
Arsenal	VS	QPR
Bolton	VS	Wolves
Chelsea	VS	Aston Villa
Norwich	VS	Fulham
Stoke	VS	Wigan
Swansea	VS	Tottenham
SUNDAY, 1 JANUARY 2012 19:30		
West Brom	VS	Everton
Sunderland	VS	Man City
MONDAY, 2 JANUARY 2012 22:00		
Aston Villa	VS	Swansea
Blackburn	VS	Stoke
QPR	VS	Norwich
Wolves	VS	Chelsea
Fulham	VS	Arsenal
TUESDAY, 3 JANUARY 2012 02:45		
Tottenham	VS	West Brom
Wigan	VS	Sunderland
Man City	VS	Liverpool
WEDNESDAY, 4 JANUARY 2012 03:00		
Everton	VS	Bolton
Newcastle	VS	Man Utd
WEDNESDAY, 11 JANUARY 2012 02:45		
Tottenham	VS	Everton

London set for 2012

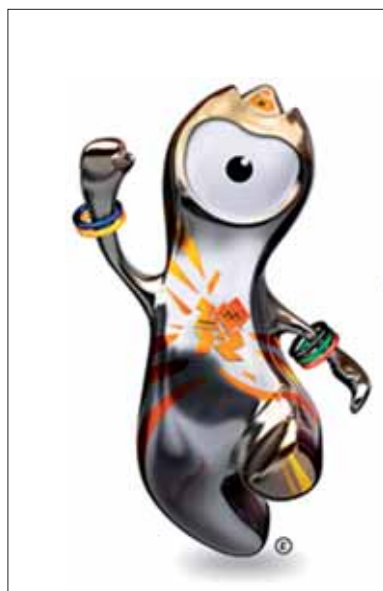
THE countdown to the London Olympics is reaching the 200 day mark.

An estimate world-wide audience of four billion people can expect to see athletes break records over the 17 days of action in 26 different sporting disciplines.

Of course, no Olympic Games can start without the "torch" being delivered from the fires of Greece. Due to arrive on May 19, the Olympic Flame will travel from Land's End to the Outer Hebrides on its 8,000 mile route passing through every county of the United Kingdom and through the hands of the 8,000 yet to be selected bearers.

With the issue of gender testing resolved as far as the IOC are concerned and preparations on track, the buzz for the XXXth Olympiad is now palpable.

As hosts, and with their best medal haul in a century at the Beijing Games, Team GB could challenge the Russians for third spot in the overall



MASCOT: Named after Much Wenlock, a town in Shropshire.

medals table according to former 1,500mtr silver medalist Steve Cram.

"I don't think the USA and China are realistic, but Russia, you know we weren't that far behind them in Beijing," said Cram.



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SOS: FC Phuket in jeopardy



FINAL DRAW: Phuket's Coulibaly Abdoul (left, in Black) and Watcharapong (right) gave it their all against Air Force United.

Sarach Yooyen (green) tripped up by Suphanburi players.

FC PHUKET bagged only their second point in the team's fifth and final match of December, a 1-1 draw with Air Force United at Surakul Stadium on Christmas evening.

Having taken a lead from a spot kick by Nirun Phanthong in the 56th minute, Phuket would have to be content with a draw after conceding a last-minute goal to Air Force United's Thanat Jantaya one minute into injury time.

The Southern Sea Kirin's final result of 2011 ended a disappointing December that started with a 0-2 home loss to CT Chanthaburi on December 4. This was followed by an embarrassing 7-0 away-massacre to runaway league champs Buriram FC on December 11; a 2-2 away-tie to last place Thai Honda on December 17, and a 0-1 home loss on December 21 to Suphanburi FC.

The defeat to relegation-pressured Suphanburi was a particular lowlight in the history of a club whose prospects for the future are tenuous at best.

The only goal of that mid-week match was a corner-converted header in the 30th minute by the Elephant Calvary's Cameroonian import, Ronald Kufoin Djam.

Despite sustained attacks from both sides throughout the rest of the match, Surakul's circa-1970s scoreboard would remain unaltered the rest of the night.

In the final moments of play, some Phuket fans showed their distaste with the losing scoreline and officiating by launching dozens of plastic bottles onto the pitch.

One African player on the visiting team, Gnepa Didi raised his hand in gratitude after taking a swig from a half full bottle of water that was energetically pitched from the stands.

This gesture instantly neutralized the Hulks, whose obscene shouts instantly turned into laughter and applause—realizing that their real “beef” was with the officials.

In total seven yellow cards were handed out, including four to the home team.

This prompted such verbal abuse that the referee was too intimidated to leave the field immediately after the match.

Fans demanded and ultimately received a public apology for what they believed was “fixed and biased” offi-

ciating. Apology issued and all content, the referee was finally escorted off the pitch safely.

Despite some negative press, Phuket were motivated and determined to take away three points in

would need to cover, there are more questions than answers.

Meanwhile, skies are also cloudy for the other three Southern Thai football teams with a spot in Division 1 next season. Songkhla FC, Krabi FC, and Pattalung FC all previously had relied on varying levels of support from their respective Provincial Administration Organizations, but having been all registered as Juristic Entities, or Incorporated Firms since 2009, the clubs have been forced to regroup.

