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# Phuket Gazette

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## Traffic plan drives on

Underpass design unveiled, but residents fear roadworks will divide their community

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

THE final plans for the underpass at the Bang Khu Intersection, at the north end of the bypass road, were announced this week, but the consequential widening of Thepkrasattri Road to cope with the higher volume of traffic has raised concern among local residents who live along the road.

Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak chaired the third and final public hearing on the project at the Boat Lagoon in Koh Kaew on Tuesday.

At the meeting, project manager Kaweerat Deeprasertwong announced the selected design for the two-lane underpass. "We chose this design because it has the least impact on local residents and the environment," he said.

"Motorcycles will not be permitted to use the underpass. Instead, motorcycles coming from Phuket Town heading toward the airport will use a dedicated lane on the surface. They will be subject to traffic light control at the junction," he said.

"Vehicles coming from the airport to Phuket Town will travel on a three-lane road that bypasses the traffic lights. The road from



The project will begin with the widening of Thepkrasattri Road to eight lanes, said Highways Department civil engineer Somporn Ratanaburi.

the airport turning right towards Patong will also be three lanes. However, the flow will be controlled by traffic lights," he added.

Mr Kaweerat also revealed that in response to comments made by local residents at previous public hearings the Koh Kaew intersection (north of Bang Khu) will also receive a makeover.

"Currently, the road in that area consists of six lanes, three on each side. We plan expand the road to eight lanes, four on each side. This will manage the traffic better with shorter waiting times at



The same design of the Bang Khu Underpass (pictured) will be used in front of Central Festival Phuket.

the traffic lights from each direction," he added.

"We also designed the underpass to handle earthquakes up to about 6.0 on the Richter scale," Mr Kaweerat said.

Somporn Ratanaburi, a civil engineer with the Department of Highways, detailed some aspects of upcoming underpass projects.

The traffic at the Darasamuth Intersection in front of Central Festival Phuket and the Sam Kong Intersection in front of the Tesco Lotus shopping center down the road also suffer heavy traffic dur-

ing peak hours, he explained.

"We are going to solve the traffic issue at these two intersections with underpasses. The Darasamuth Intersection underpass project has already received a budget of 600 million baht for fiscal 2012 and is ready for construction," said Mr Somporn.

"Both the Bang Khu Intersection and the Darasamuth Intersection will feature the same type of underpass.

"The Department of Highways hired a consultants to study and create an underpass design that

will be the most appropriate for traffic volume, while minimizing impact on local residents and the environment," he said.

"The project at Bang Khu, to cost about 450mn baht, is part of our 10-year traffic plan. We are working on the budget right now, but the project will definitely be moving forward," he added.

Mr Somporn also addressed concerns about traffic during the construction of the underpass.

"We plan to start the project by expanding the road," he said.

Continued on page 2

## Tuk-tuk, taxi drivers blame 'unfair rules'

By Atchaa Khamlo

GROUPS of tuk-tuk and taxi operators in Phuket blame "unfair regulations" as the underlying cause of most problems faced by tourists who use Phuket's public transport services.

The accusations were made during a meeting of senior government officials, including Government Spokesperson Prompong Nopparit, at Phuket Provincial Hall on April 27.

Tuk-tuk representative Darun Suksai, the "president" of a consortium of nine tuk-

tuk "co-operatives" operating in Phuket, told the meeting there were more than 10,000 tuk-tuks and taxis – legal and illegal – operating in Phuket.

He blamed the illegal operators for the horror stories of tuk-tuk drivers accosting, attacking and ripping off tourists.

"I guarantee that they were not any members of our network. All our tuk-tuks are legal and I always check on the actions of our members," he said.

To redress the problems, Mr Darun called on Mr Prompong and other relevant officials to listen seriously to the concerns

voiced by all tuk-tuk and taxi drivers in Phuket.

This was the only way to solve the transport problems that had been plaguing Phuket for more than a decade, he said.

Mr Darun said of more than 1,000 tuk-tuks in Phuket, 600 were designed to be boarded from the side and all are members of his network. Another 400, which board from the rear, are individually owned.

Nui Kawiset, of the 300-member strong Samakkee tuk-tuk co-operative formed in 2009, said this regulation affected 70 side-

Continued on page 8



Tuk-tuk driver Pratin Duangkham with his Krabi-registered, side-entry vehicle. Existing regulations mean he can use it only for personal travel, forcing him to rent a rear-entry model at a high monthly rate.

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## This Week



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# New CCTV centralized control room launched

By Chutharat Plerin

AS ONE of his first official acts since being re-elected president the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) in the April 8 election, Paiboon Upatising recently inspected the OrBorJor closed-circuit television (CCTV) control room located at the OrBorJor hospital in Rassada.

The control room, with access to footage recorded by 250 CCTV cameras, is the biggest CCTV network in Thailand outside of Bangkok, Mr Paiboon said.

"Currently, we have CCTV cameras installed in Phuket Town, Koh Kaew and Rassada. Next year, we will look for more places on the island that need CCTV cameras installed," he said.

The control room will also be able to check CCTV feeds from other networks, such as those used by the Chalong and Phuket Town Police Stations, which will help police and local administration organizations coordinate crime-fighting efforts, Mr Paiboon explained.



OrBorJor president Paiboon Upatising (2nd left) inspects the CCTV control room. Photo: Phuket OrBorJor

"We are ready for the upcoming Phuket Youth Games... We have caught hundreds of suspects because of CCTV recordings – so the public has nothing to worry about," he added.

An estimated 14,000 athletes, fans, supporters and spectators

are expected to arrive on the island for the Youth Games, which will be held in Phuket from May 26 to June 5.

Dubbed the "Phuket Games 2012", the event comprises 40 sports to be contested by young athletes from across Thailand.

## Underpass plan sparks local concerns

From page 1

"By expanding the road first, we will have more lanes available for vehicles when it comes time to close one side of the road for construction," he explained.

"The Darasamuth Intersection underpass is now under the final budget review process. Once we establish the cost we will open the bidding to companies interested in becoming the project contractor," he said.

"Construction will start soon since the budget for the fiscal year 2012 is available," he added.

Despite many public hearings and a final decision being delivered, there are still some locals who are unhappy with the plan.

Yotin Klinbuakaew, a local from Koh Kaew Moo 5 pointed out that those who are directly affected by the road expansion project are the residents of Koh Kaew Moo 4 and



'WHAT ABOUT US?' asks Koh Kaew resident Yotin.

Moo 5. However, they still do not know exactly what impacts the project will have on their lives.

"I'm not interested in talking about the underpass project, because everyone in Phuket already knows about it.

"However, the road expansion project in Koh Kaew area needs to be addressed. If they are going to start a mega-project in front of our houses, don't you think we have a right to know the details

about the project?" he asked.

"Since this project will completely change our lives, I would suggest the organizers come to the mosque in Moo 4 and Moo 5 to hear what we think, before they make any decision," he said.

Mr Yotin went on to raise concerns about traffic flow in the areas, citing the issue of cars joining Thepkrsattri Road from British International School being forced to take lefts and then make U-turns to head back towards Phuket Town, as well as the issue of the expected future traffic volume as housing additions in the area are completed.

"I live in that area and I see near-misses every day. I'm concerned about this," he explained.

Mr Kaweerat closed the meeting by thanking all the villagers who attended. "I have noted all of their comments and will use them to improve our plan," he said.

## Australian tourist dies after roadside collapse

A 65-year-old Australian tourist found unconscious by the side of the road near Surin Beach died after suffering apparent heatstroke.

A Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization rescue worker's unit based at Layan Beach received a report at 2:39pm on April 25 that a man had fainted by the side of the road about 200 meters from the beach.

Rescue workers arrived at the scene to find a group of tourists trying to help the man, who was still breathing.

The rescue team rushed the

man to Thalang Hospital, where medical staff performed CPR for two hours before doctors pronounced him dead.

The initial cause of death was given as cardiopulmonary failure, possibly brought on by heatstroke.

Thalang Police duty officer Lt Col Somkid Khaosang identified the deceased as Michael Lester. He was staying at a hotel at Surin Beach during his holiday in Phuket.

Relatives have been informed of his passing, a source in the Australian diplomatic mission in Thailand confirmed.



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Norwegian Stein Dokset behind bars. Photo: Orawin Narabal

## Dokset murder case DNA report 'just a formality': Chalong Police

CHALONG Police on Wednesday confirmed to the *Gazette* that investigators are still waiting for written confirmation that the DNA tests of the human remains found in the basement of Norwegian expat Stein Dokset's luxury villa in Kata are those of his former girlfriend Runnapa Suktong.

"We were informed by a phone call a few days ago that the remains are indeed those of Ms Runnapa, and Mr Dokset has already confirmed in his confession to police that the remains were of her," Chalong Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri told the *Gazette*.

"So this is now just a formality. Once we have that report we will then forward the case to the Phuket Prosecutor's Office to proceed with the criminal charges against him," said Chalong Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri.

The remains were found in a plastic bin in the locked basement bathroom at Mr Dokset's luxury villa in Kata when police raided the home on February 28.

Mr Dokset faces charges of murder, concealing his victim's body and illegal possession of a firearm.

Mr Dokset has been denied police bail and is currently being held at Phuket Provincial Prison while the investigation continues, Col Sirisak confirmed.

— *Chutharat Plerin*

## Tour bus plummets backwards off Patong Hill

MORE than 10 Chinese tourists were injured as a tour bus ran off the road on Patong Hill at about 7pm on April 27.

Thung Thong Police arrived at the crash site, situated at the bottom of the hill near the Kathu Shooting Range, to find the tour bus lying on its side.

Rescue workers were already in the process of transporting 13 Chinese tourists and a tour guide to Patong Hospital.

A 35-year-old Chinese woman was reported as having the most serious injuries with blood run-

ning from her ears indicating possible head trauma. Other tourists taken to hospital suffered only minor injuries.

Bus driver Boonna Juathaisong, 45, from Khon Kaen, told police that the bus lost power while trying to climb the steep incline.

The bus rolled down the hill backwards and then off the road at the curve at the bottom of the hill, coming to rest on its side.

Mr Boonna has been charged with reckless driving causing injury, Thung Thong police said.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*



The driver told police that the bus lost power while trying to climb the steep incline and rolled back down the hill. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

## Hunt for exchange booth robber

By *Atchaa Khamlo*

POLICE have broadened their search for the gunman who robbed a currency exchange kiosk in Kata last Saturday night of 48,000 baht after a key witness told police that their prime suspect was not the man who committed the robbery.

Chalong Police had named Nathee Srisawang, 28, from Prachuap Khiri Khan, as their prime suspect.

Mr Nathee had previously been named in a complaint filed by a woman with the Patong Police, claiming that Mr Nathee had absconded with her daughter.

Police have yet to locate Mr Nathee or the daughter.

However, 29-year-old Chanya Sriwasuthom, who was the Kasikornbank Customer Service officer in the booth when the robbery occurred just before 10pm on Saturday, told police on Monday that the robber was similar in looks, but she was sure it was not Mr Nathee.

Ms Chanya described the robber as a Thai man, over 160cm tall, with dark skin. He was wearing a black jacket at the time of the robbery, she said.

"He parked his motorbike right in front of the booth and he was still wearing the motorbike helmet with the clear plastic visor down



An artist's impression of the man wanted for robbing the Phuket currency exchange booth on Saturday.

when he approached the window," Ms Chanya said.

"The streets were very quiet, and at that time of night we usually see Thai people approaching us to use the ATMs right beside our window," she added.

The currency exchange kiosk is attached to the Kasikornbank branch directly in front of the Kata-Karon Municipality offices on Kata Road.

"Since it was quiet, and there

was only one hour left until we closed, I thought I might as well tally up our stock in hand for the night early," Ms Chanya said.

"I had just finished checking the banknotes in stock when the man handed me a paper bag through the security box, but when I took the paper bag I could see that he was holding a gun, pointing it directly at me," she explained.

"Give me the money," was all

the man said.

"I gave him all the Thai baht banknotes that were in the drawer, but I didn't give him any foreign banknotes. Then after he had left, I pressed the booth's security alarm," Ms Chanya said.

Chalong Police have released an artist's impression of the robber, based on the description given by Ms Chanya.

They are now broadening their search for the man.



The currency exchange booth is next to the Kata-Karon Municipality offices. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

## Vehicle license plate auction raises more than 30mn baht

OVER 30 million baht was raised during the "Lucky License Plate Action" held by the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) at The Metropole Hotel in Phuket Town on April 28 to 29.

The money raised from the auction, about 30.5mn baht, will go to the Road Safety Fund, which provides assistance to road-accident victims and conducts road-safety campaigns throughout the year, said PLTO chief Teerayut Prasertpol.

A Thai citizen made the highest bid of 1,199,999 baht for the luckiest plate of them all, Gor Bor 9999. Other notable big bids were for Gor Bor 1111, which was purchased for 900,000 baht by a Russian man, and Gor Bor 1,

which went for the same price and was also purchased by a foreigner.

"This is the 7<sup>th</sup> auction. There were a surprising number of foreigners taking part in the action," said Mr Teerayut.

— *Kritsada Meuanhawong*



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# New twist in drug war

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

THE Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) has launched a project that may be a precursor to a shift in strategy in the War on Drugs in Phuket.

The organization is inviting drug users who wish to turn their lives around to join a rehabilitation camp under the "One Local Administration Organization, One Drug Rehabilitation Camp" project.

As part of the scheme Phuket City Police, government officials and community leaders on April 26 set up a checkpoint near the entrance of Koh Kaew Soi 33, near to the Isuzu showroom on Thepkasattri Road.

The project is a collaborative effort by Koh Kaew *OrBorTor* and the Interior Ministry's Department of Local Administration and Department of Provincial Administration.

"We are working together with subdistrict headmen, village headmen, police and provincial public health officers to search for drug users. Those who admit to taking drugs will not have charges brought against them, but will have to attend a drug rehabilitation camp at Baan Sapam School on May 1 to 9," said Suwat Bubbapo, Muang District Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*).

It is not just the checkpoint on Thepkasattri Road that drug users will have to be wary of. Police officers will set up checkpoints in different areas of Koh Kaew, where they will randomly select people to undergo urine tests.

Capt Rattaket Munmuang, Crime Suppression Inspector of Phuket City Police, said, "When we stop someone we will explain the project to them and ask for their cooperation in checking their



Drug users can volunteer for the rehabilitation camp to avoid charges being pressed against them.

urine for traces of illicit drugs. It is sometimes easy to find many drug users in the same area just from stopping one person, as they will often point out that there are more in the vicinity. In this way we can sometimes net more than 10 users in one area," he said.

Those who test positive for drugs will be offered the chance to join the project and attend the camp. "If a urine sample turns purple, police will question that person. If they admit to taking drugs, we will give them the opportunity to avoid criminal charges by voluntarily attending the camp," said Capt Rattaket.

"However, if they deny drug use, we will send the urine sample for further tests to determine which drug the sample contains. If the test results indicate that they have taken an illegal drug, the police will issue an arrest warrant and press

charges against them," he added.

*Palad* Suwat explained that Koh Kaew is the first subdistrict in Phuket to run this kind of project.

"We went around to all villages of Koh Kaew and so far we have identified more than 40 drug users. Most of them are either in the working-age group or students," said *Palad* Suwat.

"We inform drug users attending the camp on what to bring and how to prepare for the camp. They are told that they will have to be at the camp for the entire nine days," he said.

"My main goal is to reduce the number of drug users in Koh Kaew.

I also hope they gain a better understanding of drugs and how damaging they can be. After the camp, we will check on them from time to time to make sure they are

**'Those who admit to taking drugs will not have charges brought against them, but will have to attend a drug rehabilitation camp.'**

— Capt Rattaket Munmuang

not going back to using drugs again," said *Palad* Suwat.

"After returning home, they will be subjected to four randomly timed drug tests. We will also offer any additional help they need to completely quit

using drugs," he added.

"We aim to find at least 80 drug users to send to the camp. So far we have 48 confirmed participants, plus another 10 suspects we expect to round up shortly," he concluded.

## Phuket leads charge for IT regional disaster response system

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) is spearheading a project to set up an integrated information system to better coordinate emergency response efforts throughout the Andaman coast provinces in disaster situations.

"We collated the working experiences of people throughout the Andaman region who are involved in responding to natural disasters," said PPHO Deputy Director Wiwat Seetamanotch at the Phuket meeting on April 26.

Among the 100 people at the meeting were Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) staff, officers from the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Area Command, Phuket City Police, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket) officers, representatives from CAT Telecom, TOT and the Kusoldharm and Ruamjai rescue foundations.

Dr Wiwat explained that the move to set up the information system is a collaborative effort by the Emergency Medical Institute of Thailand, the Software Industry Promotion Agency and the DDPM-Phuket.

The move to set up the system follows experts from Japan extolling the profound benefits of an integrated disaster-response IT system at a DMAT training intensive session in Phuket last December.

PPHO has applied to the Cabinet for 25 million baht to upgrade its DMAT mobile hospital and other medical equipment used in providing mobile emergency medical aid, Dr Wiwat said.

"I was informed that the budget request will be presented to the Cabinet on May 11," Dr Wiwat added.

— The Nation

## Officials plan to shine light on notorious road

AFTER a high-speed crash on April 13 killed two local residents on the main road through Pa Khlok, officials are now looking to add street lights along the notorious stretch of dark road, as well as "reflective road studs".

Theera Prugsanan, chief of the Thalang Electricity Authority Office, told a meeting at Phuket City Hall that his office will send officers to identify where street lamps should be posted along the Pa Khlok – Muang Mai Road.

"There are street lamps from the Heroines' Monument to Sitsoontornbumrung School, but after that there are no street lights anywhere along the road," he said.

Pramote Phitak, Deputy Director of the Highways Department Phuket office, explained that the high accident rate on the road was the result of a combination of factors, but could be attributed mostly to poor driver discipline.



In addition to street lights cat eyes will also be placed along the road.

"Some drivers speed on that road, while others drive at night without lights. I will have our officers install reflective road studs along the road surface so drivers can easily see the lane markings and not cross onto the wrong side of the road," he said.



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# Doomsday myth ebbs into history

By Atchaa Khamlo  
and Chutharat Plerin

THE mass exodus from Phuket predicated by some failed to materialize last Saturday as police at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint reported normal traffic on Srisoonthorn Bridge, which links outbound traffic to the mainland.