Right after their 2011 Champions League 3rd place victory on Christmas Day over rivals Krabi FC in Trang Town, Pattalung FC's President Dr

Natee Ratchakitprakarn announced the dissolution of the club as a registered firm, returning all rights of the club and thus future to the Sports Authority of Thailand.

Meanwhile, Krabi FC, has set a base budget for next season's Division 1 trial at 20 million baht, but like Pattalung, has yet to confirm the source of its capital.

Having missed out on promotion to the Premier League for the third year in a row, Songkhla FC's financial matters look to be the most stable considering it has one of the largest fan bases in the South if not the entire country.

FC Phuket have only two matches left in this season and possibly ever. According to a Siam Sport report, their last home match against Bangkok FC scheduled for January 7, has been banned from being hosted in Phuket as a punishment for the December 21 blockade incident at Surakul Stadium.

And as for how the situation will



HURDLED: Jun-ngam (green) scrambles over Suphanburi defenders. Photos: Apinun Saithong

their Christmas dogfight with the Air Force, who like Suphanburi were facing relegation pressure.

But even as Phuket failed to achieve a single win all month, the team's off-the-field fortunes seemed to worsen at an even faster pace and the team's hard-fought place in Thai Premier League Division 1 next season has been put into jeopardy.

While well clear of any relegation threat thanks to more-inspired play earlier in the season, Phuket's threat of collapse is linked to financial problems now that the privately-owned team can no longer accept funding from the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization for legal reasons.

As such, FC Phuket is faced with the burden of coming up with an estimated 40 million baht annually to cover the cost of competing in Division 1 next season.

According to some reports, up to half of that amount is needed to cover player salaries, training and travel allowances. As for what the other half

play out, it does not bode well for Phuket fans now that team manager Narubas “Ko Lek” Aryupong has already announced his decision to soon “self-relegate” and withdraw from the club, suggesting he would likely manage a less expensive team in the Division 2 regional league instead.

Since at the time of going to press the club has not been able to offer contract renewals for key players including their Ivorian striker Kone Adama, French Goalkeeper Jonathan Matijas and Ivorian defender Nenebi Tre Slyvestre—rampant talk of a club takeover, renaming and possible move from Phuket altogether are looking ever more likely for the 2012 season.

And if the club does sell out and move base as many fear, the question emerges: just who will local football fans support?

For latest developments in the saga visit PhuketGazette.net

— *Phuket Gazette*

THAI DIVISION ONE LEAGUE TABLE				
WEDNESDAY, 28 DECEMBER 2011 21:00				
TEAM	P	GD	PTS	
1 Buriram FC	32	62	79	
2 Chainat FC	32	27	63	
3 Chula Utd	33	13	60	
4 PTT Rayong	32	23	53	
5 Songkhla FC	32	15	52	
6 Bangkok Utd	32	4	48	
7 Saraburi FC	32	9	46	
8 Rajpracha FC	32	-10	46	
9 FC Phuket	32	4	45	
16 Chiangmai FC	33	19	29	
17 Rbac FC	33	-31	25	
18 Thai Honda	33	-35	24	
PROMOTED FROM DIVISION 2				
Ratchaburi FC				
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Krabi FC				
Pattalung FC				

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Bob Dwyer to hold Phuket rugby clinic

Australia's Rugby World Cup winning coach, Bob Dwyer, will bring his expertise to Phuket for a number of workshops during 2012 to be hosted at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club

By Neil Quail

PHUKET Rugby in conjunction with Strategic Sports are proud to present the first of three rugby coaching clinics to be run by World Cup winning coach Bob Dwyer and Mike Penistone of Bob Dwyers Rugby Workshops on Phuket during 2012.

The first of the courses will be held from March 9 to 11, 2012 at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) where potential coaches will get the chance to hone their techniques with the Phuket Lomas youth team.

Both Bob and Mike are well known coaches in the rugby fraternity who will offer their wealth of talent and experience to coaches and players throughout South East Asia during these weekends.

With continuing education being an important part of their rugby ethos, they will be back again during the year to offer coaches the chance to further develop their knowledge of the game and upgrade their coaching skills to the next level. At the end of the course there will be a celebratory lunch where Bob will hand out coaching certificates to all participants.

On March 10 they will be guest speakers at a rugby fund raising dinner to be held at a venue within the Laguna resort complex which will raise money for the Asia Centre Foundation scholarship program and the Phuket Lomas Rugby Youth Development Program which Phuket rugby has supported for many years.

An auction of sporting paraphernalia and prizes donated by local business will take place during the

evening.

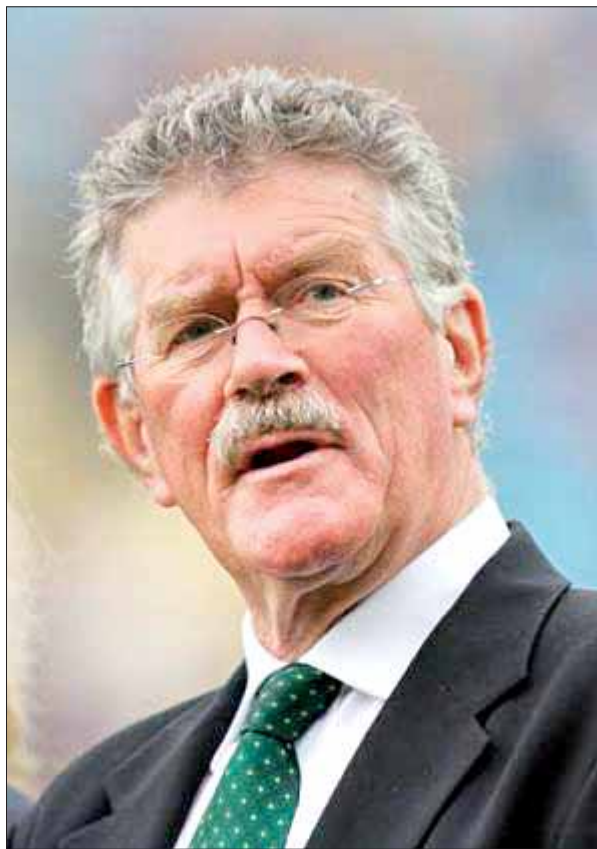
Bob Dwyer coached Sydney club, Randwick, to four Sydney championship wins before becoming Australia's national team coach. He coached Australia from 1982-83, and again from 1988. He coached Australia to victory at the 1991 Rugby World Cup.

Dwyer moved to Leicester Tigers after the game turned professional in 1996. The Tigers had immediate success, in 1997 reaching the Heineken Cup final and winning the Pilkington Cup. In 1998 Dwyer was appointed head coach of recently-relegated Bristol Rugby. Under him the club returned to the Premiership at the first time of asking. The next season saw Bristol finish sixth in the top flight and narrowly miss out on qualification for the Heineken Cup. In 2001 Dwyer returned to Australia and became coach of the New South Wales Waratahs in Super Rugby (at the time known as Super 12). He led the Waratahs to an eighth-place finish in 2001 and their first semi-final in the competition in 2002. He resigned in 2003 after a fifth-place finish but stayed with the New South Wales union as a development officer.

In 2011, he was inducted into the IRB Hall of Fame, alongside all other Rugby World Cup-winning head coaches and captains through the 2007 edition.

He has written two autobiographies - *The Winning Way* (1992) and *Full Time: A coach's Memoirs* (2004).

Mike Penistone began his coaching career in the English Midlands and has coached both Rugby Union and Rugby League.



GENIUS: Bob Dwyer is an IRB Hall of Famer and has coached at the highest levels. He will be in Phuket to help develop rugby in Asia. Photo: Flickr

Mike has coached at Cambridge University RLC, Sheffield Eagles RL and Nottingham RUFC. Mike was the elite player development coach at Leicester Tigers from 1999-2006 before joining the NSW Waratahs Academy as coach in 2006. He was also director of coaching at Eastern Suburbs club from 2007-2010.

"Both Bob Dwyer and myself are delighted to be involved in the development of Rugby Union in this part of Asia. Successful expansion of Rugby Union will be based on

the parallel development of players and coaches and can only be achieved with a planned, ongoing and professional programme," explained Mike Penistone.

"This initial three day course in conjunction with Phuket rugby will further develop coaches, who will then feed back information and coaching skills to the clubs and schools throughout Thailand. For successful coaching and player development to take place, coaches need to be working on a regular basis with players, over a

range of topics. Bob Dwyer Rugby Workshop courses will provide coaches the opportunity to do this. Bob Dwyer and Mike Penistone are convinced all who attend the courses will leave as either improved players or better performing coaches," said Mike.

For more information contact Pat Cotter E: Phuketrugby@gmail.com or Dan Ashburn E: danashburn@hotmail.co.uk. For information on Bob Dwyer's coaching visit bobdwyerrugby.com.



Lomas players who will be the targets for the workshop coaches in March. Photo: Neil Quail



Mike Penistone will assist Dwyer during the workshops on Phuket. Photo: bdr.com



Rugby in Phuket will benefit from this superb opportunity.

Tuffers at the Village

FORMER England cricket international and TV personality, Phil Tufnell will spend an evening with Phuket cricket enthusiasts and VIP guests at The Village Coconut Island on January 6.

Absolute World have organized an informal BBQ and drinks event where Phil will share anecdotes of his career and experiences of winning the popular reality TV show "I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here".

Also on offer will be an opportu-

nity to claim one of five signed and framed cricket bats in a charity auction, the proceeds of which will go to the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. Tickets cost 2,500 baht each with tables of 10 available which includes food and drinks. Water taxis will leave from Laem Hin pier at 7pm with the BBQ starting at 7.30 until 10.30pm.

For tickets contact Bernie Tebb on 081 979 1945 or email bernie@thevillage-coconutisland.com.



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ACG official opening dates announced

By Neil Quail

DATES for the official opening of Phuket's first dedicated cricket facility, the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) have been announced with a two-day event scheduled for January 28 and 29, 2012.

The ACG has already hosted a number of international touring teams in celebration of the ground's establishment including the prestigious Singapore Cricket Club who played in Phuket at the beginning of November and more recently the Delhi Viceroy's who took on a Phuket Cricket Group (PCG) selection at the start of December.

Domestic competition has already seen dramatic improvements, both in playing standards and in-

terest in the sport, which can be directly attributed to the development of the ACG which in turn is owes a debt of gratitude to the commendable efforts of determined individuals who have given freely of their time and expertise.