Meanwhile, as part of the Provincial government's efforts to boost confidence that April 28 was not a day of calamity, as rumors predicted, a host of high-profile officials were at Phuket International Airport that morning to welcome the first inbound flight of the day.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Government Spokesman and Pheu Thai senior party member Prompong Nopparit, Phuket MP Raywat Areerob and other local government officials met and welcomed 385 passengers arriving from Bangkok aboard the Thai Airways Boeing 747.

Officials wearing their best smiles handed out garlands of flowers and gift key rings to the slightly surprised arriving passengers.

Speaking at the airport, Governor Tri explained that he had been

told by Suwit Kosuwan, chief of the Mineral Resources Department's Active Fault Research Division, that for Phuket to disappear into the sea would require an earthquake measuring 20 on the Richter scale to strike the center of Phuket.

Gov Tri went on to explain that Mr Suwit said that the worst that could ever possibly occur is a 9.0 Richter earthquake.

"People who love Phuket should be confident today and ignore rumors of Phuket sinking into the sea," he said.

"People should not panic because of one rumor," he added.

Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham, who arrived with the flight from Bangkok, said, "Yesterday, compared with April 27 last year, shows a passenger increase of 10.3 per cent. All flights are full. Certainly none of the 18,000 Chinese from Amway cancelled."

"This proves that people still have confidence in our safety measures and they are not listening to rumors," he added.

The high-power delegation met villagers later Saturday morning at Baan Bangkham Moo 2 in Srisoonthorn, identified as the epicenter of the April 16 earth-



Gov Tri leads the celebrations for the failed doomsday. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

quake that shook Phuket, to reinforce the message that Phuket was not about to sink – and to get the day's scheduled fun activities underway.

"I would like to thank all Phuket people for showing good sense in light of rumors that have been circulating recently and not dis-

crediting Phuket.

"This rumor does not only damage Phuket tourism it is also considered a threat to public safety, to which end I have filed a complaint against the rumormonger," Governor Tri told the villagers.

He went on to say that 504 households were damaged by the

earthquakes but he would receive the official report from Thalang District officers on May 1.

After that, on May 7, he and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Yongyut Wichaidit would return to personally hand out the compensation payments.

Phuket's British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter accompanied the delegation. "I do not think many tourists coming to Phuket are aware of this scare. It is unfortunate that small earthquakes hit Thalang. They did not really cause structural damage but it's a shame that such rare occurrence has spawned such a damaging rumor," he told the *Gazette*.

Local resident Mina Kahapana, 58, told the *Gazette*, "I was scared of the rumor, especially because of the earthquake on April 16. I was thinking about leaving Phuket, but when the government announced that it was just a rumor and there couldn't possibly be any truth in the 'doomsday' story, we decided to stay."

"Some people [originally] from other provinces have left the village, but the locals are still here. We are not going anywhere," she said.

## Residents panic over dead fish



Many residents came to see the freshwater fish that were found dead in the brackish-water canal in Phuket Town. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

REPORTS of Phuket Town residents panicking, fearing that the dead fish found in canal were an omen of an impending tsunami strike, prompted officials to scramble on April 26 and investigate the cause.

The brackish water of the mostly dry Klong Saensuk canal, which runs past the Seahorse Circle at the east end of Ong Sim Phai Road, had about 10 kilograms of dead freshwater fish in it, said Phuket Fisheries Office chief Kavi Saranamkul.

"Our officers inspected the klong, because many people were panicking. They thought the dead fish were an omen that another tsunami would hit Phuket," Mr Kavi told the *Gazette*.

"All of the dead fish were freshwater fish... We believe they escaped from fish farms," he said.

"They died because they are freshwater fish and could not survive in the brackish water. Yesterday [April 26], brackish water marine life in the klong was just fine," Mr Kavi explained.

"There is no need to panic, or to misinterpret this as a tsunami-warning omen – there is nothing to be worried about," he added.

Some of the fish were taken by local residents to cook or sell, resulting in a traffic jam in the area.

Local fish farmer Manop Kaewkla, 43, visited the canal to see the dead fish.

"Somebody put the fish into the canal. Some of them had been frozen, I can tell," he told the *Gazette*.

"There is no need to panic – they really are just dead fish that were thrown away," he added.

– Chutharat Plerin and  
Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Arak Kraissap re-enacted the stabbing for police. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

## Neighborly dispute ends in fatal attack

THUNG Thong Police on Tuesday held a re-enactment of the assault that resulted in the death of Kamonchai Suwanin, 38, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, last Sunday evening.

The suspect, Arak Kraissap, 38, from Nonthaburi, confessed to police that following many arguments he stabbed Mr Kamonchai in the throat outside their apartments, opposite the 7-Eleven store on Wichit Songkhram Road near the Caltex gas station in Thung Thong, Kathu.

Thung Thong Police Capt Sakchai Chunyong told the *Gazette*, "I received a report around 9:30pm on Sunday night that Mr Kamonchai had been seriously wounded during an argument at an apartment in Wichit.

"The victim died en route to Vachira Phuket Hospital. The suspect has been charged with premeditated murder and will be transferred to the court holding cells today," Capt Sakchai added.

Mr Arak said during the re-enactment, "he picked fights with me many times. I have no idea why he wanted to fight me that bad. That night I was in my room with my wife and he knocked on my door and called me out for a fight again. When I opened the door I saw he was carrying a knife, so I went to get a knife from my room.

"Then he went back to his room to get a gun. I ran out of the building, calling to Dow, my wife, and to let other people witness that he was threatening me," Mr Arak explained.

"Dow called me in and I walked back to our room, but he was standing there holding a knife and pointing a gun at my chest, so I stabbed him once in the throat.

"Then I ran away to get rid of the knife, which I hid near the Cikan Salon across the street [from the Caltex gas station] on the way to Patong Hill," he said.

"I do not have any arguments with any other people – just him," Mr Arak added.

Thung Thong Police Superintendent Kraithong Chanthongbai told the *Gazette*, "the two had problems for a while because the victim liked to drink and Mr Arak, a Muslim, did not. This was the cause of the fighting between them.

"Eventually it led to Mr Arak stabbing Mr Kamonchai in the throat with a 10-inch knife," he added.

Police arrested Mr Arak at the Pip-In Hotel in Phuket Town at 5am, April 30.

"He was about to leave Phuket that morning," Col Kraithong added.

– Chutharat Plerin

# Tout turf war

PHUKET Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak arrived at the Karon Municipality office in Kata on April 24 to hear firsthand how a spat between local vendors and Cambodians who peddle trinkets and other items on nearby beaches had erupted into a full-blown brawl in broad daylight for all tourists to witness.

"One Thai man was seriously injured in the melee, which had frightened foreign tourists running for their own safety," said Arunsri Klunma, chief of Karon Village 1.

"The fight has damaged our image as a tourist destination, especially that of Karon Beach," she added.

Karon Deputy Mayor Itthiporn Sangkaew said the influx of Cambodian beach peddlers to beaches in Kata and Karon followed a similar skirmish with local peddlers in Patong. That fight prompted Patong Municipality to drive them off the beach.

"In Kata-Karon, the Cambodian peddlers also had a conflict with another group of beach peddlers from Ayutthaya and Roi-et provinces, who had been working at Karon Beach for many years.

"One of the Cambodian men was beaten by the group earlier.

Then, on February 7, the Cambodians brought more than 10 people to beat up one man in revenge," Deputy Mayor Itthiporn said.

Beach chair operators working in the area, fearing for their safety, had armed themselves with blades and knives, he added.

After the brawl, five Cambodians were arrested and fined 2,000 baht each, he said.

Karon tambon chief Winai Chitchiew told the meeting that on February 8 both sides were prepared to attack each other, but Chalong Police were informed and managed to defuse the situation.

The Thais involved were fined 500 baht each for fighting, while the Cambodians were fined 2,000 baht for working illegally, then released.

V/G Somkiet told the meeting that existing laws could be used to rid Kata-Karon of an estimated 400 beach peddlers "who sometimes cause problems and annoy tourists".

"But we need to consider the fact that they have families to support, so we will choose a softer method and give them a chance to improve first before using the full force of the law," he said.

After attendees presented their views on the issue, they agreed on a four-step solution:

1. Chalong Police are to arrest any alien peddlers caught work-

**'We need to consider the fact that they have families to support, so we will choose a softer method and give them a chance to improve first before using the full force of the law.'**

– V/Gov Somkiet

**A FURIOUS beach brawl between rival groups of migrant Thai and Cambodian beach peddlers in February has led Karon Municipality to draft regulations to register all peddlers and rid the sands of illegal alien workers. *Phuket Gazette* senior reporter Atchaa Khamlo reports.**



A variety of goods that are of interest to some of Phuket's tourists are sold by peddlers on Kata Beach. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

ing on the beach.

2. All Thai nationals already working as peddlers on the beaches are to register with Karon Municipality. Their number will be limited to 400. After the registration period, no new peddlers will be allowed.

3. Karon Municipality is to draft a set of regulations the peddlers must follow.

4. A meeting, to be attended by representatives of Phuket Provincial Office and other relevant government offices will be held on June 10 to ensure the peddlers understand the regulations clearly.

Karon Municipality has until the end of May to draft the regulations, which are to go into effect following the June 10 meeting.

The success of the new measures would be reviewed after one year, with a meeting to be held on June 10, 2013 to discuss whether the regulations should be extended.

If they are deemed unsuccessful, a crackdown will be conducted and all peddlers caught working on the beach will be arrested.

V/Gov Somkiet said it would be

unrealistic to expect the regulations to be a complete success, but said he hoped for a "60% improvement" as a result.

As for how illegal aliens could be allowed to work in such a highly visible trade, Karon Municipality officer Anurak Yaemklai alleged that they did so with the "involvement" of a certain member of Chalong Police.

On February 6, the day before the big fight, Karon Municipality officers detained four Cambodian beach peddlers and sent them to Chalong Police for processing.

They were fined 2,000 baht each and then released, despite objections by Karon Municipality officials who argued that they needed to be prosecuted and turned over to Immigration Police for deportation.

"The police officer responsible has since been transferred to another district," he said.

Tambon chief Winai also alleged to the *Gazette* that some police officers were involved in a racket that allowed aliens to continue to work illegally on the beaches.

Mr Anurak said that his strict enforcement in detaining alien peddlers and handing them over to police had caused him considerable personal problems.

In addition to many complaints, he had also received scratches to his car and been falsely accused of attempted murder, he said.

"The municipality has the right to only arrest and fine them. We



Beach vendor. Photo: Chris Hudon

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# fires up on Kata Beach

cannot initiate legal charges as the police can," Mr Anurak said.

Asked about the current whereabouts of the Cambodians who were arrested and released, Mr Anurak said he suspected they had returned to Patong, where they are known to live together in a rented house.

"If they return to the beaches of Kata and Karon to work, they will again be arrested and turned over to Chalong Police, with a request to be sent to Immigration Police for deportation," he said.

## ALIEN INVASION

If anyone knows the history of the beach peddling business in Karon it is Phayom Thongjampi, who arrived in the area 30 years ago at the age of 18 and has been hawking items to foreign tourists ever since.

"I agree with the peddler management system. It will allow officials to control the number of peddlers, because at the moment there are new peddlers arriving and causing trouble," she said.

The efforts by officials since the brawl had not completely cleared the beaches of illegal alien vendors, she said.

"There are still alien peddlers on the beach, even though there are fewer of them since the fight," she added.

It was not as easy for municipal officials to know when Cambodians were peddling on the beach because they did not work the sands day-to-day like local peddlers, who are well known to the authorities, she said.

Ms Phayorn heard that the influx of Cambodian peddlers from Patong followed one of their mem-



Tourist gives beach vendor's pan flute a blow while catching some sun on Kata Beach. Photo: Nopparat Nambunyen

bers stabbing a Patong policeman, after which they were driven off the beach there, she said.

They also brought in extra reinforcements from Patong for their assault on the Karon peddler, she added.

## ESTABLISHING A BEACHHEAD

"About two years ago, a few Cambodians began peddling on the beaches here. One of them was pregnant. We felt sorry for them, so we let them sell here. Later their numbers increased and started to affect our own earnings," Ms Phayorn told the *Gazette*.

There are now more than 10 Cambodians working the beaches of Kata-Karon, their numbers peaking during the tourism high

season, she said.

"This year we have not earned very much due to the bad economy. Last year I earned about 2,000 baht a day during the high season, but this high season I am only averaging about 300 baht to 500 baht a day," she said.

Cambodians were not the only beach peddlers arrested by Karon Municipality officers, she pointed out.

Ms Phayorn welcomes the new regulations because they would end the periodic arresting and fining of Thai peddlers by municipal officials, she said.

"Karon Municipality officers arrest us and fine us 300 baht each time. However, sometimes we manage to run away from them," said the 48-year-old.

"It's not easy to live in Phuket

"We also need to save money to send back to our families in Ayutthaya," she said.

"We have to peddle on the beach because we don't have enough money to open shops. That would require a start-up cost of 100,000 baht, which we simply don't have," she ended.

## OUTTA HERE

Official figures from Phuket Immigration show that 11 Cambodians were deported by their office in 2011, down from 16 in 2010.

The figures pale in comparison to those for Burmese, 3,058 of whom were deported in 2010.

An additional 1,134 Burmese were deported in the first four months of 2011, after which time an amnesty was declared as the governments of Thailand and Myanmar began new measures to legalize them.

In total, Phuket Immigration arrested 3,187 foreigners on various charges in 2011 and deported 1,179 of them.



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Ms Jardeliza survived the fall suffering only a broken left leg. Photo: Kritsada Meuanhawong

## Woman falls six floors and lives

A 25-year-old Philippine tourist escaped serious injury after she fell from the balcony of a sixth-floor Patong hotel room late last Sunday night.

Kusoldharm Foundation workers in Patong arrived to find Jardeliza Samireh lying in the dirt in the vacant plot behind the Patong Pearl Resortel on Soi Sawatdirak Road.

Ms Samireh apparently fell from the hotel room balcony, landed on top of the glass roof of the hotel's spa at the back of the building, then bounced over the wall behind the property and into the vacant lot.

She suffered only a broken left leg in the dramatic fall.

Staff at the resort said that Ms Samireh checked in to the hotel with a male friend on Friday.

"Ms Jardeliza came back at about 10:30pm and the man came back at about midnight. Then about 20 minutes later the man rushed down and told us that Ms Jardeliza had fallen from their room's balcony," one staff member told the *Gazette*. "Police nearby rushed to the scene and we found her lying on the ground over the hotel wall," the staffer said.

"The ambulance arrived and rushed her immediately to Patong Hospital," she added.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

# Phuket's Jaruwat's got talent

PHUKET-born Jaruwat "Dome" Cheawaram has won the eighth season of the nationally televised singing talent quest *The Star*.

The 21-year-old law student at Thammasat University, Thailand's premier law school, was a surprise win in the show's season finale held at the Impact Muang Thong Thani stadium on the outskirts of Bangkok last Sunday night.

Dome's win flies in the face of many people posting comments on *The Star* 8 Facebook fan page saying that Thanathat "Kangsom" Chai-ut would win because of his additional good looks.

Dome tearfully accepted his award with his mother and father, wheelchair bound since suffering a stroke, joining him on stage.

"Many people teased me that I would never make it, but I never gave up. Actually, it inspired me to try even harder. And my family always supported me," he said.

"All my life I have been dreaming of this, but I have been insulted [because of his looks]. I never gave up. I would like to thank everyone who helped me - my family, my vocal trainer and the producer of the show for giving me the opportunity to join the contest," Dome added.



Phuket's 21-year-old Jaruwat 'Dome' Cheawaram (right) with his mother Raewadee and father Tawatchai as he is declared the winner of the nationally televised talent show, *The Star*. Photo: PR EXACT - SCENARIO

Dome's mother thanked Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha as her words were broadcast across the country. "I would like to thank the Governor of Phuket, Tri Augkaradacha, for the support he has shown our family," she said.

Foreigners not familiar with the sheer scale of the popularity show enjoys across Thailand are prob-

ably more familiar with Dome's face gracing a billboard opposite Central Festival Phuket with a message of support from the province.

He is also a former student of Phuket Wittayalai School in Phuket Town.

Dome's victory in the talent quest follows Phuket's Pavida "Silvy" Morigg making the final

six last year.

Silvy, 15 years old at the time, was still studying at Kajonkietsuksa School while competing in the contest.

Wichayanee "Gam" Pearklin, now known as "Gam the Star", won the talent show in 2008 while finishing Year 12 at Phuket Satree School.

## Tuk-tuk drivers in U-turn over trouble starters

From page 1

entry tuk-tuks in that co-op that were brought in from other provinces.

"We applied for all these vehicles to be registered as tuk-tuks after the new rule was introduced. It costs too much - about 100,000 baht per vehicle - to convert them. So we have to rent tuk-tuks from other operators at 500 baht a day, or 15,000 baht a month," he said.

Nikom Panmee, representing one of the cooperatives that has a concession to operate 180 limousines at Phuket International Airport, blamed the contract with airport operator Air-

ports of Thailand (AOT), a public organization, for being too costly to his members.

"During the last year of the contract we have to pay 1.7 million baht monthly to AOT. We have asked the airport to reduce the concession fee since 1970. We have also complained to the government and its relevant departments, such as the Ministry of Transport, but we have never received a response.

"The current concession expires on June 30. We don't know how much the fee will increase after then - that's up to AOT," Mr Nikom said.

One airport limousine representative said the high concession fee of 1.4mn baht a month

for the co-op he represented boiled down to 13,000 baht being required from each of the 220 vehicles within his co-op.

"We have calculated our expenses. We cannot live on this anymore," said Mr Nikom.

His organization was well aware of the illegal "black plate" taxis serving passengers at the airport. "We can accept that, but the airport needs to reduce our fee," he said.

"We have tried everything possible to negotiate a fairer fee, but without success. So if needed, come June 30, as a last resort we will do [what we need to do] by taking our people to force the airport," Mr Nikom warned.

## 'Cool-off' leads monks to blows, defrocking

TWO monks in Kamphaeng Phet province were defrocked last month after getting drunk and beating each other black and blue.

The cause of the ruckus? An argument over who was "cooler": monks from Kamphaeng Phet or those from Pichit Province.

On the night of April 27, police went to Pikul Temple in Nakhon Chum Subdistrict after receiving a report saying two drunken monks were fighting. Inside the monks' quarters, they found Phra Prasit Bunkham, 36, from Pichit, and Phra Seksan Chiaowikorn, 46, of Kamphaeng Phet, punching each other.

A bottle of *lao khao* rice wine was lying nearby.

Officers separated the two men and took them to Bo Sam Saen Temple nearby to be defrocked. Both were very drunk and had swollen faces from the fight.

As the monks were waiting to be defrocked, they started arguing and shouting at each other again after Phra Seksan pressed a



cigarette on Phra Prasit's face.

Rescue volunteers were forced to separate the two clergymen.

But the drunken monks continued to squabble, with Phra Seksan lunging forward and punching Phra Prasit in the face and sparking another round of fighting.

Phra Prasit told officers he had been drinking *lao khao* with Phra Seksan from 6pm that day.

Once they were drunk, an argument broke out on the subject of how good monks from different places were, he said.

Phra Seksan claimed that those from Kamphaeng Phet were best. Phra Prasit could not accept this. He replied that it was monks from Pichit, such as himself, who were superior. At this point the monks came to blows.

Phra Seksan accepted that the two had been drinking, but claimed he had only drunk one glass of spirits.

He claimed Phra Prasit had got drunk and attacked a 70-year-old monk, and that he had intervened to stop him.

He said Phra Prasit then attacked a temple student, forcing him to again hold him back.

At this, Phra Prasit had thrown *lao khao* over his face and the fist-fight broke out.

After the two monks had been defrocked, the now-former monk Mr Seksan had run up and again attacked Mr Prasit, trying to pour the contents of a trash can over his head.

Volunteers again had to separate the pair. The commotion finally ended when Mr Seksan's relatives arrived and took him home.

Mr Prasit was taken to the police station, where was kept until he sobered up.

— *Thai Rath*

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## Pheu Thai Party plans return soiree

THE ruling Pheu Thai Party is planning a party on May 30 to mark the potential return to politics of 111 of its former executives who were banned from political activity for five years in 2007.

The politicians were banned when the Thai Rak Thai Party, a precursor to Pheu Thai set up by former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, was dissolved by a Constitution Court ruling.

The move left Mr Thaksin's parliamentary team bereft of some of its most senior and experienced politicians.

Among those banned were Mr Thaksin himself and Newin Chidchob, Mr Thaksin's former right-hand man who famously betrayed his patron to form a government with the Democrat Party in 2008.

Vichit Plangsriskul, secretary general of the Thai Rak Thai 111 Foundation, said the banned politicians would take part in a religious ceremony and release 111 pigeons.

A party will be held in the evening at the Miracle Hotel, where the former party executives are scheduled to give speeches of five to 10 minutes each, Mr Vichit said.

Mr Thaksin is expected to phone in from abroad during the event, he added.

Many in the Group of 111 will apply to become members of Pheu Thai on June 1, Mr Vichit said.

However, he could not confirm whether some of them would become members of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's younger sister.

# Landmark verdict delayed

## AROUND THE nation

A COURT postponed delivering its verdict on a landmark *lese majeste* case against a webmaster this week, leaving campaigners with another month to fret over the potentially far-reaching consequences the verdict might have for online freedom in Thailand.

Chiranuch "Jiew" Premchaiporn, the editor of the *Prachatai* online newspaper, is accused of failing to remove comments deemed insulting to the monarchy quickly enough from the website's forum.

She faces up to 20 years in prison.

The verdict of the Bangkok Criminal Court was expected at 10am on April 30. The courtroom was packed with representatives of the global media, diplomats and supporters of Ms Chiranuch expecting an end to a case, which has dragged on since 2008.

They were disappointed, how-



Ms Prachatai using the internet at her office in Bangkok, 2010. Photo: AFP

ever, when the court ordered the verdict announcement to be postponed until May 30 in order to give the judges more time to examine the large number of supporting documents submitted by both sides.

"Waiting is tormenting," Ms

Chiranuch told *The Nation*, adding that she had not slept well the night before and would now be anxious for yet another month.

Ms Chiranuch has been charged under the vague Computer Crimes Act for failing to

delete 10 comments deemed to construe *lese majeste* from the *Prachatai* webboard "quickly enough", though the law fails to clearly define how quickly she should have acted.

The outcome of the case is expected to have widespread implications for a number of internet-based industries in Thailand. If Ms Chiranuch is found guilty, the ruling could be interpreted to suggest that internet service providers and other companies could be held liable for any offending content they unwittingly host.

Sunai Phasuk, a researcher at Human Rights Watch Thailand who was at the court to hear the verdict, said the public might never know if other reasons were behind the deferment. However, the climate of fear will continue, he said.

Webmasters who act as intermediaries will continue to fear prosecution if they allow discussions criticizing the monarchy to take place on their websites, Mr Sunai said.

"As long as there is no verdict, content controls will continue," he told *The Nation*.

## 'Frank' returns to Manchester City fans

FUGITIVE former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was mobbed by Manchester City fans on his first visit to the UK since he was barred from the country in 2008.

Mr Thaksin bought the club in 2007 for UK£82 million (4.1 billion baht).

While he improved the fortunes of the then-struggling team with a number of expensive signings, he failed to bring in any titles and sold it a year later to Sheik Mansour of Abu Dhabi for

UK£200mn.

The exiled former premier is nevertheless held in high esteem by many City fans for what he did for the club.

Mr Thaksin, known by City fans as "Frank" due to the resemblance of his surname to that of Frank Sinatra, stood in the stands with regular fans. He was mobbed by supporters asking for autographs.

Mr Thaksin was barred from the UK in 2008 after a court in Thailand found him guilty of cor-

ruption, a conviction he maintains was politically motivated.

He found himself banned from a number of states around the world after the former Democrat Party-led government declared him a fugitive from justice.

Now that his sister Yingluck Shinawatra is Prime Minister, many countries have once again permitted him entry.

Foreign Minister Surapong Towichukchaikul said the former PM had also travelled to China, Japan, South Korea and India.



Thaksin smiles for photos at the Manchester City match. Photo: AFP

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# Speed bumps: more harm than good

AMONG the many factors conspiring to make Phuket roads some of the most dangerous in Thailand is the proliferation of poorly-designed, poorly-marked and poorly-maintained speed bumps that needlessly cause untold millions of baht in car damages and wasted fossil fuels every year.

The *Phuket Gazette* does not refute the effectiveness of speed bumps at slowing down traffic. Speed bumps do have their place in some urban settings, especially near schools and other places where the safety of pedestrians is the primary concern.

The sad reality, however, is that Phuket suffers from a widespread public disregard for traffic law, coupled with an almost complete disinterest among law officers in issuing tickets for moving violations. The result is speed bumps everywhere, even on curved, hilly sections of major highways.

The whole concept of speed bumps, and associated impediments to constant velocity such as "speed ramps", turns mankind's remarkable achievements in road-building technology over the ages completely on its head.

From the time of the Roman Empire, the goal of road-building projects has been to create firm, level surfaces to maximize the efficiency of rolling conveyances. We are now capable of engineering marvels such as the German autobahn, where for most people driving is actually a pleasure and not a daily source of frustration, fear and anger.

Circumstances here in Phuket make speed bumps a necessary evil in some cases, but we need the Highways Department, Department of Rural Roads, local administration organizations and other agencies responsible to exercise better judgment and common sense in their design and placement. They also need better maintenance, especially those made with reinforced concrete bars that are exposed over time and shred a rubber tyre just as easily as a human foot.

Readers familiar with Phuket roads probably would not take long to produce a list of speed bumps on the island that do more harm than good overall. Many are simply too high, causing even standard car makes to "bottom out". The situation must be far worse for drivers of ground-hugging sports cars and one actually has to wonder who in their right mind would ever take a Ferrari or Lamborghini out on the streets of Phuket.

All the cracked oil pans, damaged shock absorbers and overall wear and tear caused by speed bumps no doubt provide a ready source of work for island mechanics – but there are few other benefits.

During campaigning, local politicians invariably talk about the need to improve traffic flow in Phuket by spending millions on megaprojects. But the reality on the ground is a trend for ever more speed bumps and red lights at three-way junctions where they are unneeded and, as a consequence, routinely ignored.



## Give the cowboys buffalos

*Re: Gazette online, Red light confuses alleged drunk driver into taking out Phuket power poles, April 30*

Is it 'The Phuket Pickup Smashing Festival'? Four accidents involving pickups in one week? As someone recently said, those people would be safer riding buffalos.

After all, there are far fewer reports of buffalo accidents!

Caude  
Gazette forum

### Re-hydration can save your life

*Re: Gazette online, Aussie tourist dies of heatstroke in Phuket, April 27*

Not enough emphasis is placed on this nasty condition.

Remember to stay hydrated at all times, the consequences can be fatal as evidenced here. Poor fellow.

Chris  
Gazette forum

### Jet-ski operators bank brownie points

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket tourists, jet-ski operator scramble to stave off dolphin beaching, April 26*

I still think the jet-ski operators are the scum of Phuket. However, saving a couple of dolphins does seem to tender the heart towards them.

Why humans have chosen to adore and spend time and money on some animals, while completely disregarding other animals is beyond me. Nobody cares about a good-natured mollusk sadly washed ashore, but potentially suicidal dolphins sure pull on our heart-strings.

These jet-ski operators who eventually saved the dolphins did

### Letters to the Editor

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

a good thing (despite my best attempts I find myself just as sentimental about dolphins as your average 12-year-old school girl). It is nice to see the *Gazette*, showing the thoughtful side of individual jet-ski operators.

However, I refuse to be so washed away in sentimentality at their good will towards dolphins as to forget their callused nature when scamming tourists.

So, bravo for gaining some brownie points, but trust me Mr Jet-Ski Operators: you aren't off the hook.

Tony Bertozzi  
Phuket Town

### Disaster zone, really?

*Re: Gazette online, Disaster insurance to cover Phuket quakes, floods, landslides, April 26*

I'm surprised to read Srisoonthorn was declared a 'Disaster Zone'.

I live pretty much at the epicenter of the recent quake – and aftershocks, and there was very little damage to buildings other than superficial surface cracks.

agogohome  
Gazette forum

### No Haranguing around new station

I had the chance to use the new bus terminal in Phuket Town last weekend, and I must send my compliments to the Phuket Land Transportation Office.

It was such a pleasure to get off the bus and not be immedi-

ately hounded by taxi drivers. Even when I stepped through the front doors of the station, there was breathing room and no pressure. I am very pleased with the new system and can only hope it doesn't eventually succumb to corruption.

The one thing that would make a vast improvement is if the person behind the information desk understood and spoke better English.

I know this is Thailand and that tourists should learn some basic Thai, but given that fact that many don't and that Phuket is a hotspot for tourists arriving by bus, English help at the information desk would go a long way.

Trevor Green  
Rawai

### Not safe behind bulletproof glass

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket currency exchange robbery key witness refutes prime suspect, May 1*

Do the currency exchange booths not have the standard bullet-proof glass and good quality CCTV (closed-circuit television) to protect their employees and their money from just such an occurrence?

Does anyone here understand anything about basic security concepts?

Elliot  
Gazette forum

### Phuket the beautiful

*Re: Phuket Governor eyes interest in beach town beautification project, April 28*

They could start by planting a few more trees and flowers around Kata. The place has become an ugly gray concrete mess.

Tony  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Burmese workforce dreams of Mynamar

## FIRST PERSON

MY RELATIVES, my friends and I were very happy that Aung San Suu Kyi won the by-election for parliament. She is a brilliant and strong leader. With her will and ability, we believe she will lead our country to a better way of life.

However, I can't say her success this time will make a great difference, since she is now only the opposition party.

My Burmese friends in Thailand and I are watching the situation and waiting. We will wait until the present government party ends their term, and if Suu Kyi wins the next election and becomes head of the government, then we will certainly go back to Burma.

I have been in Thailand for 18 years now and I miss Burma. I want to return home, but the cost of living in Phuket is so high that I can't save much money.

In Burma, builders are paid the equivalent of 180 to 200 baht per day, but the cost of living is much lower there than here. However, it's very hard to find a job.

Here, I can find work for 10 or 11 months out of the year, but over there, it would be only for four or five months, after which there would be nothing to do.

When I started working in Phuket, my boss only paid me 160 baht a day. Even though he increased it to 180 baht the following year, it still wasn't enough.

One of my co-workers and I agreed that we worked too many



**Than Soe Lux** is a 38-year-old Burmese contractor in Phuket. He moved from Mawlaik to Thailand in 1993. He was a construction worker in Ranong for three years before relocating to Phuket. Eventually he quit his job with the Phuket company and formed his own construction team. However, he is keeping a close eye on how things are developing in Burma, in hopes of one day returning home.

hours for too little pay, so we started working for ourselves.

I never thought of setting up my own working team, but around two years after I left the company, I met two of my former co-workers, and they told me they wanted to join us. Since then, the four of us have worked together.

Even before the government announced the raise in the minimum daily wage for workers, I was paying my employees 300 to 400 baht a day. Following the announcement, I increased their pay to 350 to 450 baht a day.

I make about 20,000 baht a month and then half of that I send to my wife and son in Mawlaik.

I have asked my Burmese friends that work in Phuket if their employers have increased their daily wage to 300 baht. Some have, but many haven't.

Those whose wages were increased are generally working on smaller teams of less than 10 people.

Employers don't have problems with paying small teams. However,

many workers who are employed by big companies with a large numbers of employees haven't received the wage increase.

I have heard that the Thai Labor Ministry will soon allow more than 200,000 workers from Burma to travel to Bangkok to work in Thai factories, and that seems like good news for Burmese workers. However, some of my Burmese friends in Thailand say that there are already a lot of unemployed Burmese workers here.

Sometimes, I wonder how it will be, if Suu Kyi finally comes to power and the situation in my country changes for the better. The labor shortage in Thailand from all the Burmese moving home would have a huge impact.

Really, the only thing that keeps me in Thailand is my work. Were any changes to occur in Burma over the next four to five years that guaranteed work for me, I'd move back without any hesitation. Hopefully, someday, I will be able to spend my life together with my family in my hometown

## Heart-attack instigates heartwarming review

MY HUSBAND and I have become regular visitors to the "Land of Smiles" and have found over the past nine years that Thailand offers us, as South Africans, a safe and affordable holiday destination.

We have come to love Thailand and its courteous, warmhearted and hardworking citizens.

The scenery is breath taking, and we admire the resilience of the Thai people, who showed such courage and optimism after the horror of the catastrophic Boxing Day tsunami of 2004. Having visited Phuket before and after the disaster, it has been heartwarming to see that tourism has rebounded and that your beautiful resorts are as enticing as ever.

We set off from Cape Town again in February to enjoy yet another idyllic Thai holiday, starting at The Boathouse at Kata Beach and planning on staying at the Holiday Inn on Phi Phi Island before visiting our friends in Bangkok.

A dream holiday turned into a near nightmare when, on our second night in the country, my 83-year-old husband suffered a mild stroke (transient ischemic attack) and a heart attack while we were enjoying a candle-light dinner in a favorite restaurant.

Understandably, all our holiday plans had to be forfeited and we could not move from Phuket. Our 30 day tourist visa expired as we waited for my husband to be declared fit to fly.

He had two coronary stents (small mesh tubes used to treat narrow or weak arteries) inserted by outstanding cardiac surgeons. We have finally returned to South Africa, full of praise for the wonderful medical care we encountered at the Bangkok Hos-



South African tourists rave about Phuket despite having a nightmare holiday. Photo: Mate Marschalko

## Island View

By Ruth Stott

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

pital in Phuket.

In our own country we are struggling to raise levels of customer service and productivity. We are trying to achieve a greater sense of pride in workmanship and a healthier work ethos. Thailand seems to have found a winning recipe! Everyone we encountered at the hospital did his or her utmost to please. At our hotel, nothing was ever too much trouble. The support and compassion we received from the management and staff was overwhelming.

To all the charming Thai folk we encountered these past months, who eased the burden of becoming seriously ill in a foreign country, far from family and friends, we send a heartfelt word of appreciation.

A very happy Thai New Year to you all and we hope to see you all again!

## Issues & Answers...

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

### Tale of two passports

I am traveling to Australia in October with my 11-year-old-twin daughters who were born in Australia, but have dual citizenship (their mother is Thai) and two passports each. Do they use their Thai or Australian passport to leave Thailand, enter Australia and then return to Thailand after two weeks?

Ted Woodward  
Surat Thani

### Pol Capt Sapa Jitlang Phuket International Airport Immigration replies:

Because the twins were not born here, it depends which passport they used when first entering the Kingdom of Thailand.

If the twins used their Australian passports the first time, they must use the Australian one for their departure. However, if they used the Thai passport, they will need to use the Thai one for their departure.

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

Submit your issue at

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

### The Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship notes on its website:

As an Australian citizen you must always leave and enter Australia on your Australian passport.

If you also have a passport from another country you can use that for travel once you have left Australia.

People trying to enter Australia as an Australian citizen but without an Australian passport face difficulties and delays. The Australian Passport Office can provide additional information to Australian citizens.

## Taking out the trash

We moved to Baan Namjai, in Rawai, just over a year ago, and on the corner of Soi Namjai there are six rubbish cages. When we moved in, the area around the rubbish cages was a mess. I paid the local workers' camp several times to clean it up. However, the workers camp is no longer there.

Two of the cages have been full of tree trimmings and foam for quite a long time now and are never cleaned out.

The other four cages are not cleaned out properly if bags are broken the rubbish is left in the bottom of the cages. It smells bad and is infested with rats and flies, the area is a health hazard.

I am wondering when the local government is going to do something about it.

Peter Allen  
Rawai



Residents weren't interested in this sort of setup. Photo: Nist6dh

### Surachet Kijmetra, acting chief of Public Health Department of Rawai Municipality replies:

Soi Namjai is a private street and not the responsibility of Rawai Municipality. However, our staff is responsible for emptying the bins in the soi, but all the rubbish in the bins has to be contained in

properly sealed rubbish bags.