As the Island Furniture League leans into 2012 after six highly competitive matches and after the PCG has expertly organized foundation courses for scorers and umpires giving the players much needed direction and authority – a youth development program continues to promote cricket throughout Phuket.

It is therefore highly appropriate that this jewel of Thailand's sports development is given deserved attention from international and national authorities in respect of the achieve-

ments of both the ACG and PCG.

In recognition of this success, several influential members of the Asian Cricket Council will attend the ACG opening in January.

ACC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Syed Ashraf Huq, will be joined by Mr Bandula Warnapura, Mr Thusith Perera, Mr Sultan Rana and Mr Shahriyar Khan also of the ACC.

The Cricket Association of Thailand (CAT) will be represented by president, Mr Ravi Sehgal, Mr Acharin Suthisawad and Mr Mohideen Kader.

Mr Patrick Cotter will represent the PCG while Mr Alan Cooke MBE will officiate proceedings on behalf of the ACG.

"The opening of the ACG will bring new impetus to the Thai



BOUNDARY VIEW: The ACG clubhouse (above) is near completion offering spectators elevated views of the ground and the lakes area of Ban Liphon.



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL PHUKET CRICKET GROUP CRICKET THAILAND

youth cricket and rugby development programmes and whilst the ground is completed it will take time, effort, and new funding to bring the facility to its full potential," Mr Cooke told the *Gazette*.

The event's activities on Saturday will begin at 9.30am with guests treated to a 15 over exhibition match by the Youth Development Squad which will be followed by a PCG senior selection T20 match.

On Sunday, VIPs and guests will watch a Youth nets training session which will be followed by a Lomas rugby match, intending to show the diversity and direction of the ACG.

Perfunctory speeches will then be offered by the attending dignitaries before the eagerly anticipated clash between an ACC selection and a CAT selection will excite the crowds.

The Phuket Gazette is the official media partner of the ACG.

10th Langkawi Regatta is bubbling up support

STILL reeling from the 2011 Phuket King's Cup Regatta, boats and crews now set sail for Malaysia and the 10th Langkawi Regatta.

Not as "full on" as the PKCR or Phuket Raceweek, the Langkawi Regatta offers some low-key racing, some great parties and a week's free berthing at the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club (RLYC).

Scheduled to run from January

9 to 14, organizers are offering a deals to multihull entrants for the 2012 regatta.

Any Phuket vessel and crew that decides to go could join two other Phuket multihulls taking part in the Phuket-Rebak Champagne Run which is a feeder for the regatta.

If a week in Langkawi after the New Year celebrations conclude appeals then visit the website



Phuket to Rebak for a bottle of bubbly. langkawiregatta.com and enter online for what promises to be a fun week of sailing.

For details of the Champagne Run contact Scott Duncanson by email: sduncanson@quantumsails.com.

– *Phuket Gazette*

TSLC set for top rugby coaching



PITCHING SUCCESS: JP Lavoie (insert) will hold a coaching session at TSLC.

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) will host a once off coaching session for young rugby players with Canada's former women's national coach and current High Performance Coaching Consultant for the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC), Jean-Phillipe Lavoie.

On Phuket for Christmas holidays, Jean-Phillipe has agreed to hold a coaching session on January 11 at 5pm on TSLC's IRB approved synthetic rugby pitch in Thalang where 30 rugby hopefuls will have an opportunity to learn from one of the sports most progressive coaches.

A native of Quebec City, Jean-Phillipe started playing rugby at age 11. He is now a member of the Montreal Barbarians, but also played for the Caribou in the Rugby Canada Super League.

Jean-Phillipe's work is integral to Canada's cross-country network

of National Coaching Institutes in the development and delivery of advanced diploma and professional development programs.

Moving to CAC from Rugby Quebec, where he held the position of executive director, Jean-Phillipe is involved with the International Rugby Board and is a Learning Facilitator with Rugby Canada's Competition.

He is also the head coach of the Montreal Barbarians women's team, coach of McGill University's varsity team, and manager and assistant coach of Canada's U-17 national men's team. He has been the director of coach training for Ski Quebec Alpin and has coached a number of competitive alpine ski teams in Quebec.

For more information on the event visit tslc.com.

– *Neil Quail*



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Buakaw wows Muay Thai fans

By Pimwara Cholukspan

MUAY Thai fans gathered at Patong Boxing Stadium on Monday for a special performance of the ancient martial art by Thailand's number one fighter, Buakaw Por Pramuk.

Buakaw exhibited a range of techniques with his sparring partners, Kaolanlek Kaovichit and Paosee Kaovichit.

They performed ritual dancing to pay respects to the Muay Thai guardian (*Wai Kru*) which was followed by an exhibition of 11 major fighting techniques (*Mae Mai Muay Thai*).

On conclusion of the perfor-

mance fans were allowed to take photos with the trio.

Alex Troshin, from Russia, said "I have been his [Buakaw] fan for two years now. I'm impressed with his passion for Muay Thai. He's trained all of his life to become the best. I have been here two weeks for a Muay Thai training session on Phuket. This is the first time I've seen him, he's very impressive."

Petr Konstantinovich, also from Russia, said "I am on a two-month Muay Thai training session in Pattaya. I have followed Buakaw for a while. As soon as I knew he would perform in Phuket, I had to come

specially to see him for one day. He is the number Muay Thai boxer. Tomorrow I will go back to Pattaya and after I finish training next month, I will come to train here in Phuket."