I have visited that area many times and found rubbish spilling out of bags and onto the ground or into the cages.

Our staff cannot empty the rubbish cages that have protruding branches or leaves because they can damage our rubbish compressor, which is why two bins in particular have not been emptied.

I spoke with the area's owner and the villa project owner a while ago and offered to place the municipality's plastic bins in front of some of the houses.

Most of the house owners didn't want rubbish bins in front of their house.

That's why the villa project has been using rubbish cages.

I would like everyone along the soi and in the Baan Namjai estate to put all their rubbish in waste bags and securely close them.

# Amway China spends big on incentives gala

By Chutharat Plerin and Stephen Fein

AMWAY China has spent “more than one billion baht” on its rolling incentive seminar now underway at the Laguna Phuket resort complex in Cherng Talay and is very pleased with its choice of destination, executives say.

“Phuket was chosen because of its beautiful natural scenery, the unique kindness of the Thai people and the delicious food. Above all, we hope that this seminar will support the relationship between China and Thailand and help spur Thailand’s economic development,” Martin Liu, Vice President of Amway Greater China Region, told a press conference at Phuket FantaSea in Kamala earlier this week.

The massive incentives meeting will see over 16,000 people staying at the resort, most on four-day stays with fixed itineraries that include a trip to Phi Phi Island or Coral Island, as well as other attractions on Phuket.

“This must be an Amway China record because we spent one billion baht on this event, which does not include personal spending by individual delegates,” he said.

He said he was extremely impressed with the planning and logistics, especially the assistance of Airports of Thailand in helping to arrange for 130 scheduled flights and 69 charter flights to bring delegates to and from Phuket from all over China.

Over 100 tour buses have been used

to transport the delegates to their destinations, he added.

A survey of 6,300 delegates who attended the first 10 days found that Phuket had garnered a 94% approval rating, he said.

“We are very impressed with Phuket’s natural beauty and want to thank all the organizations in both the public and private sector that have helped make it possible,” he said.

Thongchai Sridama, Acting President of Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), said the gathering shows the TCEB’s commitment to the meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) market.

The TCEB expects to generate 60.1 billion baht in revenue from 750,000 foreign MICE tourists in 2012, he said.

Meetings and incentives make up about 45% of the MICE market in Thailand and the TCEB expects these segments to attract 375,000 foreign visitors and generate 27bn

baht in 2012, he said.

Sansern Ngaorungsi, the Tourism Authority of Thailand’s Deputy Governor for International Marketing (Asia-South Pacific), said the annual influx of Chinese tourists to Phuket continues to increase in leaps and bounds.

Last year 1.76 million Chinese visited Thailand, an increase 56.9% from 2010, he said.

In 2011 Chinese tourists spent an estimated 58bn baht in Thailand, a 68.8% increase over 2010, he said.

“TAT expects 2.5 billion baht from the Amway 2012 seminar,” he said.

As the direct industry leader, Amway China’s selection of Phuket is bound to bring more MICE groups to Thailand from China, he said.

Debbie Dionysius, Laguna’s Director of Destination Marketing, told the *Gazette* that the event was going extremely well.

The tsunami warning on April 11 occurred when some 200 organizers from East Shang-



Amway spent more than 1bn baht in Phuket.



Martin Liu, VP of Amway Greater China Region aims to bolster Sino-Thai relations.

hai Travel and 100 Amway organizers had already arrived, but the first of the delegates did not arrive until three days later, she said.

Laguna had heard nothing from Amway about earthquake fears or any of the rumors circulating around the island, she said.

“Nothing really seems to faze them,” she added.

Most of the delegates were part of incentive trips before and were experienced travelers, she added.

“It’s going remarkably smooth. We were expecting there to be traffic jams in the mornings and afternoons when all the coaches would be departing and coming back, to the extent that we even adjusted our staff office hours here to avoid the peak traffic hours. But that really hasn’t been an issue. There haven’t been huge convoys of coaches blocking traffic anywhere on the island, to my knowledge,” she said.

Most of the itinerary is tightly fixed, but the delegates do get one night to explore Patong on their own, she added.

The last group will fly out on the May 15, but the numbers have gotten smaller over the past few weeks, she said.

## Island shaken, but tourism not forsaken

TOURISM arrivals will not be impacted by invalidated “disaster scare” hype that circulated virally through domestic and international channels in April, assured the director of Phuket International Airport (HKT).

In response to rumors that the island would sink last Saturday, HKT Director Prathuang Sornkham was personally among those on TG [Thai Airways] flight 210 from Bangkok to Phuket on Saturday.

The flight was used as a confidence booster in a campaign entitled: “Believe in Phuket”.

“Yesterday, compared with April 27 of last year, shows a passenger increase of 10.3%,” he

told media on Saturday after his flight safely touched down in Phuket.

“All flights are full. Certainly none of the 18,000 Chinese from Amway cancelled.

“This proves that people still have confidence in our safety measures and they are not listening to rumors,” he added.

“Our surveys also show that the number of flights [during the disaster scare period last month] increased by 3.14% when compared to the same period last year.

“About 8.4 million passengers came through Phuket International Airport in 2011, and we expect this number to increase

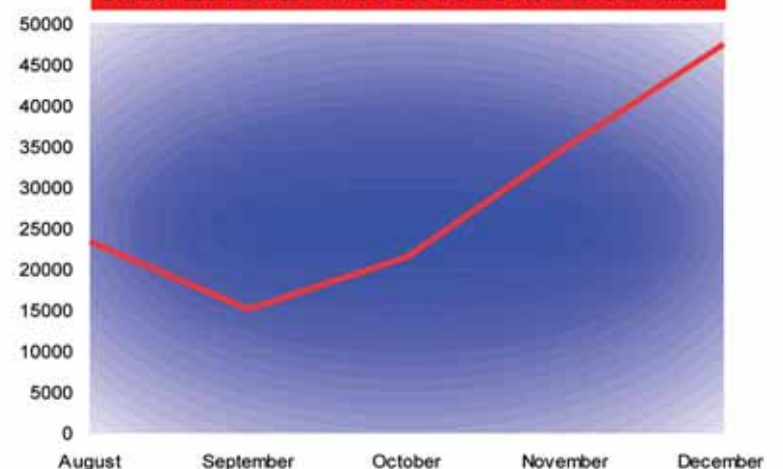
this year based on the year-on-year passenger growth in the year’s first quarter,” he said.

Phuket Immigration checkpoint statistics show that of the 8.4 million total passengers in 2011, 486,634 or about 5.7% were international passengers flying directly into and out of HKT from other international destinations (as opposed to leaving and entering the country via Bangkok).

Of these, 247,360 were inbound passengers, including 244,569 foreigners and 2,791 Thais, in addition to 239,274 outbound passengers (235,929 foreigners and 3,345 Thais).

— *Phuket Gazette*

HKT INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS



ONE’S LOSS IS ANOTHER’S GAIN: Phuket has shown that its tourism sector can thrive despite looming natural disasters. Image: Gazette Graphics.

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The Regional Wing of Singapore Airlines

# OTOP export potential tapped

By Steven Layne and Khanitta Rodpasa

FOSTERING export opportunities for grassroots designers and producers, Thailand's Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) recently held a seminar entitled "Developing and Making OTOP [One Tambon One Product] products for the world market".

Held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel Phuket Town on April 19, the event was part of the DITP's ongoing initiative to bolster and promote export potential of OTOP products.

The seminar was presided over by Raweephan Changyencham, Southern Thailand director of the DIPT regional center in Surat Thani, who told the *Gazette*, "Our aim is to increase knowledge and awareness among local producers, designers, marketers and operators about all steps in exporting."

Ms Raweephan affirmed that this was the "first-but-not-last" planned OTOP export development seminar in Phuket, though similar seminars have been organized this year in other provinces.

"OTOP production for the export market is still in its infant stages in Phuket when compared to places like Haad Yai

or Chiang Mai, but the interest and potential is growing, she said.

"Our role is to advise producers and potential producers about the proper channels, approaches, procedures and processes for developing brands and adding value to OTOP products bound for export.

"Though we can guide and advise, ultimately, it is the responsibility of designers, producers and operators to develop their brands and ideas into a finished, up-to-standard product," she said.

Attracting some 60 attendees, including about 40 existing and upcoming OTOP producers and designers, the seminar was also attended by government officers and representatives from local educational institutions.

Ms Raweephan said that the DIPT is looking to select 77 OTOP products as part of their "77 - from the grassroots to the



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING: Wichot Klaewban

world" campaign.

Such products will be exhibited and promoted at international trade exhibitions coordinated by the DIPT.

The concept of the campaign is based on OPOP (One Province One Product) campaign, which was launched as an extension of OPOP several years ago but has gained little momentum.

"We are not glued to this model [OPOP], and intend to highlight only fully developed products that have high export potential," she continued.

"Some provinces will have more than one OPOP product featured, while others may not have any export products, initially."

Asked about the cream of Phuket's OPOP crop, Ms Raweephan said that about 60% of the island's high-potential operators were producers of dried traditional and designer fabric, *Batik* - Phuket's originally

designated OPOP product.

Other high potential products include local foods and snacks, such as plain and seasoned cashew nuts.

Ms Raweephan went on to highlight another Phuket OPOP benchmark product currently being exported, mostly to China: Nung Taloong - traditional Southern Thai shadow puppets.

"Thai Isuan is an operation that produces and successfully exports Nung Taloong," she said.

Asked about his impression of the seminar, Wichot Klaewban, who has been producing shadow puppets for more than 10 years told the *Gazette*: "The seminar was not that beneficial for me.

"The content was very basic, and probably more suited for newcomers and recent start-ups, he said.

"For maximum benefit, next time the DIPT should change their development approach. For instance, operators should be surveyed about their specific and individual needs first.

"This would allow the process to be more reciprocal and ensure that operators are more active in the process by being able to identify specific areas of their work that they want to develop," he said.

## Workers make demands on Labor Day

UNION leaders earlier this week demanded for the government to initiate measures to reduce and control the soaring cost of living, which they insist has long outstripped minimum wages.

The demands for pricing controls headlined a list of six demands presented to Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa at the island's annual Labor Day Fair held on Tuesday at the Phuket Provincial Office of Labor Protection and Welfare.

Officials in attendance included Paiboon Upatising, President of the Phuket Provincial Administration

Organization, and Kittipong Laonipon, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Office of Labor Protection and Welfare.

Though the official slogan and agenda of the event was "A clean labor force united to save the environment and fight drugs", employers and employees in attendance clearly had their own, more pressing agenda.

Presenting the demands on behalf of the Phuket labor force was Wichit Dasantad, President of the Federation of Hotel and Services Business Labor.



Workers presented six demands.

In addition to capping prices for necessary, daily consumer goods, other demands for the government on the list included: to strictly enforce the new minimum daily wage across all sectors; to provide the

labor force and general public with essential foreign-language learning opportunities, ahead of the Asean Economic Community, coming into full effect in 2015, through government sponsored language courses for English, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Burmese; to establish order for transnational labor matters by strictly enforcing labor laws by ensuring due worker benefits, including medical care, are honored, in addition to strictly enforcing that laborers are performing duties consistent with those identified in their work per-

mit; and applying pressure for illegal aliens to be either deported, or registered as legal alien workers; to accelerate and reinforce disaster response and reassurance measures by amending and updating evacuation plans and installing new evacuation route signs.

The last demand was to ratify the ILO (International Labor Organization) Convention number 87, the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, and number 98, the right to organize and collective bargaining.

- Kritsada Meuanhawong

## TV, tablet demand spikes post-flood

DEMAND in Thailand for computer tablets and TVs spiked in Quarter One (Q1), while demand for other major electronic products has declined.

The trend was highlighted at GFK Asia's annual client conference on April 25 in light of the aftermath of Thailand's massive flooding late last year.

At the peak of the disaster in November, volume-sales of audio home system, televisions, washing machines, air conditioners and laptops plummeted by at least 25% compared to the previous month.

The worst hit product group was audio home-systems where demand plunged in volume by 35%, trailed by demand for televisions and washing machines which dipped 29 and 28% respectively.

The recession of flood waters in December saw an immediate resumption of market spending.

"Our findings reflected a great improvement in consumer spending behavior in Thailand, where demand for items like audio home systems and digital cameras increased twofold, while televisions and washing machines also registered considerable spikes in sales compared to a month ago," observed Dr. Wichit Purepong, General Manager of GFK Thailand.

"The market's strong performance was mainly due to the promotional efforts of manufacturers and retailers in their bid to drive sales. . . but ultimately, can be attributed to pent-up consumer demand as a result of the months of flooding," he added.

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# Beware the SCB phishermen



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

I HAVE been saving up accounts of online fraud directed at people in Phuket, and my inbox is groaning under the weight! Here's my latest crop of scams you should know about. Hopefully, if you realize other people are getting hit, there's less of a chance that you'll lose your shirt to one of these charlatans.

The most convincing scam I've seen recently is a phishing expedition directed at Siam Commercial Bank customers. I don't think the bad guys harvested any email addresses directly from SCB (although that's certainly possible). My guess is that they found a whole bunch of email addresses - probably on a spammer's list, where email addresses cost about US\$10 per million - that come from domains based in Thailand. So if you have a @loxinfo.co.th address, for example, or a @phuketgazette.net address, you're more likely to get hit by this phisher.

It's only a guess, but it wouldn't surprise me if these people correlated email addresses to countries, then dropped in the name of the largest bank in the country, when constructing their phishing message. The whole process could be automated pretty easily.

In spite of appearances, the link in the message (see right) does not go to scbeasy.com. Instead it goes to a page at new11010scb.com, which is a site hosted in the US. The whole web site is offline now, undoubtedly taken down by the authorities.

By the time I got the message and clicked on the link (don't do this at home!), both Firefox and Chrome put up warnings saying that it was a



**HOOK, LINE AND SINKER:** Don't get caught out by phishing emails trying to separate you from your passwords and PIN numbers. Pic by Toastyken.

phishing site. Internet Explorer 9, on the other hand, sailed ahead to an ad (in Thai) for the iPhone 4S. Bravo to Firefox and Chrome. Raspberries to IE 9.

My guess is that the site was

a simple phishing site - in its original incarnation, it probably asked you to provide your SCB account number and password or PIN.

Professional scammers who put up sites like this only leave them up for a short time - they collect credentials for a dozen or two dozen valid accounts, then fold up their tents quickly, to avoid detection. If they're good, they'll have the money out of the accounts in an hour or two, by using nearby ATMs, or online transfers to an account that's very hard to trace.

This kind of scamming is quite different from the 419 scammers I discussed last month. Their method is slow and relatively easy to track. Phishing for PINs, by contrast, is very fast, and the biggest exposure is the camera at the ATM machine, or the money trail for electronic transfers.

The person who received the message sent me the email and I put it through the analyzer at www.iptrackeronline.com and discovered that the message probably originated in rural Kan-

sas, USA.

So either the person who originated the message was smart enough to hide its origin (which is possible, but beyond the skills of your typical scummy phisher), or they were in rural Kansas, or they were using a Virtual Private Network to make it look like they were in rural Kansas - in which case they could have been anywhere in the world.

I also tried running a whois.net search on new11010scb.com, but couldn't find the registration record for it. So I came to a dead end. No doubt the scammers tricked a handful of people in Thailand. Since I haven't read of any arrests, chances are good they got in and got out fast enough to elude detection.

It bears repeating: as far as I know, Thailand does not have any consumer protection laws that will help you get your money back if you're phished like this.

Before you start clucking about "This is Thailand," realize that a court in Germany just last week determined that banks don't have to reimburse customers if they were duped similarly. In Germany, if you give away your password - even if you think you're giving it to the bank - the bank has no liability whatsoever. So, too, Thailand.

A note about a different scam, this one is a variation on the 419. A friend forwarded the message (below) to me from a man who claimed to be from Nicosia, Cyprus.

We went back and forth a bit and he directed me to a perfectly

legitimate website, which he had hacked to include a "sign on page" that requested an email ID and password.

I contacted the website's owner, who was surprised that the page had been taken. The page owner kicked him off, so the scammer had the audacity to direct me to a different page, again on a legitimate site, that he had taken over. This page said he wanted diesel engines.

In the end, it looked like he was most interested in my email address and password, although I imagine he would have offered to buy some diesel engines if I had them, no doubt using PayPal and a "shipping agent" that had to be reimbursed via Western Union.

Be careful out there. These scammers are targeting people here in Phuket, and some of them are pretty good.

A quick reminder: Google's new Country Manager for Thailand, Ariya Banomyong, will be speaking at the IBAP meeting on Friday, May 11.

Google's doing a lot of good things for businesses in Thailand, and if you have any sort of online presence it would be worthwhile dropping by. It's shaping up to be the biggest computer meeting in Phuket this year.

Registration starts at 6:15, at A2 Resort (from Central Festival, go north on the Bypass Road and just beyond Keehin make a u-turn. A2 is about 250 meters ahead, on the left).

*Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions every other Wednesday afternoon, from 1:00 to 3:00. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. 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. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.

From: SCB [mailto:scbeasy2alert@scbeasy.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 7:40 AM  
Subject: URGENT MESSAGE ( ACCOUNT ERROR )  
Importance: High

Dear SCB customer,

We have activated the NEW ( SCB (11010) Security ). Due to increased security problem, we have increased the level of our online security. Your account/ATM was disabled for verification.

You are required to re-activate your account/ATM now to avoid suspension.

Activate Now - [https://www.scbeasy.com/v1.4/site/presignon/activate-account\\_en.asp](https://www.scbeasy.com/v1.4/site/presignon/activate-account_en.asp)

Thank you.

Siam Commercial Bank

**DON'T BANK ON IT:** A phishing email not from your friendly local tropical bank, but from somewhere in the dark and unforgiving wilderness of... Kansas.

From: B & R Supply Inc.  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 2:44 PM  
Subject: Int'l Order Inquiry!!!

Hello Sales

I went over your contact online and found some items which we have interest in purchasing to our store in Cyprus for urgent supply,

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## Photo apps for iPhone/iPad/iPod

by Pim Yunyongkasamsuk

FACEBOOK recently announced the one billion dollar acquisition of the free photo-sharing program, Instagram. The free app allows users to snap a photo, apply digital filters that produce vintage-like polaroid images, and share it instantly on social networking sites.

The app was launched in October 2010, and gained over 30 million users as of April 2012.

Here are a few other photo apps available to buy on the market:

**Hipstamatic.** An app that offers a variety of lenses and filters that mimic effects from obsolete analog cameras.

**Camera+.** An app that operates like a digital point-and-shoot and allows users to adjust saturation, exposure, brightness, and add dozens of filters to it.

**PhotoStudio.** An app with lots of filters that are not found in the above apps, including an array of stencil, sepia, and vibrant filters.

**SwankoLab.** "The darkroom of yesterday, today." Users can

"process" photos by adding "chemicals" that simulate the experience of processing photos in an actual darkroom.

**Visuals.** Vincent LaForet is a world-renowned professional photographer/cinematographer who switched to filmmaking with DSLR cameras. His "Visuals" app is a compilation of his best photography, with descriptions of what camera and lens he used and a breakdown of the settings (white balance, ISO, F-stop, shutter speed, etc) he used for each photograph.

# Door slams shut on Guernsey

## Retirement Years

By David Mayes

IN A MOVE that shocked the entire UK pension transfers industry, British tax authorities have halted future transfers to Guernsey. Apparently the jurisdiction's proactive approach to meeting the ever changing goal posts has been taken as an insult.

Indeed, the providers in Guernsey have been held to a different standard than other jurisdictions such as the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, or Malta.

The good news is that safe, tax free jurisdictions are still an option. There was a scare for a few days that HMRC would halt all non-resident QROPS (Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes) transfers.

While the trustee fees are slightly higher than they were in Guernsey, these other jurisdictions still allow for drawing one's pension tax free and avoiding inheritance tax of about 55% when passing on any money left in one's pot upon death. The same investment platforms that are available will allow access to much greater investment flexibility.

The worst news is that it is now very clear that the window to transfer UK pensions offshore may end up closing a lot faster than many of us had hoped.

The whole thing seems to be quite political and looks like sour grapes. If HMRC isn't collecting the revenue, it doesn't make sense that they should really care if someone else collects tax or not.

However, the original EU directive which created the need for the QROPS legislation only stipulates that an expatriate should be able to bring his pension with him, meaning the jurisdiction he moves to. There is a good chance that in their next round of legislative changes they will restrict transfers even further and only allow them to one's jurisdiction of residence only.

This would essentially end the QROPS market, the death of which many speculated was more a matter of 'when' than 'if'.

Of course there could still be loopholes such as setting up a residency in a tax free jurisdiction just long enough to establish that legal status before effecting transfers. If a pension is large enough, the costs could be far outweighed by the tax savings.

If you have significant UK pension rights and have been considering moving them offshore, now might be a very good time to look into it again, before it disappears as an option.


The opportunity to save a bundle in taxes and have greater investment options might not be around if you wait and see. Not all pensions are transferable, and even if they were, it is not always the right thing to do.

If you think your situation is one where transferring might be desirable, ask your financial advisor or feel free to contact me to assist in determining whether or not it is worthwhile.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at 085-335 8573 or david.m@faramond.com



DEATH AND TAXES: British tax authorities halt future transfers to Guernsey. Photo: R/DV/RS

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# Phuket Pride 2012, this year's only gay pride in Thailand

NOWADAYS you can find gay pride awareness around the world but never *so fabulous* as here in Phuket. Gay pride events typically include parades, parties and speeches that offer support and encouragement for the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) community.

Phuket has had a pride festival since the beginning of the millennium when Poonsak "Dang" Sanchan, owner of the famous Boat Bar in Patong Beach, convinced several other homosexual businessmen to support a pride event.

The very first celebration was small, but celebrations grew steadily until thousands of visitors came to watch and participate in the festival alongside residents of Phuket.

The festival is supported financially and otherwise by local gay-owned businesses and the gay

community. The event is recognized by local government as an important for tourism and culture.

Phuket hosted the only gay pride event in Thailand this year, which aimed to give tourism a low-season boost as it reaches out to tourists and the local Thai community.

With the cooperation of Patong Municipality, the gay pride organization, Phuket Loves You (PLU), moved their festivities out of the Paradise Complex (the main gay entertainment venue in Patong) into the "public domain", said event organizer Rob Vermeer.

"I desperately wanted for gay pride to move back into the public domain and start reaching out to the ordinary Thai community on Phuket, among which the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community lives of course...most of them never come to Paradise

Complex or want to be seen in any gay venue here in Patong," said Mr Vermeer.

"The GLBT community still needs to get itself more out of the proverbial closet here and start to realize the importance of respect and rights to them as an essential and equal part of Thai society," he added.

The theme for the event this year was "Join The Family", as the organization aimed to venture all over Phuket.

The Pride-committee for the event chose two initiatives to raise money for: the financial support of The Life Home Project Foundation and the development and implementation of an awareness program that highlights HIV/AIDS and STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases).

This year the organization also moved the event from February, when it was held last year, to April in the hope that the cheaper transportation, hotel rooms and so on would make the event more attractive to local and regional Thai members of the GLBT community.

Though last year there were hundreds of participants in the Pride Parade, with roughly 25,000 along the route watching, it was held in high season, so this year Mr Vermeer admitted that the group expected a smaller turn out.

The PLU hopes to reach out to the local/regional Thai LGBT community this year with renewed activities to get them more involved, which will also be beneficial to the 2013 Pride.

"It should become an emanci-

pation movement (again), not only focusing on partying and fun.

"Traditionally when one has a gay pride event, it has one or more messages by the GLBT community to the broader public wrapped in a good party," said Mr Vermeer.

One of the highlights of the evening was the release of rainbow colored floating lanterns (*khom loi*) to commemorate those in the community who have died of AIDS.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Photos: Marc Mulloy

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# Operation repo: BIS cleans Nai Harn

By Chris Hudon

BEFORE a crowd of onlookers, hundreds of students from BIS (the British International School) invaded Nai Harn beach on a search and destroy mission.

Their objective: to take out the trash!

On Thursday, April 26, at noon, teachers led several groups of students aged 11 to 15 on what was to be the first of many cleanup trips sponsored by BIS.

All of the Year 7-10 students were there to be educated about the environment, the community and volunteering.

"I think the students really began to understand how much rubbish exists on the beach after today and we endeavor to come back or make these beach clean-ups a more regular occurrence," said Community Service Coordinator Kathy Manthei Coulson.

When all was said and done more than two hundred and forty students, teachers and faculty members participated in the cleanup.

BIS collected at least two dozen bags of rubbish from Nai Harn beach, the park adjacent to the beach, the lake area and behind Wat Nai Harn temple.

Even so school officials felt there was more trash left to pick up.

"We barely put a dent in the rubbish," said Coulson. "There is still so much there and more piles up every week."

The cleanup lasted just over an hour and although it rained on and off, BIS students and teachers braved the weather for their cause.

Students have also recently participated in a 'Keep the Beaches Clean' poster campaign.

The campaign included special guest judges from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Eco System Project and the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation, who voted for their favorite posters.

In addition to the Nai Harn beach clean up, BIS is finding a new direction and has begun several community and environmentally responsible initiatives, including the recent opening of their recycling plant last month.



TAKING OVER: A teacher leads a group of children, aged 11 to 15, towards Nai Harn Beach.



Headmaster Neil Richards (second from right) was also there to lend a hand to the project.



## Reminder: BIS has a Community Recycling Center

The Community Recycling Center at BIS has a purpose built facility inside gate number 4 with eight separation areas to accommodate the following items:

- . White Paper
- . Colored paper
- . Cardboard
- . Plastic
- . Newspaper/Magazines
- . Metal/Cans
- . Electronic waste
- . Batteries

CAS (Community and Service) Recycling students then take the waste and make sure that it is properly recycled but, due to the danger of getting cut, no longer accept glass.

It's a win-win situation as all the money via the CAS Recycling Fund goes to charity.

So the next time your TV remote needs new batteries, remove the old ones, hunt down any others you have hidden away in drawers and make your way to the BIS Community Recycling Center.

Your charitable act will help the students, the environment and clear your drawers of toxic waste.

For more information contact Kathy at [kcoulson@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:kcoulson@bisphuket.ac.th).



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# Cape Panwa Hotel to host Raceweek 2012

THE organizers of the Phuket Raceweek 2012 announced last week that the host venue of the annual regatta this year will be the Phuket's "Grande Dame" the Cape Panwa Hotel and sister property the Kantary Bay Hotel.

"Cape Panwa Hotel and its sister property, Kantary Bay Hotel, on the tip of Cape Panwa in the southeast of the island, will give us the opportunity to lift the standards of Phuket Raceweek even higher than before, while introducing some welcome new elements – such as Cape Panwa Hotel's stunning beach and beachside gardens," said Grenville Fordham, managing director of event organizer Image Asia.

"This agreement means that we continue to race in the same waters in and around Chalong Bay that are so popular with regatta participants, that we keep our signature 'one regatta, one venue' format -- and that we have security of venue beyond 2012," he added.

Mr Fordham said the Cape Panwa Hotel deal is testimony to the attraction of Phuket

Raceweek as a commercial sponsorship platform.

"This is not a charitable deal. Cape Panwa Hotel owners, Kasemkij Hotels, have taken a commercial decision and expect a return on their investment. We've spent the last few months ironing out the details with their senior management to ensure that they, the regatta organizers, the participants and other sponsors all get the value they should expect," he said.

Tirawan Pangsrivongse, Kasemkij Hotels' Project Development Manager, said, "We're excited to be partnering with one of the region's top regattas as it goes into its ninth year. Sports tourism is the fastest growing sector in the global travel and tourism industry and Phuket is the sports tourism center for Thailand.

"Leisure yachting and yacht racing are at the pinnacle of high-end sports tourism and this new partnership is a perfect fit with our position in the market. We look forward to showcasing our two Phuket properties, Cape Panwa Hotel and Kantary



The Cape Panwa Hotel, one of the original 'Grande Dames' on Phuket's east coast, will be the host venue for the Phuket Raceweek 2012 regatta. Photo: kasemkij.com

Bay Hotel, to regatta participants and associated media this July," he added.

Today's news follows the confirmed return of worldwide regatta sponsor Mount Gay Rum, who used the 2011 Phuket Raceweek regatta as their platform for their entry into the Thailand market.

After the huge success of their 2011 participation, they have increased their investment this year, returning as Presenting Sponsor.

Online registration for Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2012 will open on Monday, April 30, with a special offer for early bird entrants.

Participants or guests wanting to book accommodation at either Cape Panwa Hotel or Kantary Bay Hotel can make bookings through the regatta website.

The Phuket Gazette, PGTV and The Nation are proud sponsors of Phuket Raceweek.



Indonesian sunset. Photo: Riza Nugraha

## Jimmy Blee on the Ying and Yang of cruising in Indonesia

BOAT builder, vessels operations manager and a legendary superyacht guide of Indonesia for the past 18 years, Captain Jimmy Blee recently shared the "Ying and the Yang" of cruising Indonesian waters at the Asia Pacific Superyacht Conference in Singapore.

Jimmy Blee took to the podium on the second day of the conference to share his experiences and comment on the current and future state of the marine industry in Indonesia.

He discussed his passion for cruising and offered personal insights on the vast cruising grounds that make up Indonesia, such as the best way to plan and execute trips, so as to cover as much of the country as possible.

A remarkable individual with a wide circle of friends in the yachting world, Jimmy has been a resident of Indonesia since 1994. His early university studies in sociology and politics combined with a deep understanding of boating in Indonesia contribute to an insightful view of how to approach yachting in Indonesia.

Originally hailing from Australia, he ran charter boats out of the famed Whitsunday Islands on Queensland's East Coast. Then Captain Jimmy left in 1989 to travel to Thailand with the aim of helping his long time friend, Bill O'Leary, set up Aman Cruises at the luxury resort of Amanpuri in Phuket, Thailand.

This was the start of a path of rich maritime exploration, covering over 30,000 nautical miles, piloting boats through Asian waters. Later, in 1994, after spending 1,200 days privately chartering for the world's

Indonesian Marine Services, and a boat design, construction and management agency with Richard Lofthouse of Asia Pacific Superyachts Indonesia.

In 2009, the company completed construction of the 32 meter luxury Yacht, Phinisi, Amanikan, for Aman Resorts while managing and guiding trips for Superyachts, such as Senses and Helios, in Indonesia. This wealth of experience and knowledge has Jimmy in great demand as a superyacht guide and logistics planner, represented by Asia Pacific Superyachts Indonesia.

Jimmy is well known in Southeast Asian luxury charter and superyacht circles and is a volunteer contributor to the Indonesian Chapter of the Southeast Asia Pilot publication, as well as a feature story contributor to many of the Asian-based marine and yacht magazines.

He continues to ply the remote Indonesian archipelago enjoying the friendly lifestyle with his Indonesian wife and three children.

A member and enthusiastic supporter of the Association of Yacht Support Services (AYSS), Jimmy is a strong proponent of information sharing in the yachting world which in turn, helps everyone.

For more information about Asia Pacific Superyachts Bali & Indonesia and sister APS regions of Thailand, Malaysia, Borneo, The Maldives, Singapore, Andamans & India and Hong Kong, please visit: [W: asiapacificsuperyachts.com](http://W.asiapacificsuperyachts.com)



HERE BE DRAGONS: Rinca island near Komodo island. Photo: anoldent



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# Churrasco makes serious steaks

## On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

A COLLEAGUE of mine once referred to me as a carnivore and I can't deny it – I do love eating meat. So squeamish vegetarians, pesky pescetarians, fruity fruitarians and vague vegans are advised to stop reading here and go outside to talk to the trees as we are set to talk about some serious meat eating.

Patong is not one of my favorite haunts, but if and when I do go, it is usually to Jungceylon, where there is adequate parking and a plethora of dining establishments. One of the latest additions to these is the reason I find myself there on a Saturday evening.

The name of this "South American Steakhouse" is *Churrasco*, which is a Portuguese and Spanish term for grilled meat, a prominent staple in the cuisines of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Nicaragua, Uruguay and other Latin American countries. The related term *churrascaria* is mostly understood to be a steakhouse serving all-you-can-eat grilled meat from skewers, slicing the meat straight onto the guest's plate. This serving style, popular in southern Brazil, is not on offer here but instead there is a more sedate à la carte affair. Interestingly, the 'churr' part of the name is similar to the French 'chair' as in *charcuterie* or carnal, carnivore in English – they all directly deal with 'flesh' and we will now get into the flesh of this review.

*Churrasco* came about as a labor of love between two friends, one who works in media and the other in hospitality. Both are meat lovers with a particular fondness

for wagyu beef, which refers to several breeds of cattle whose meat is genetically predisposed to intense marbling (having a high percentage of unsaturated fat). Think Kobe.

They started the business in large part due to their frustration with the quality of meat and service in similar venues in Phuket. While obviously not wanting to lose money, the profit motive is only one of several reasons to do what they do – serve the perfect steak at the best price.

Situated at the end of the "Sino Phuket" walking street, *Churrasco* is just across the way from The Irish Times pub.

As we sit outside sipping sangrias and the house speciality – Caipirinha, made with original Brazilian *Cachaça* (180 baht) we realize that this is a

great place for people watching. Smokers are also accommodated at these outside tables.

Eventually the relaxed atmosphere lends itself to thinking of food. We decide to sample some of the other main items before getting down to the meat of the subject – the meat itself. We start with *Embutido de Cordero* (lamb sausages) and a bowl of home-made *Chili Con Carne* (there's that word again) which also features on their daily set-lunch option, which costs a mere 290 baht.

The owners of *Churrasco* have done their homework, and the choice grain-fed Wagyu and Angus beef comes straight from an exclusive supplier arriving at the restaurant chilled (not frozen), so as to preserve its tenderness and taste. Marbling is between 5-6.

These Brazilian cuts known as *picanha* (top rump) and *solomillo* (loin) are then aged at the restau-



AS GOOD AS IT GETS: Thai hospitality with Australian wagyu beef cooked in the South American style.

rant. The Thai chef (or grill master) is a trained butcher and has overseas experience, so he knows just how to treat these rarest of steaks. The chilled beef is allowed to reach room temperature before being grilled on a metal grill, heated by lava stones with a few woodchips thrown in for flavor. There are six levels of how well done the steak can be and the steaks come in three sizes: 200, 350 and 500 grams (ranging from 390 to 750 baht depending on the size and cut). Each steak is served with a whole baked garlic clove and garnishings. Side dishes include hand-cut fries; crushed-herb potato; sautéed mushrooms; green beans with bacon and sautéed spinach with garlic, but the star choice for me was the baked potato with sour cream and chives (all sides 90 baht).

Those who prefer to eat their beef with rice have that choice also and

can even ask for *Nam Jim Jaew* (Issan spicy sauce) although we go for the more traditional *Chimichurri* sauce and order an additional green peppercorn sauce on the side.

Starters include a good choice of salads (average price 260 baht) and soups – including a deliciously refreshing *Gazpacho Andaluz* (220 baht), but beware – the steaks alone make a very filling meal.

The steaks are all one would expect and more. They are washed down with one their affordable new and old world wines (four whites and six reds).

Cuban music, reminiscent of the Buena Vista Social Club album, provides a pleasant background and the earthy decor of terracotta hues with green and beige counterpoints

is comfortably soothing. To round off the evening I order a *mojito* ice cream with white rum and then retire with a satisfied sigh to the outside terrace once more.