Buakaw Por Pramuk was delighted with the turnout and offered words of encouragement to his fans.

"This is my third time to show in Phuket. I'm very happy to see a lot of foreigners interested in Muay Thai and happy to show them the true Muay Thai techniques. For those in training, keep practicing and study each technique as much as you can and I hope you all succeed. I promise to come back to Phuket again."



Chaianan Sutthikul, Patong Boxing Stadium owner and Mayor of Kathu poses with Buakaw, Kaolanlek and Paosee. Photos: Pimwara Cholukspan



Buakaw with Nipon Wichaidit, the show's promoter.



Petr Konstantinovich enjoys a photo opportunity with his idol.

The South will have to rise again



NORTHERN LIGHTS: Raju Seemant (left) and Rishi Sadarangani celebrate their triumphant innings for the Northern Hemisphere selection.

CRICKET'S stronghold of Southern Hemisphere (SH) representatives on Phuket had their Christmas celebrations cut short after a sound thrashing from their Northern Hemisphere (NH) counterparts at the ACG on Boxing day.

In a 40 over seasonal special, the batting of Seemant Raju and Rishi Sadarangani proved to strong for the southerners with both players scoring 50 to help secure the inaugural title by 5 wickets.

Generally, post-Christmas amateur sports matches are an excuse for parents to get out of the house and away from the infernal whirring, beeping and buzzing of new toys with the added advantage of shedding a few pounds and then immediately reclaiming the losses from apres-match socializing.

Monday's face-off had all the elements of such an atmosphere which saw expats from Australia, South Africa and New Zealand combine to make up a Southern Hemisphere selection in a battle for prestige against British, Indian and Irish players which made up the

Northern Hemisphere team.

However, after winning the toss, SH decided to put up a score for the northerners to chase and wisely used their full compliment of 40 overs to post a very respectable 216 for 7 wickets.

Ian Lenton and Danny Hyams opened for SH and looked comfortable until the fifth over when Lenton moved too far down the crease to meet a delivery from Kishor Jhgata and having missed the ball with bat turned to find his bails had been whipped by an alert Dean Noble behind the stumps.

The dismissal brought Neil Culpan to the crease and after the dismissal of Hyams (7), Culpan was joined by Burger Marks who eventually found confidence and rhythm to act as anchor for the SH innings.

After Culpan (12) was dismissed in extraordinary fashion - the ball ricocheted off both pads to roll on to the stumps - Stuart Reading came to the crease and pushed the run rate forward with an explosive 24 runs off 13 deliveries before Rishi found a gap to



BATTER UP: Sameer Khan defends a short-pitched delivery from Southern Hemisphere's Neil Culpan. Photos: Neil Quail

clean bowl the SH skipper. Damian Clowes added 15 to the total before Raju found his line to bowl the number six.

Carrying a broken thumb, Van Blerk took the crease without trepidation and showed good technique to offer solid ground strokes and support for Marks.

On resumption of the game after the 30 over drinks break Sameer Khan returned to the Lake End and with his first ball enticed Van Blerk (21) into a cover cut shot that lifted to be snatched at point. Four deliveries later, the threat of Burger was eliminated in exactly the same position for a hard fought 31 runs off 61 balls faced.

With the score at 173 for 5, Mario Piazza (26) entered proceedings and gallantly fended off the attentions of Khan, Jarasuriya and Jhgata to bring the score up to 216 for 7.

NH's innings began with openers Noble and David Ogden facing the pace attack of Culpan which kept the batsmen on their toes with fiery deliveries flirting with the edge of bats and stumps.

stroke for a maximum, his next choice of shot bewildered his team mates when he prodded at a wide looping delivery from Van Blerk which came off his bat for the easiest of catches for Hyams.

Fuelled by a drop of dutch courage, Raju strode to the crease and began a somewhat fortunate trek to his half-century. Had SH held their catches, the NH skipper would have not seen 20, let alone his eventual score of 67.

Ogden's was a solid performance proving the backbone to the NH innings, picking the bad ball when it presented itself before he was dismissed for 14 caught by Marks.

With the bit between his teeth, Rishi joined Raju in the 23rd over and immediately showed his intentions with a flurry of five boundaries in just 11 deliveries faced.

By the 37th over both players had exceeded 50 and sealed an emphatic victory for NH with Rishi hitting the winning runs for a total of 62 not out.

The next Island furniture League match will see the Lizards against ICC on January 8.

- Neil Quail

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Phuket Gazette

ANDAMAN Edition

Special supplement

December 31, 2011

Best of Phuket 2011

AIRLINE Copy

Best of Phuket Awards 2011

The Gazette's 'Best of Phuket' Awards imply no losers. These are accolades, not trophies. The awards go to businesses and individuals brought to our attention by Gazette readers and editors for standing out as Phuket special assets – people and places we'd be happy to introduce to a friend, a tourist or a potential investor, just as we are doing here.

BUSINESS AWARDS



Warning: If you sit in it, you're probably going to buy it. And the car you like is probably in stock.

Acumen

Auto Express

With the world economy in crisis, Auto Express had the foresight and moxie to expand from Bangkok into the Phuket market by tempting buyers with a wide range of cars priced from 3 to 30 million baht. That the new business is welcome here, there can be no doubt. Their showroom is always chock-full of premium motors – Mercedes, Porsche, Audi, Lexus, Rolls Royce and other delights which appear to be rolling out to buyers at an astounding pace.

Acumen: "Keenness and depth of perception... especially in practical matters".

The investors seemed to spot an appetite that had perhaps long existed in Phuket, but had gone undetected. Then they had the savvy and the courage to acquire and lug an enormous inventory, perhaps in recognition of the fact that many purchases of vehicles like these occur on impulse. "We'll order it for you" wouldn't be good enough. The buyer wanted to sit in it... feel, smell, imagine... and own it – now.

Those wishing to experience this chain of events might start with autoexpress.co.th.

Brand Phuket

Thanyapura

"Ambitious" is a good word to describe Thanyapura, the massive complex containing the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, the Phuket International Academy Day School, the Thanyapura Mind Centre, two locally branded hotels and a superb California-style restaurant.

The sprawling complex is thus home to a very unique mix of wide-open green space with state-of-the-art facilities for education, sports, arts, wellness and hospitality.

The Thanyapura community adds facilities that enhance very substantially the value of Phuket as a place to live, to visit, to meditate and obtain piece of mind, to educate children and to stage major events.

Laguna Phuket

In recent years, no other organization has consistently promoted the Phuket brand better internationally than Laguna Phuket. A destination in itself, Laguna has proved a master at hosting events large and small, and at promoting its own, made-in-Phuket brand worldwide. In doing so, the group has added inestimably to the essence of Phuket, the goodwill of the island, and the value of its brand.

Laguna's success in brand building has been achieved in large measure through events like the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, the Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship and the Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

This beachside, 'lifestyle village' sets world class standards for other Asian hospitality entrepreneurs to match.

Twin Palms

It seems that Everything the Twin Palms hospitality group touches turns to gold. Their Twin Palms resort on Surin Beach continues to boast one of the highest room occupancy rates in Asia.

First-class and consistency are the trademarks of their various food and beverage operations on the west coast, including the Oriental Spoon, the island's benchmark for Sunday brunch, the Catch Beach Club, Bake and Flame. They also throw the island's biggest annual free party for locals and visitors as a classy 'thank-you' to Phuket.

This is yet another home-grown brand that has brought an abundance of quality – image and substance – to Phuket.

BEST
OF PHUKET
AWARDS
2011

Today's Awards go with our best wishes, and in the knowledge that we've almost surely missed at least as many Phuket stand-outs as the 27 presented here. Readers are thus encouraged to continue to contact us with their recommendations for 'Best of Phuket' during the coming year.

– Gazette editors

SERVICE AWARDS

Hospitality



Nuttaphat ('Phat') Nithatthattarachai

Company: Twin Palms / Bake / Flame
Position: Operations Manager

Khun Phat, 37 and a Phuket native, has been with Twin Palms since the resort opened in 2005.

She is the manager of the Cherngtalay branch of Bake, one of three in the Twin Palms chain of bakeries. She also pitches in at Flame, the new Twin Palms restaurant adjacent to Bake. She wins a Gazette service award for her friendly demeanor and dedication to both her employer and her customers. Visit her at Bake. You'll know her by the signature speed and efficiency with which she works.



Chonlada ('Tack') Meesopha

Restaurant: Boathouse Wine & Grill
at the Boathouse resort
Position: Waitress

Khun Tack, a 23-year-old from Loei province, is a recent and very promising entry into Phuket's hospitality world. She joined the Boathouse resort in Kata as a trainee in 2008. A recent graduate of the Prince of Songkla University's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, she is now a waitress in the resort's renowned Wine & Grill. She stands out with a winning smile, excellent English and an unmistakable wish to please.



Tawatchai ('Nok') Ukhosuwat

Restaurant: Les Anges at
Royal Phuket Marina
Position: Assistant Manager

Khun Nok, 34 years old and a native of Songkhla province, has worked at Les Anges since the popular restaurant opened five years ago when he joined as a bartender.

He says that providing service is the kind of work he enjoys most. We believe him.

Have lunch or dinner at Les Anges today, then go back two weeks from now. There's a good chance he will have remembered what you ordered today.



Ponboon ('Ying') Nueakhiao

Restaurant: 'Into Thai' at the
Evason resort
Position: Captain

Khun Ying, who has worked 11 years at the Evason, is 36 years old. The Suratthani native joined the predecessor hotel at this location in Rawai, the Phuket Island Resort, as a trainee in 2000. She says she loves working in Food & Beverage and that the part of her job she likes most is taking care of the resort's many return guests.

A Gazette editor who recently dined (anonymously) at 'Into Thai' told us that this F&B professional is "the best".



Wichayada ('Tha') Inroung

Restaurant: Anantara Phuket Villas
Position: Senior Housekeeping
Supervisor

Khun Tha, age 40 and from Suratthani, was a member of the 2008 pre-opening team at the Anantara. Her colleagues say that she is a very hard worker and a good team leader, and guests note that she is genuinely service minded.

The resort's senior management confirms the reputation. In October of this year she was voted 'Employee of The Year' for 2011.