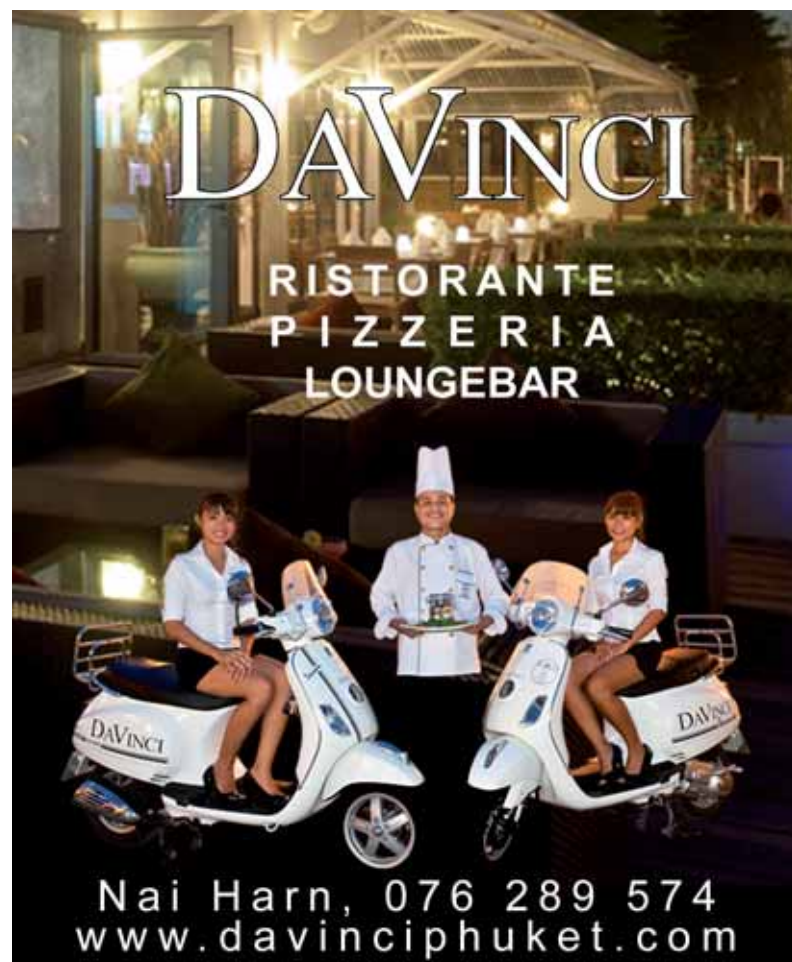
I return the following week to lunch on their large *Brocheta Señor* (an all beef skewer including wagyu endcuts) which at 480 baht is a bargain, as is the all-chicken skewer at 380 baht.

If you enjoy eating supreme quality steak *Churrasco* is the place to get it without it costing an arm and a leg. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the wagyu cattle.

*Churrasco* is open 7 days a week from 11am to 11pm. Tel. 076366723 E: [reservation@churrascophuket.com](mailto:reservation@churrascophuket.com) W: [churrascophuket.com](http://churrascophuket.com).



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# German trade irks the Brits

## Looking Back

By Anand Singh

THE history and politics of Siam and Malaya during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were shaped to a large extent by the colonial ambitions of the European super powers.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Britain controlled the Malay Peninsula and Burma, while the Dutch made a colony out of the thousands of islands that are part of Indonesia today. Siam was the only state that retained its autonomy during this period, and it did so through political compromise and secession of territories to the colonialists.

Of the colony hunting nations active in the Far East, one that is rarely heard about during that period is Germany. Although the newly formed German Empire came to the region's political scene much later, its merchants and trading companies began to flourish in Siam and Malaya towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The port of Penang attracted many German and Swiss traders seeking their share of fortune in Far East trade. The British colony turned into a thriving community for German traders, who built beautiful residences and prominent trading offices there. Penang even had its own German club.

The British, however, did not like the German presence in the Far East. The Germans were latecomers and therefore could not lay claim to any colonies in the region but German influence in Penang threatened to destabilize the balance of power.

The British had a seemingly large advantage in trade as they controlled the local rulers, the banking system and shipping. In fact German traders simply operated under their patronage in Malaya. What bothered the Brit-

ish authorities was the fact that German shipping companies dominated the shipping routes from Bangkok to Singapore.

The Germans also exerted considerable influence in Bangkok because the Siamese saw them as the least threatening European presence in the region and would choose to do business with the Germans in order to promote friendship and diplomatic ties.

**'German shipping companies dominated the routes from Bangkok to Singapore.'**

Phuket and Penang had a lot of business connections at the time. Many influential Chinese families from Penang also had investments in Phuket's thriving tin industry. One such was the Khaw family.

Its founder, Khaw Soo Cheang, was a Chinese immigrant who rose to prominence and was appointed by the King of Siam as the governor of Ranong. He transformed Ranong from a dull unattractive village into a thriving tin trading center. Because of his contributions to Siam, he was given the noble title of Phraya Rattanasethi and his family was given the surname 'na Ranong'.

Khaw Soo Cheang established his own corporation in Penang, Koe Guan Company, during the same period that Alfred De Windt Neubronner was appointed Consul-General of Siam in Penang. Neubronner was a German who had close ties to the Khaw family. It appears that he was an employee of Koe Guan Company.

The Siamese were all too happy to support loyal Chinese clans like the Khaw in their business interests, which were sometimes in direct competition to British interests.

Some of Khaw Soo Cheang's sons were also appointed governors of different towns in the south of Siam, while Alfred De Windt Neubronner furthered Siamese interests in Penang as Consul-General.

Neubronner did an excellent job and was bestowed the noble title of Phraya Thawee Siamkit by the King, the highest Siamese rank that could be attained by a civilian foreigner.

The most prominent son of Khaw Soo Cheang, Khaw Sim Bee later became the High Commissioner of Phuket. Khaw Sim Bee was a high ranking official and a personal friend of King Rama V. During his time in office, he would help develop Phuket into a thriving center for trade.

With little help from the capital, Khaw Sim Bee mixed business with politics and used his influence to advance his family business. Siam's interests were served as tin revenues con-



**DUBIOUS DEALINGS:** Alfred De Windt Neubronner (standing) worked closely with the Khaw clan to further their mutual trade aspirations. Photo: Jackie Ogle

tinued to increase under his sound management.

He also did everything in his power to keep British corporations in check and made sure they did not have too much influence in Siam. Often, gains for the Khaw family resulted in losses for British enterprises. This made the British quite unhappy.

In one instance, Neubronner was accused by the British of helping the Khaw family profit from a currency hike. In August 1906, the Siamese government planned to introduce the baht

as the nation's official currency. As such, the government announced that all foreign coins would be demonetized.

On hearing the news, the opium farm in Phuket operated by the Khaw family immediately purchased 1 million baht in the form of a draft issued by the Siamese Consulate in Penang, at an artificially low rate of 54 strait dollars per 100 baht.

Within the next few days, the exchange rate was hiked to over 57 strait dollars per 100 baht, again allegedly through the influence of the Siamese Consul-General.

Neubronner had conspired with

Khaw Sim Bee to withhold the news from other traders for several days on the excuse that the telegraph line between Phuket and Penang had broken down. This allowed the Phuket opium farm to make a considerable profit from the difference.

Key Chinese merchants were already in collusion with the Khaw family, so they would have avoided or even taken advantage of the situation. British merchants on the other hand were the most adversely affected and soon their complaints began flooding into British headquarters in Singapore.

The last straw came when the British heard that German engineers had been given the rights to construct the Siamese railway network that would connect Bangkok with several towns and cities as far south as Kedah.

In 1909 Britain responded by forcing King Rama V to sign a treaty that ceded the states of Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Terengganu to the British Empire.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian who speaks fluent Thai and English. If you have any questions or information that you would like to share about our local history, email him at [as.pkt@hotmail.com](mailto:as.pkt@hotmail.com)

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# Holiday Inn's fresh new face

By Marc Mulloy

MORGAN Layberry is a youthful, earnest man, who enjoys meeting with and working with other people.

In January, Morgan, 36, was named Executive Assistant Manager - F&B (EAM) at the Holiday Inn, Patong and is already a well-respected member of the team.

Previously, he was at the Hilton in Borneo, Malaysia where he worked for two years as operations manager until a friend suggested he fly over to Phuket in September to meet Holiday Inn Patong's GM, Wolfgang Meusburger.

"The instant I met Wolfgang I knew that this was a person I wanted to work with" says an enthusiastic Morgan.

Prior to working in Malaysia Morgan worked at the Hilton in Hanoi for two and a half years – he first asian posting. Prior to that he was in Dubai with InterContinental (the same group as Holiday Inn).

"At University I read pure mathematics, which is enormously difficult, but I'd always worked part-time in the hospitality industry during my holidays as I enjoyed the people aspect of it. After I realized that I did not want to pursue a career in finance I took a full-time job in Edinburgh in a nice hotel (The Caledonian Hilton) – that was fourteen years ago and here I am."

Morgan's role is officially "Executive Assistant Manager including F&B" and he explains why.

"How it normally works is that you have a GM and under him you have an EAM who is essentially the deputy GM. Our GM here, Wolfgang, is a regional GM overseeing seven properties, each of which has their own GM so he has two EAMs – I take care of the F&B and my colleague takes care of the rooms. The Holiday Inn has four restaurants, the bar, room service and banqueting."

His first impressions of Phuket are positive and he describes it as a good place to be if you're a 'people person'.

"You don't have to work too hard to build relationships here. From the very first day everybody knew who I was, they'd done some homework, were interested in me and were very welcoming and open-minded. It was very easy to settle into a working routine here, I didn't have to break down too many walls or fight too many battles. I was accepted as the new boss and everybody gave me a positive approach," said Morgan.

"One thing I am working on is my immersion into the culture here. I personally believe that the role of an expat is to work yourself out of a job so that when I leave, someone from Phuket takes my job rather than another expatriate. I want to leave that

knowledge behind. Many expats fail because they don't try to understand the local culture. If you find out why things are as they are then it is much easier to work. But you have to be interested in the culture.

"I made that mistake in Vietnam when I arrived from Dubai, which had a very segregated and regimented hierarchy. In Vietnam the locals would smile at you when you asked them to do something but then not do it. I found out later that they are resilient and do not like being told what to do. They knew I was on a two year contract, so preferred to do a battle of the wills as they were in for the long haul. After three months of banging my head against the wall I sat down with them and asked them how we could work together" he added.

Three months later, by involving them he had gained their trust and was able to develop. From this he learned that you have to come in a little bit humble and tell your team your strengths and weaknesses.

"For example, when I came here I did not know what Songkran was and had to trust my staff on that. It was a great introduction to Thai culture and I watched the water fights in the streets for hours with everyone having fun. Then I saw one Western tourist, a middle-aged woman, who got splashed and didn't seem to get it. They smiled and splashed her again and eventually she resigned herself to the fact she was going to get wet so probably went out to get a water pistol. When I came into the lobby our receptionist wanted to pour water over my hands from a silver bowl, which showed me the more traditional side of things.

"Another example of becoming immersed in the culture was when a member of my staff lost a family member and asked me to attend the funeral. This was something we



EAM Morgan Layberry.

would never do in the West and, again, it's something beautiful, which we need to learn.

When asked what changes he planned to make at the hotel he replied:

"I'm taking baby steps as this is a very successful hotel. Occupancy-wise we run the highest consistent occupancy on the island for a comparable hotel. We also have the highest guest satisfaction of our brand in the region including the Middle East and Africa. We achieve our targets and when you start somewhere new part of you wants to make a splash, but this hotel already works so I'm not in a big hurry to change anything."

Morgan is married, has one daughter back in Northern Ireland and is expecting a son to be born here in July.

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# The false king of the wild frontier

## Books

By James Eckardt

ON THE night of December 15, 1954, Walt Disney and the ABC TV network premiered the first of a three-part series: *Davy Crockett, Indian Fighter*. In the next episode, Davy Crockett went to Congress

from Tennessee and in the third he died – died! – at the Alamo. Everyone my age who could afford it (not me) was soon wearing a Davy Crockett coonskin cap and singing along to his ballad: “Davy, Davy Crockett, King of the Wind Frontier!”

He was nothing of the sort. For most of his youth, he was an impoverished farmhand. The pioneering on the frontier was done by his grandparents, both of whom were murdered for their troubles by the “Creek Indians”. David (not Davy) was born nine years later, in 1786. By the time he grew up, East Tennessee was settled. The “Indians” were mostly gone but game still abounded and David Crockett made a name for himself as an excellent hunter.

For this information we have Michael Wallis to thank, author of *David Crockett* (Norton &

Company, New York, 2011, 378pp), somewhat ironically subtitled “The Lion of the West”, which was the title accorded him by the propagandists of his life.

David himself wrote a much more modest autobiography. His father ran a low tavern and was burdened by debts his whole life. Like his Scots-Irish father, David was improvident, footloose, irreligious, fond of whiskey and telling tall tales. “The Scots-Irish soon became known as a distinct frontier breed,” the author notes.

“They were accustomed to isolation in a hostile environment. The hard experiences they had endured fighting each other in their homeland and the native Irish in Ulster had tempered their spirits and stiffened their resolve. This made them especially well suited to life on the new western frontier. When not fighting among themselves, they fell upon the American Indians they encountered with the same kind of murderous zeal,” he adds.

After the Creek Indians massacred 400 men, women and children in Fort Mims in Alabama in 1813, 27-year-old David Crockett volunteered for the Tennessee militia under General Andrew Jackson. He served two enlistment terms and

rose to the rank of sergeant. He was chiefly valued as a provider of meat for the hungry army.

When his first wife died, he promptly married a well-off widow, the daughter of a Revolutionary War hero who had received land grants in Tennessee for his services.

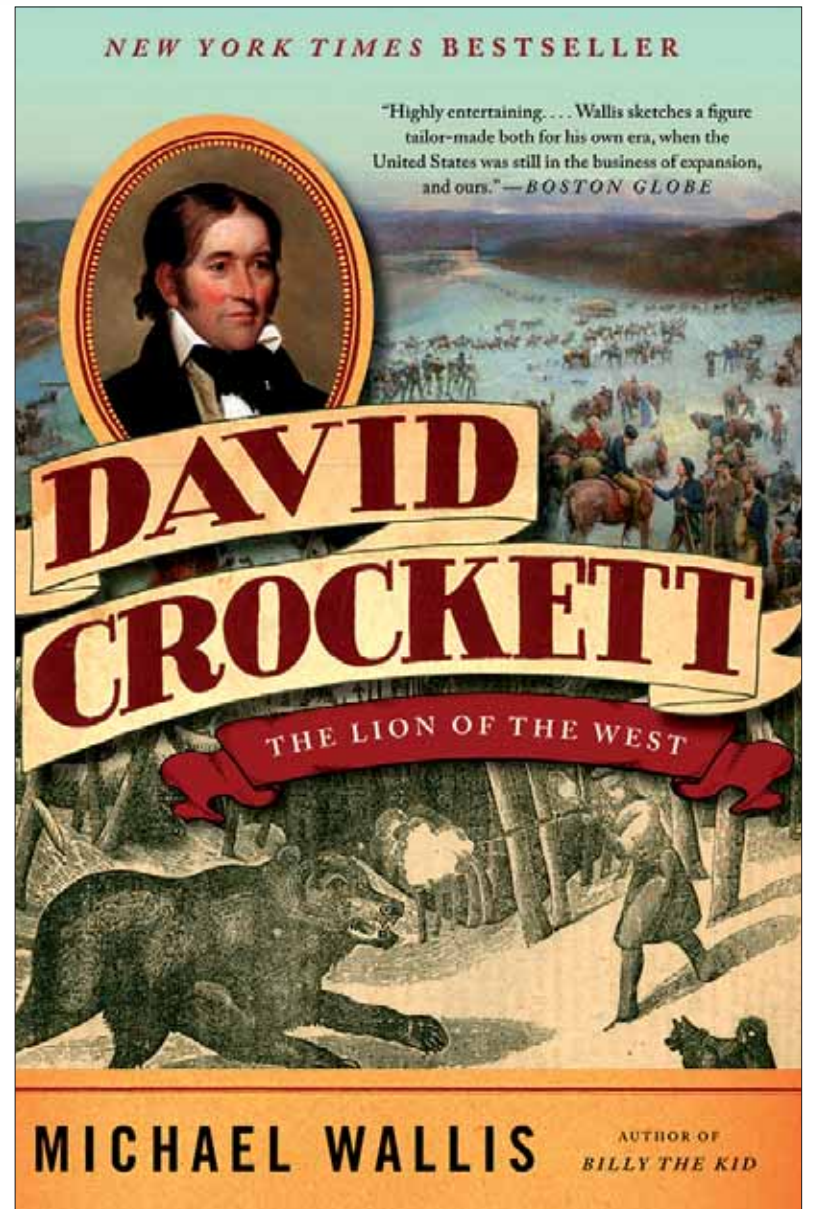
After a final move to West Tennessee, to true frontier land formerly occupied by the Choctaw Indians, Crockett’s fortunes began to rise.

His natural affability and talent for story telling earned him three terms in Congress. However his economic schemes didn’t work so well. He went deeply in debt to build a riverside complex containing a gristmill, a distillery and a gunpowder factory. All were washed away in a flash flood.

He built two barges, loaded them with barrel staves, and set off down the Mississippi for New Orleans. The barges sank.

But he had found a new role in political life: champion of the landless poor. His ambition to pass a bill to open up land in West Tennessee for poor farmers rather than rich speculators was thwarted in Congress (though later pushed through by his son John Wesley Crockett who succeeded him in Congress).

He made serious political enemies, chief among them President Andrew Jackson. As a matter of principle, he fiercely opposed Jackson’s Indian Removal Act that banished the



**BEST B'AR NONE:** David Crockett may not have “wrassled a b’ar” at the age of three, but the Lion of the West eventually lost his fight with the Washington donkey, President Andrew Jackson.

Southeastern Indians – Cherokees, Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws and Seminoles – on the “Trail of Tears” to Oklahoma.

“I opposed it from the purest motives in the world,” Crockett wrote. “I believe it was a wicked, unjust measure, and that I should go against it, let the cost to myself be what it might... I would sooner be hon-

estly and politically damned, than hypocritically immortalized.”

Yet immortalized he was, first through a play and phony biographies and then through his own best-selling autobiography which led to a wildly successful book tour. He was at the height of his fame when cut down at the Alamo. He deserved a TV show.

# The Cabin in the Woods

## Film

**STARRING:** Kristen Connolly, Fran Kranz, Chris Hemsworth, Jesse Williams, Anna Hutchison, Bradley Whitford, Richard Jenkins, Sigourney Weaver.

**DIRECTOR:** Drew Goddard.

**GENRE:** Horror

**PHUKET RELEASE:** May 10

DREW Goddard and Joss Whedon (co-writer/producer) take a wry poke at horror movies, but eventually get lost in the woods in their attempts to debunk the genre.

Apparently the pair found themselves questioning some of the classic horror clichés, such as why the heroes always decide to split up when they are patently being hunted down one by one.

It’s certainly fun fodder for dinner table conversation, but is it really worth a whole multi-million



dollar movie?

So, here we have five young friends with a really nice Recreational Vehicle who prefer to stay in a spooky rundown cabin in the middle nowhere. Whatever fun and frolics they were intending to get up to are curtailed when they accidentally set off a zombie attack.

This turns out to be one of several potential horror chestnuts devised for them by a brace of demented technicians intent upon seeing the five friends murdered to fulfill some overly complicated ritual designed to appease the “Ancient Ones”.

Teen queens scream and die in ever more horrific bloodbaths and, in case you are as bored of zombies as everyone else, there’s even a werewolf roaming around.

Eventually Sigourney Weaver shows up as the last minute baddie to explain all this nonsense. Unfortunately she is dispatched by the dope-smoking anti-hero before she gets to utter, “And I would have gotten away with it too, if it hadn’t been for you meddling kids!”

The audience is left with much unexplained, including the biggest mystery of all: was Chris Hemsworth playing Rick or Scooby Doo?



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# Orranut Stephens

**THAI**
**gallery**
**By Nanthapa Pengkasem**

ORRANUT 'Koong' Stephens didn't believe she was psychic. She thought the "voices" she heard inside her head when she was about five years old were normal, and she even occasionally had conversations with these 'imaginary friends'.

Her relatives, though, had a different idea and duly sought help from medical professionals. Because of the fuss, Orranut began to eye the phenomenon inside herself with suspicion and decided to suppress it. The voices disappeared and she carried on with her life.

Orranut, who is from Bangkok, studied at Ramkhamhaeng University and graduated with a degree in political science. Being naturally gifted at languages and fluent in English, her dream was to further her studies in England.

The trouble was that her family couldn't afford the tuition fees. But as luck would have it, Orranut and her brother took part in a Thai television quiz show and the pair won enough prize money to fund her studies at Bristol University, where she obtained her MBA in Business Communications.

Did the voices play any part in that stroke of luck? She is not sure, but remembers that she somehow answered all the questions correctly. "I thought my intuition was really sharp at that time, that's all."

But it was not until 2007 when she and her English husband Michael moved to Phuket that Orranut once again "opened up to her higher consciousness."

The couple opened the Provolution Wellness Center in Pa Khlok, where they, both as certified Reiki practitioners, provide Reiki therapy as well as training programs along with meditation classes.

As part of the therapy, Orranut also offers what she calls "Life Cards" readings, using playing cards (not Tarot) to chart and interpret particular areas of a client's life at a given moment.

According to the testimonials on the company's website, her ability to be accurate is uncanny, and because of this she has acquired a strong and varied client base. The voices, she says, have returned to guide her and she no longer resists the phenomenon.

Still, she refuses to call herself a fortune-teller. Speaking about the discipline which she acquired from a Thai master in Bangkok, Orranut is clear about what she does:

"I am a clairsentient and that means I hear things. The card reading is usu-

ally given alongside a Reiki session and I won't predict death or lottery numbers. I give intuitive advice based on what I see on the cards at a given moment."

She adds that she learns something new from every reading session. "When I interpret a reading it's as if I am giving advice to myself. All of the things I say to my clients are applicable to me."

Having had experience in personnel training as a result of her earlier career in the hospitality business, Orranut still works as a consultant to a number of hotels and resorts where she trains staff in the art of customer relations – anything from greeting to smiling and creating small talk to table manners.

She reveals that whenever possible she incorporates Dharma – the teachings of the Buddha – into her training programs; not to convert people but to make them aware of the simplicity of living a modest but graceful life.

Orranut, who is a devout Buddhist, practices what she preaches. She often makes merit (*tum boon*) by giving food to monks and temples, and she practices *vipassana* meditation every day.

"I enjoy the healing work, which to me is a kind of meditation that takes me into another realm. My dream is to create a Dharma and holistic center that is free for all.



Training people to incorporate Dharma into every aspect of their lives is now my mission."

Orranut, now 42, has two children: Earth, her four-year-old son, and Sky, her two-year-old daughter.

## 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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\* THAI; Emirates; United; China Airlines; Air France; Delta; Lufthansa; Singapore Airlines; Cathay Pacific; Dragonair and Vietnam Airlines.

\*\* The Gazette Online enjoys the highest Google traffic and 'page importance' rankings of any website in or about Phuket.

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## Phuket Gazette

Contact K. Jane, Events Manager:  
Kanjana@PhuketGazette.net

# WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**April 28 to June 9, 7-8pm: New Exhibits by Somrak Maneemai, Mom Tri's Villa Royale Gallery**  
New work from famed Thai artist Somrak Maneemai. Somrak's latest work "Lost in the Clouds" will be exhibited at the gallery. Somrak, who has a Masters in Fine Art from Silpakorn University, has had his work displayed in Australia, Thailand and in private collections worldwide. His previous work "Red Gallery" was praised by the New York Times, which also commended his Rawai Art Village's work for its originality. Somrak also runs frequent art workshops for school children around Phuket and teaches adults and children privately.

**May 4, 7-10pm: Indian Night at Les Angeles in the Royal Phuket Marina**

Phuket's best Indian buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Every Friday, starting on May 4. Special promotion at just 449 baht net with a 10 per cent discount on drinks! Reservations are recommended. Call Mr Murat at 081-797 3364.

**May 5, Coronation Day**  
Public Holiday

**May 5, 12-3pm: Saturday**

**Brunch at theTwo Chefs in Kata Center**

Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. For more information please visit TwoChefs.com.

**May 5-6, 5-9pm: Weekend Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew**

Buy, sell and barter on an ever expanding extensive variety of goods, food, etc. Or simply relax and enjoy the vast assortment of other fun stuff we are putting together for all ages. Nobody has more fun than at the soon to be number one Weekend Market & Meeting Place in Phuket! Located within the conveniently situated Boat Lagoon, with easy access, Toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Individual cover boot (2x2m) with power facility available for rent in dedicated zone

areas, 100 baht per day introduction rate. Contact 088-7680471

**May 6, 6:30am-12:30pm: Columbia Trail Masters Phuket at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club**

The Phuket event, based at the magnificent new Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club, will comprise of a 21 km half marathon, a 10km run and a 3km fun run for children and adults who would just like to be with them for the enjoyment of it. A post-race lunch will follow the trophy presentation ceremony at about 10:30am. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *The Nation*, and PGTV.

**May 6, 12-3pm: Sunday Family Lunch at the Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket**

Come and enjoy this spectacular lunch on Sunday. Savor a fabulous meal accompanied by our music band. Your whole family is invited to enjoy our swimming pool, kids' pool, lazy river, jumping cliff and water slides! 990 baht nett per person, including soft drinks, water, coffee and tea. 1,390 baht nett per person with one bottle of red, white or rose wine per couple. Free for children under age 5, and half price for children ages 6-12. Valet parking services provided. Limited booking for 80 persons.

**May 7, Substitution day for Coronation Day**  
Public holiday.

**May 9, Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day – Public Holiday**

This auspicious occasion, which predates even the birth of the Lord Buddha, marks the beginning of the rice-planting season. The Ploughing Lord – appointed by HM the King – performs ancient rites and attempts to forecast the rainfall for the coming months, to predict whether the rice seedlings about to be planted will provide a bountiful crop this year.

**May 9, 7-9pm: Ladies Beauty Night at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina**

Every Wednesday. For ladies only. Free hair dress-ups, manicures and make-up from beauty specialists. 50% discount on drinks and 25% off for food in the menu list.

**May 11, 6pm-1am: New Orleans Night at the Two Chefs**

## Phuket Health & Fitness Festival 2012

A weekend full of health & fitness fun featuring keynote speaker Dr. John Hinwood from Australia. Tickets include admission to all seminars, demonstrations, activities and the festival party at Serenity Terraces on Saturday night. Tickets limited to first 200 people. Only 2,200 baht or 1,900 baht for earlybird purchase. For more details please visit [www.RawaiNaiHarn.com](http://www.RawaiNaiHarn.com).

This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

**May 11-13, 7-8pm**  
**Rawai and Nai Harn Area**

**in Kata Center**

It is time to repeat last year's success. New Orleans Night. We are setting up a great Cajun-Creole inspired buffet filled with amazing food and the cost is only 495 baht, with no extra charges. Our now famous Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain you long into the night. We also heard a rumor that there will be a lot of guest artists showing up, so why not come over? For more info please visit us on the web at [Twochefs.com](http://Twochefs.com).

**May 11, 7-10pm: Indian Night at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina**

Phuket's Best Indian Buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion at just 449 baht. From 5-9pm buy one get one free for drinks! Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat at 081-797 3364.

**May 19, 8:30am-3:30pm: Cambridge KET & PET Exams for UK Visas Requirement**

British International School, Phuket Fees: KET: 1,900 baht.

PET: 2,400 baht. English language requirement for partners. If you are not a national of a majority English-speaking country or do not have a degree taught in English, you must pass an approved English language test with an approved test provider. The KET A2 meets this requirement. Visa for Adult Students. If you plan to study in the UK, your education provider must ensure that you are competent in English at a minimum of level B1 (CEFR). The PET B1 meets this requirement. Results will be online 30th June 2012.

**May 16, 6pm-1am: Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon**

Now we start with our very popular weekly Tex-Mex again. Every Wednesday we present for you the biggest Tex-Mex buffet on this island. This year we also have a free flow option for you. As every night, our Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain us. All this for only 495 baht, and for 795 baht you can drink as much as you want from our free flow options. For more info, please visit us on the web at [TwoChefs.com](http://TwoChefs.com).

### Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you nuts? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

**Free Computer Clinics at**  
**Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - May 9, 16, 1-3pm**  
**Sandwich Shoppe Patong - May 2, 1-3pm**  
**Contact at 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com**

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**MEDICALLY SPEAKING:** The Fresenius Kabi Advanced Nutrition Course (FRANC) Asia 2012 was held at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa recently. FRANC Asia brings medical experts in their field from Asia, Europe and South America for scientific discussions on current concepts and developments within Clinical Nutrition therapy, providing a unique forum for experience sharing and discussions within the field.



**PINOY AKO!** The filipino community recently started their own weekly sports competition at Cherng Talay gymnasium. The games will be played every Sunday at noon until June 3 and on June 10 there will be a Victory Ball to commemorate Philippines Independence Day. Photo: Association of Filipinos in Thailand

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**STAR GAZING:** Bollywood starlet Sonakshi Sinha posed for local media on May 2, at the Vijit Resort Phuket in Rawai on the first of her five day stay in Phuket. Photo: Chris Hudon



**SINO OF THE TIMES:** The closing ceremony was recently held for the annual "Leisure time activity and beginners Chinese language summer training", sponsored by the China Overseas Exchange Association.



**ART LOVERS:** Mom Tri's VR Gallery held an opening reception for artist Somrak Maneemai's new work 'Lost In The Clouds' recently. From left are his wife Jo Stuart with their daughter; Somrak Maneemai; Sylvie Yaffe, Mom Tri's PR Manager; and fellow artist Watcharin Rodnit. Photo: Dan Miles



## PHUKET PRIDE 2012



Photos: Marc Mulloy

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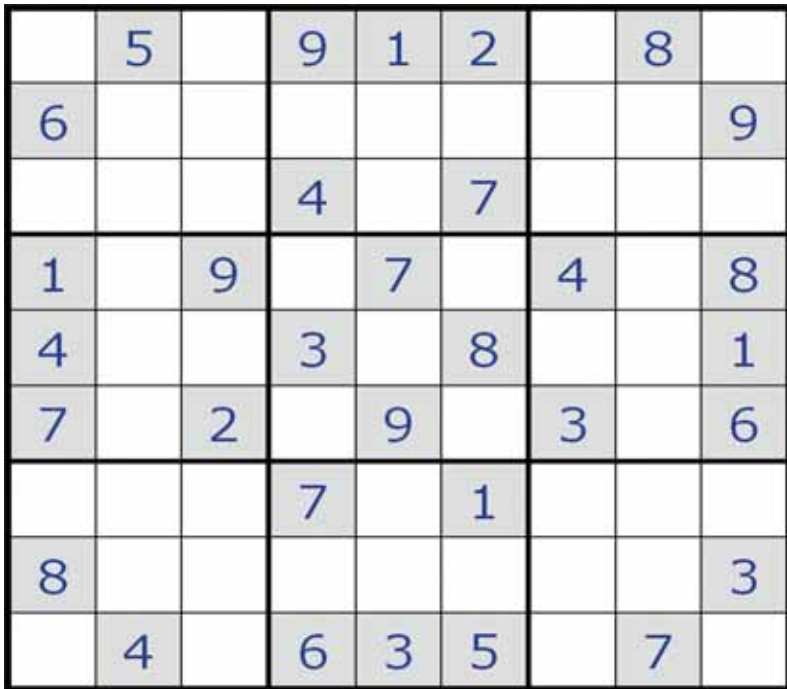


**88 Land and Houses Phuket**

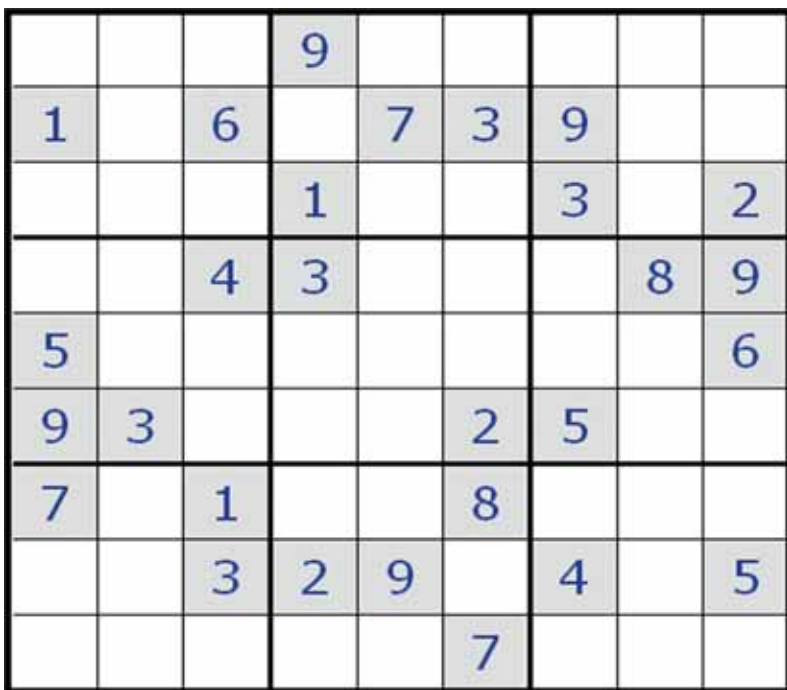
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**SUDOKU** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the numbers 1 to 9 once only. © Kevin Stone



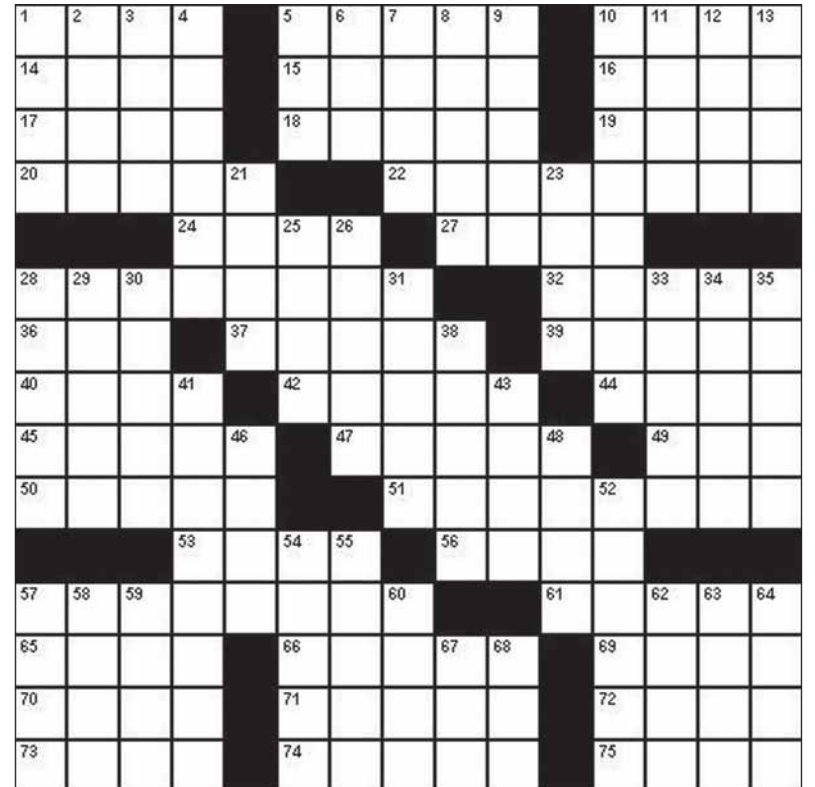
May 1, 2012 - Hard  
© Kevin Stone

#### Across

1. Indian exercise method
5. Steal This Book author Hoffman
10. French 101 verb
14. Composer Khachaturian
15. Borough of New York City
16. Arduous journey
17. Animistic god or spirit
18. Chilean pianist Claudio
19. Mozart's \_\_\_\_\_ kleine Nachtmusik
20. Jargon
22. Expanded
24. "My fault!"
27. 007's alma mater
28. 50 cents
32. Frasier's brother
36. Quaker cereal
37. Subway turner
39. Antiknock fluid
40. Extol
42. Concerning
44. Dextrous, lively
45. Like some vbs
47. Belief
49. Little drink
50. Island in the Bay of Naples
51. Barrow
53. Roman poet
56. Langston Hughes poem
57. Rice dish
61. Bring together
65. Bailiwick
66. Champagne buckets
69. Boris Godunov, for one
70. Artist Mondrian
71. A bit, colloquially
72. All ears
73. "You are \_\_\_\_"
74. \_\_\_\_ Perot
75. Fit to \_\_\_\_;

#### Down

1. Tibetan oxen
2. Like some history
3. Explorer Vasco da \_\_\_\_
4. Key with no sharps or flats
5. Attorney's org
6. Cold call?
7. Drag



8. Absurd
9. Jump for joy
10. Infinite time
11. Math course
12. Actor Auberjonois
13. Barely managed, with "out"
21. Oodles
23. Bang-up
25. Falafel holder
26. Episode
28. \_\_\_\_ acid (B vitamin)
29. Butler's love
30. Encroach
31. Bed down
33. Capital of Tibet

34. Aluminum-bronze coin of Iceland
35. Slumbered
38. Affectation of sophisticates
41. Degenerate
43. Class struggle?
46. Bestow
48. Grand
52. Against
54. Dander
55. Furnishings
57. 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
58. Ashtabula's lake
59. Antlered animal
60. Architect Saarinen
62. The wolf \_\_\_\_ the door
63. Record with a VCR
64. Art Deco designer
67. ACLU concerns
68. Airline to Oslo

Provided by BestCrosswords.com

Puzzle solutions on page 43

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



A calmer cosmic climate allows Taureans to get their thoughts and actions in order. Your luck until the middle of May is steady, providing you aren't tempted to move into the fast lane. The stars suggest that finances will be boosted when a mistake is rectified midweek – investments become healthier towards the end of the month. Those with a birthday in the days ahead see that life is more dynamic in the coming year.