SERVICE AWARD

Public Service



Sgt Maj Hatthaporn recovering at Phuket International Hospital. Photo: Janpen Upatising

It is not often that a local police officer achieves widespread public admiration and respect for both job performance and selflessness. But this is what occurred within a matter of hours on June 12 this year when Sgt Maj Hattaporn Tongkhaobua fought off armed robbers in a gun battle in front of the Alpina Nalina Resort in Kata.

The two robbers, already wanted by police in Cherngtalay for a series of motorbike thefts, died in the gunfire and Sgt Hattaporn spent many days in hospital, followed by a month at home, recovering from multiple bullet wounds.

The modest officer told the *Phuket Gazette* that he still struggles with mixed feelings about the experience.

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

ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Marina Phuket

Most developers in Phuket still start the building process by raping every square inch of the land with bulldozers and clearing off anything that shows even the slightest hint of green. But in terms of respect for the environment, the Marina Cottages resort on Kata Beach was more than two decades ahead of its local competitors when it started building 22 years ago.

Resort owner Somchai Silapanont knew that natural beauty was, and would continue to be, a major draw for Phuket. He preserved at least 70 percent of the coconut plantation on which his cottages were built, and the resort remains today as an incredible seaside botanical garden, despite the dense development at its gates.

This property is a showcase of a man's foresight and understanding of how value can be built, not by going with the flow and raping nature, but rather by defying the trend.

Gazette readers are encouraged to visit Marina Cottages to behold non-threatening development at its best. While there, enjoy a meal at their 'On the Rocks' restaurant where the sea will be within a couple of meters of your elbow. Marinaphuket.com.

Evason Phuket

Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa's environmental program is an excellent example of how Phuket resorts and lodgings worldwide should conduct their business operations – with an environmentally friendly conscience.

Under the watchful eye of a full-time Environment Officer, the resort follows the Green Globe 21 Company Standard, focusing on energy efficiency, water management, waste management, social commitment, protection of natural surroundings, air quality and, quite uniquely in Phuket, noise control. Sixsenses.com.

RESTAURANTS

Luxury (1,200 baht and up)

Phuket is a culinary paradise, with what could well be one of the widest ranges of foods, prices and dining styles in Southeast Asia. The island's menus offer everything from a tantalizing Thai lunch for 50 baht to sheer opulence at several thousand baht per person for Euro-dining with fine wine.

The prices shown under each of the three restaurant categories here are indications only, and are based on an average three-course meal, including service and taxes. The prices exclude beverages.

The pricing gap between the high end of our 'Popular Mid-range' listings and the starting point for 'Luxury' establishments reflects a dearth of restaurants with offerings in the 800 to 1,200 baht range.

Silk Restaurant & Bar



Silk Restaurant & Bar is one of Phuket's 'not-to-be-missed' gastro-nomic experiences. Chef Oy takes fine dining to the top level, refining classic Thai dishes by giving them a royal, contemporary twist. The fine flavors derive from using time-honored Thai techniques and only the freshest local produce and ingredients. Overlooking Phuket's spectacular west coast sunsets, Silk Restaurant & Bar is located at Andara Resort & Villas on Kamala's famous Millionaires' Mile. More details at silkphuket.com. Or telephone 076-338777, ext 680.

Kabuki



Count on luxury lodgings provider JW Marriot to give us an opportunity to experience world-class Japanese cuisine. Billed as a 'form of Japanese theatre', guests at Kabuki are treated to sushi chefs showcasing their art behind a large counter. The big star is the end result. Fresh Teppanyaki-style Sushi! Kabuki has an up-market feel but is still affordable by Western standards. Kabuki is located on the lobby level of the Marriot resort complex on Mai Khao Beach. See jwmarriottphuketdining.com/kabuki/. Tel: 076-338000

Mom Tri's Kitchen



Lovers of fine wine and dining are never disappointed with the spectacular views at Mom Tri's Kitchen. Reservations are a must at this restaurant, with its extravagant Wine Spectator Award-winning wine cellar offering more than 700 wines, including 16 choices by the glass. Their refined Thai dishes have made them famous, but with two executive chefs on staff, they also serve 5-star European cuisine. Mom Tri's Kitchen is located on a hillside over Kata Noi Beach. See villaroyalephuket.com. Tel: 076-333568

Popular Mid-range

400-800 baht*

Wine Connection Deli & Bistro at Central

Great value and consistent, quality food makes the Wine Connection Deli & Bistro at Central a favorite of Phuket locals and visitors alike. Their newest outlet is a culmination of 12 years of work perfecting their popular Mediterranean style in Southeast Asia. 'Comfort foods', such as cheese and meat cold plates, salads, fresh pastas, pizzas and grilled meats, and 700 varieties of wine and imported beers fill their menu. Wine Connection Deli & Bistro is located at Central Festival Phuket, 1st Floor, Plaza Zone. See wineconnection.co.th. Tel: 076-307064/ 5

Kan Eang at Pier

Kan Eang at Pier is a local culinary institution, having served locals and visitors on Chalong Bay for over 30 years. This restaurant's lovely seaside ambience, 'off-the-dock' fresh seafood and scrumptious local Thai favorites have helped make it a famous Phuket venue. Lobster, oysters, crab and prawns are on the daily fresh sheet, all served in a choice of styles to suit anyone's particular taste. Kan Eang at Pier is located on the Chalong Bay pier.

See kaneang-pier.com. Tel: 076-381212

Lim's Restaurant & Bar

On Phuket island, Lim's is where the hip and groovy 'kids' (of all ages) hang out and nibble 'Modern Thai' cuisine while sipping tropical cocktails and fine wines. The atmosphere is sophisticated and relaxed, tucked into a hillside setting of tall trees and lush vegetation. Co-owner Daniel Bosshard acts as the consummate host, touting the restaurant's latest

menu and wine additions. Lim's Restaurant & Bar is located above Kalim Bay, just a five-minute drive from Patong Beach. More details at limsphuket.com. Tel: 076-344834

La Gaetana

No other eating establishment in Phuket lives up to its authenticity like the charming and intimate Italian bistro La Gaetana. Guests can easily imagine owner Giovanni Ferrara's mama slaving away in the kitchen to create their home-style Italian classics.

Giovanni is the heart and soul of this family-run establishment, personally attending to the gourmet needs of each and every guest.

Stylized like a small, rustic Italian cafe, the ambience is cozy and comfortable.

La Gaetana is located on Phuket Road in the heart of Phuket Town near Robinsons. Tel: 076-250523

Popular at local prices

50-400 baht*

Thammachart

Visitors love Phuket Town for its multi-cultural, eclectic mix. Tamachart Restaurant, or Natural Restaurant, embodies this unique town with its quirky multi-level seating areas dressed with waterfalls and Chinese antiques. They consistently serve some of the island's best Thai food and choice seafood specialties. Thammachart is located on Soi Phutorn in Phuket Town. Tel: 076-214037

Kota-Khao-Mun-Kai

Eating the traditional Thai dish Khao Mun Kai (Hainanese chicken rice, or chicken on rice) would seem like a relatively easy proposition with so many restaurants on the island. But don't try telling that to the local Thai or foreign residents as they know that people drive from all over Phuket province just to eat at this aptly named restaurant. The famous establishment, where a good lunch is unlikely to exceed 50

or 60 baht, is located in Phuket Town near the Robinsons department store. Tel: 076-212816

Laem Hin Seafood

This 'hide-a-way' restaurant is famous and well worth locating. The views from their over-the-sea patio at the edge of Phang Nga Bay are a big attraction, but the live seafood tanks with fish, prawns, lobster and crabs are the main reason Laem Hin Seafood has become such a busy eatery, especially on weekends. Laem Hin is located on a peninsula about a ten-minute drive north of Phuket Town. Tel: 076-238156

Uptown Restaurant

The Uptown Restaurant features fast food Thai-style at its best. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, this is a popular venue for locals who snack on an assortment of Thai specialties including Pad Thai, noodle soup and fresh spring rolls. The landmark is located at the front of Thavorn Grand Plaza on Phang Nga Road, near Robinsons department store in Phuket Town. Tel: 076-215359

Bang Pae Seafood Restaurant

Who better than Thai people to determine the best restaurants in Phuket? After sixteen years of operations, the Bang Pae Seafood Restaurant continues to attract throngs of Thais (and now local expats and tourists as well) to their family-run, fresh seafood venue. Bang Pae Seafood is located at water's edge in Bang Pae Village, 10 km from the Heroines' Monument, on the way to east coast Ao Por. Tel: 076-529059

Peang Prai

This small Thai restaurant is a local favorite for those searching for Phuket's specialized Southern Thai cuisine. Peang Prai's daily fresh sheet includes a delectable Hor Mok, a local style fish curry cooked in a banana leaf, and an array of Thai salads made to your personal spice specifications. This delightful place is located in a magnificent forest at Bang Pae Waterfall Park. Tel: 085-832 7439

Farang Restaurant

With two convenient locations in Phuket, Farang Restaurant continues to attract equal numbers of Thais and foreigners with their Thai approach to western food. Fresh creations from their kitchen include squeezed juices, pastas, pizzas, grilled meats and classic deserts like chocolate cake. Farang Restaurants are located on the Bypass Road, next to the Index Shopping Mall and also in Cherng Talay. Tel: 076-271049

Baan Suan Layan Restaurant

Baan Suan Layan Restaurant proves that people in Phuket often travel to remote locations only to eat outstanding food. Set in the jungle hills behind the Laguna complex, the atmosphere is unique with its beautiful waterfalls, tropical and orchid gardens, fishponds, peacocks and farm animals. But the main attraction is their refined Thai food at affordable prices. Baan Suan Layan Restaurant is located behind the Laguna complex, on the road to Naithon. Tel: 076-305566

Suay

Suay operates under the masterful culinary talents of Chef Noi, a seasoned international chef with Michelin-starred restaurant experience. He's moved out on his own to create a first-class dining experience without the 5-star expense. Guests can expect a stunning array of Thai and Western-style dishes fused with his unique Asian style. Suay is located on Takua Pa Road (near Rassada Road) in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-747 2424

Family Restaurant

The Family Restaurant is a bit of a misnomer for Phuket's finest Mediterranean eatery. Opened over ten years ago, they serve truly authentic Mediterranean classics, such as falafel, hummus and kebabs, homemade daily by the husband-and-wife team of Israeli expats Shicartzy Ovadia and his Thai wife Ben. Family Restaurant is located in Chalong on Viset Road, about a kilometer from the Chalong traffic circle heading toward Rawai. Tel: 081-787 3716

* Based on an average three-course meal, including service and taxes. Excludes beverages.