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



An easy-going mood this week allows Geminis to see the sunny side of life. The stars suggest that your optimism rubs off on others – expect a water sign to change their tune dramatically in the world of work. Collaboration and partnerships are highlighted to be fruitful until the end of this month. Another air sign comes up with a business proposition that is right up your street. Your lucky color is shell pink.

#### CANCER (Jun 22 - Jul 23):



Appearances can be deceptive until the middle of the month. Those Cancerians who were convinced they could count on support from a fire sign are forecast to be let

down. The stars indicate that last minute communication with another water sign should save the day. In the realm of romance, there are hints that a relationship with an earth sign may be affected by this person's lack of outside interests.

#### LEO (Jul 24 - Aug 22):



Boredom could be an issue for those born under the sign of Leo this week. The stars suggest that you seek out company of friends who have the power to motivate – an earth sign is ready to include you in their social scene this weekend. Where work is concerned, your feathers could be ruffled by another fire sign's habit of always knowing best. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.

#### VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 23):



New beginnings fall under the spotlight during the days ahead. Those Virgoans who are ready to move on in the world of work will have a lot of food for thought this week. Finances are likely to be tight until the middle of May, but at least one way of saving money should become possible. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, another earth sign's interest is hard to miss.



#### LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23):



Librans are likely to take the world of work by storm this week. A brainwave has potential to turn into a money-spinning venture – expect a water sign to be keen to come on board. Those who have been caught in the middle of family problems should see a way out this weekend. The stars suggest that you remember it's impossible to please all the people all the time.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22):



Your dreams can have hidden meaning this week. The stars indicate that Scorpios who have been ignoring signals about a work-related issue will be faced with the truth. Finances are steady, but tapping into your resources should be done with caution until the middle of May. In the realm of romance, a light-hearted relationship with an air sign could become too hot to handle. Wear the color bronze to encourage good luck.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21):



Where work is concerned, an air sign's reaction could be less positive than you hoped for this week – the stars advise not trying to rush this person into a decision. Money matters are well-starred for Sagittarians this week. Gain is forecast to make the rest of May a time to spoil yourself. Where personal relationships are concerned, another fire sign's confusing behavior becomes too much to take. Sunday is an auspicious day for sharing feelings.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20):



Capricorns caught in a predicament at work could find that another earth sign colleague has useful answers this week. The astral atmosphere encourages problem solving towards the middle of this month – in the meantime, it would be wise to avoid over reacting. On a personal level, a fire sign friend who has been giving you a wide berth lately is predicted to explain why this has been happening.

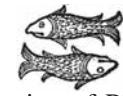
#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19):



Your mental energy is less sharp than usual until the middle of May. Those Aquarians who cannot rely on others to make the best decisions at work should stall for time. The stars

indicate that commitments made in the heat of the moment early next week can result in loss. In the realm of romance, treading softly in your approach to an earth sign is recommended. Wear the color apple green to encourage good luck.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20):



The world of work is well-starred this week for those born under the sign of Pisces. Trust in a project rejected by others is highlighted to pay off and your financial situation should reflect the hard work that will be involved. The stars advise that some Pisceans may confuse friendship with romance where an earth sign is concerned. A relationship with a fire sign shows promise. Your lucky color this week is dark chocolate.

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20):



The tide gradually turns for those Arians who have been struggling at work. Expect a water sign to become more open to your ideas this week – Wednesday is the most auspicious day for discussions. Where finances are concerned, a midweek misunderstanding could be costly; keeping a close eye on transactions is recommended. In romance, the stars suggest that patience is your best approach with an air sign.

# PROPERTY Gazette

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

BLUE Point, the eco-designed, boutique sea view condominium project being developed at the southern tip of Patong Beach, was the recipient of three prestigious design and property awards last month.

Most recently, the condos were in the running at the Property & Hospitality Summit held at the J. W. Marriott Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on April 26 and 27.

There it won accolades for 'Development, Multiple Units - Thailand', and the 'Best Architecture Multiple Residence - Thailand'.

Leading up to the highly anticipated summit, the luxurious development was honored with an architectural award from the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), for the 'eco-friendly' design of its on-site sales pavilion.

Submitted under the 'Small Buildings, Design Excellence' category, the pavilion design was described by the OAA as "Recognizing the innovative skills of Ontario architects in creating spaces, buildings and communities that respect and enhance the environment and enrich human activity."

The pavilion was evaluated by

a jury of architecture peers who considered five criteria as follows: creativity, context, sustainability, good design/good business and legacy.

Bluepoint's Canadian designer Paul Raff describes his design as a project that "transforms a pre-fab box-frame and off-the-shelf planks into an artful, dynamic pavilion."

"The pavilion sits strikingly atop a plateau, opening up to and powerfully framing the phenomenal view of Patong Bay and the Andaman Sea".

He continues, "The pavilion's form, material and construction were inspired by the iconic regional presence of the curved wooden boats of local fishermen."

"Fishing boats today are still constructed in the manner of the region's first-known inhabitants 2000 years ago, by curving lengths of timber over a gunnel framework."

For the pavilion, traditional forms and materials are reinterpreted to accentuate the site's landscape and panoramic views".

In keeping with Bluepoint's sustainability ethos, the pavilion

## Blue Point condos take home three awards



**ECO FRIENDLY:** Blue Point Condo's Pavilion is designed to reduce the development's carbon footprint by 60 per cent.

is primarily made out of an innovative wood composite material composed of sawdust waste from timber mills.

It is also extremely durable. The pavilion's form is shaped to shade the interior reducing heat gain and associated carbon footprint by over 60 per cent.

The pavilion, used for the sales and marketing of Bluepoint Condos which it overlooks, gives potential buyers a place to sit comfortably and see the development, providing them with a focused experience of both the immediate

site and the broader landscape.

It also gives potential buyers a tactile experience of the creativity and quality of their future investment.

Paul Raff adds: "The pavilion exemplifies how even with extremely limited means, architectural creativity can deliver poetic forms and experiences in an environmentally sustainable manner".

The development's environmentally friendly louver design was also the recipient of the 2009 Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's 'Excellence Innovations

In Architecture' award.

Commenting on the accolade, Mr Raff said: "We are honored to be recognized by an expert jury for both artistry and sustainable innovation in architecture."

"I look forward to designing future projects of a similar caliber."

"We enjoyed working with a great international team of developers to achieve a really unique and marketable development," he added.

For more information, see: [bluepointcondos.com/](http://bluepointcondos.com/)

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# High-octane Asia of 2012



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

CALL them 'Integrated' or 'Destination' Resorts, but the final solution for leisure travel continues to reinvent itself. Remember back to a golden age when these master planned destinations started rolling out?

One large scale proponent of it was in Mexico where the government master-planned large tourism estates under *Fonatur* (National Tourism Development Fund) resulting in the Cancun, Cozumel and Ixtapa resorts we know today.

In the United States the wonderful world of Disney sprung up with the Orlando mega-attraction of Disneyworld. Later in Asia came *Nusa Dua* in Bali and Thailand's Laguna Phuket.

These days the IRs – Integrated Resorts – in Singapore, include Resorts World and Marina Bay Sands, and have thrust the 'Hotel California' proposition forward: you can check out any time you like, but you never have to leave – at least as long as the credit card keeps above the thin red line.

It wasn't always a rosy picture; many of the large mega resorts in Hawaii developed by Chris Hemmeyer eventually got to such a scale that the fallout of a recession and stress in the Japanese investment sector required many projects to restructure and downsize in order to survive.

Here in Asia, a lovely bit of

coastline in Malaysia, just up from Singapore, called Desaru went under master planning in the 1980's. Backed by a local partner and Japan's Kajima Corporation the development stopped when a financial downturn hit close to home. Meanwhile the latest Asian 'Golden Age' of the past few years has seen a buyout of large land parcels by Malaysia's state finance arm *Kazanah Nasional*. Welcome to the new and improved Desaru.

Master-planned and ready to roll are multiple hotels including an Aman (a development comprising both a country club and villas), as well as names like Sheraton and Datai. And of course there are golf courses, designed by the likes of Ernie Els and Vijay Singh. Next to these will emerge golf inspired residences.

Driving much of the demand will be two Orlando inspired world class theme parks – Ocean Quest Marine Park and Ocean Splash Water Park. According to a recent piece in Malaysia's *Business Times*, the 1,618 hectare land parcel was bought over by *Kazanah* in 2010. Highlighting the new IR will be a 17 kilometer part called the Desaru Coast.

Plans for later stages include a convention center, retail and other commercial offerings expected to come into operation. Indeed the business of tourism's "one size fits all" is running like a bull.

Legoland will debut in Malaysia's border area in the not too distant future. Nearby Indonesia is also witnessing large projects, including the Trans Studio in Bandung, which has brought with it the



**DESIRABLE DESARU:** A view from outside the new Lotus Desaru Beach Resort in Malaysia. Photo: Zoul Dahan

biggest Ibis hotel in Asia, more than 600 rooms.

Near Bali, Middle Eastern giant Emaar signed on for a massive development in Lombok back before the global financial crises, but this was put on hold. Many industry observers believe a part of this development will return to life, given a brand new international airport which opened on the island last year.

And Manila Bay in the Philippines is dotted with construction cranes with an assortment of gaming and themed hotel complexes rising over the horizon. In this high octane Asia of 2012, bigger seems to be the trigger on

the gun of mass tourism.

And then of course there are concerns about sustainable economic models and questions over the checkered history of IRs. But at the end of the day after doing the math, Asia remains within a short flight to half the world's population.

As long as a middle class rises and there is disposable income for discretionary spending, projects such as these make financial dollars and sense.

In Greater Phuket, two destination developments have taken separate pathways. During the boom period in the mid-2000s, The Cove Krabi was touted to be Thailand's next great IR. Things

went south and the project failed.

While in Thai Muang, Hong Kong billionaire Richard Li's mega project hit a road bump with a government rezoning of Southern Phang Nga's prime west coast, and to date remains a question mark. Can Desaru position itself in the same league as Bali and Phuket a second time around?

We'll have to wait a few years for the answer to that one. In the meantime you can almost hear the thunder of construction next door, down south in Malaysia.

*Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through W: C9hotelworks.com*

## RPM partners with BIS



**A view of the new development.** Photo: Grebstad Hicks Communications Ltd

ROYAL Phuket Marina (RPM) has partnered with the prestigious British International School (BIS) in a clever campaign to promote sales of a new family-style condominium development.

At the forefront of their special offer is a fifty per cent subsidy on tuition fees for two consecutive years to all dependent children of families who buy two-bedroom condos at 'La Reserve Residences' being developed at RPM, one of Asia's most luxurious residential marinas.

With unit prices starting from US\$ 262,000 (about 8 million

baht), the offer will half BIS's standard school fees, which start from an annual tuition of US\$ 7800 (240,000 baht) in kindergarten, rising to US\$ 14,000 (430,000 baht) in primary school and US\$17,000 (522,000 baht) in secondary school.

In addition to the fifty per cent discount on tuition fees, entrance and application fees, as high as US\$4,750 per child, will also be fully waived.

Commenting on his company's latest marketing initiative, Royal Phuket Marina owner and developer, Gulu Lalvani said,

"Phuket now has some of the finest international schools in Southeast Asia, which together with safety and relaxation, provides an attractive option for young families either settling in Asia or looking for an alternative to overcrowded city hubs."

Especially tailored for families, 'La Reserve Residences' features forty, one and two-bedroom condominiums in two blocks, each with their own rooftop 'Sky Pools'.

The infinity-edged rooftop pool decks are tropically landscaped and have ocean views of the stunning Phang Nga Bay.

Complete with barbecue area and sun deck rooftops are accessed by a direct-to-roof lift.

The La Reserve project also adjoins Phuket's best Kid's Club complete with multiple pools, water activities, multi-function activities, entertainment rooms with games for children and an indoor lounge with restaurant and bar for parents.

– *Phuket Gazette*

### Laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

|  |  |
|--|--|
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| <p><b>3 Laguna Links THB 18 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 beds 3 baths • fully furnished</li> <li>• private pool • maid's quarters</li> </ul>                             | <p><b>4 Laguna Cove THB 23 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 beds 3 baths • lagoon view</li> <li>• private pool • maid's quarters</li> </ul>                                    |
| <p><b>5 Laguna Homes THB 42 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey detached residences</li> <li>• 4 beds 5 baths • private pool</li> <li>• golf course view</li> </ul>      | <p>For more information on these and other properties, please call:</p> <p><b>+66 (0) 76 362 333</b></p> <p>or email:</p> <p><b>resale@lagunaresale.com</b></p> <p><b>www.lagunaresale.com</b></p> |

All properties are included Golf Membership & Laguna Resident's Privilege Card

# Offshore company acquisition: what buyers should consider

## Property Legal By International Law Office

A PERSON contemplating a property investment may be offered to purchase an offshore company which owns and holds legal title to a property. For some reason there seems to be a lot of mystery surrounding offshore companies which may make an investor concerned. Generally speaking, an offshore company is a company incorporated outside the jurisdiction of its primary operations or residence.

Depending on the jurisdiction where the offshore company has been incorporated, particularly in case of incorporation in a special offshore financial center, it may have some features which are deemed beneficial by its owners, such as simpler or lesser regulatory requirements with respect to company incorporation, maintenance or reporting standards.

If a buyer decides to take over such an offshore company, then this may be easily accomplished by transfer of all shares and a change of company director in favor of the buyer. However, a buyer would be well advised to carefully investigate both the company and its targeted assets before making any commitments.

A buyer should in any event verify that the company is in good standing in the jurisdiction of its incorporation, that the seller is the registered owner of all the shares in the company, that the shares are free of encumbrances or third party rights, that the company holds good and clear title to its assets, and that the company has no outstanding debt or undisclosed liabilities.

It should be noted that an offshore company may not be required to maintain audited accounts or file annual

returns, making due diligence into its financial status a difficult undertaking; a risk of undisclosed or undiscovered debt or liabilities may remain.

Therefore, as a minimum protection, a buyer should always insist that the sales documentation usually executed in connection with a company sale, such as a Share Sale and Purchase Agreement, include comprehensive warranties and representations in favor of the buyer, stating that the company is free and clear of any debt or liability unless disclosed to the buyer.

When discussing the terms of payment in connection with a company sale, seller and buyer should seriously consider to agreeing to use an escrow agent. This provides a safeguard for each party against non-performance by the other party.

The escrow arrangement would require the buyer to pay the funds used for the acquisition of the company into the account of the escrow agent who will release the monies to the seller pursuant to the terms agreed between seller, buyer and the escrow agent – typically, after all shares have been transferred and the buyer appointed as the new company director.

In summary, takeover of an offshore company should be a straightforward transaction. However, it must be understood that buying a company which owns the target property rather than taking title to the target property itself constitutes an additional layer of potential issues. Therefore, it is advisable that both parties, buyer and seller, seek independent advice from both legal and tax experts providing such guidance.

*This article is written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd., a Phuket based law firm, and for informational purposes only. In case of enquiries, please contact Michael Greth, Consultant, by email ([michael@ilo-phuket.com](mailto:michael@ilo-phuket.com)) or phone (+66- (0) 76-222 191-5).*



**BUYER BEWARE:** Hiring an escrow agent will minimize financial risks. Photo: Mark Hunter

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# Skulking in the shrubbery



**FEATHERED FRIENDS:** A greater coucal, yellow-vented bulbuls, a juvenile magpie robin, a common mynah and a black-throated sunbird. Photos: Ramesh, Joel, Lip Kee Yap, J Haslam and J Harrison



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

The more shrubs in your garden, the more birds and butterflies. At least that's the theory, and in the main, it's an axiom that holds true. So if you are keen on both beautifying your patch, and supporting wildlife, go for shrubs. Why? Because leafy shrubs are an ideal environment, both for nectar-gathering butterflies, and for small birds that 'skulk'. Skulking is a term which, as any ornithologist will tell you, means shy, undercover behavior which includes peeping out from behind foliage, and flitting noiselessly and unseen from bush to bush.

In my garden there are birds ranging from brazen, loud-mouthed mynahs, coucals and magpie robins, to dainty, diffident, but often brilliantly plumaged sunbirds, warblers and spiderhunters. This year yellow-vented bulbuls have nested outside the kitchen door and spotted doves in the acacia tree - both for the third year in succession.

But it is the tiny sunbirds and company that 'skulk', and shrubs provide ideal camouflage for their undercover activities.

Of course, that is not the main reason for planting shrubs. They are the staple of gardens the world over, beautiful in their own right without benefit of birds or butterflies, but also, and because of their

woody structure, tough leaves, and substantial roots, better able to tolerate the extremes of a tropical climate than most annuals, perennials and many succulents find downright difficult. Moreover, they are mostly evergreen with both attractive foliage and flowers, and grow to a sensible size - neither too large nor too small. Their sweet nectar attracts bees as well as birds and butterflies, and in an island environment where so-called "development" is proceeding at such breakneck speed, it may not be long before gardens are the only oases of such verdant riches.

Time, then to re-visit the world of tropical shrubs, and especially ones which have proved to be



**CALLING ALL BIRDS:** *Solandra Longiflora* and *Grandiflora*. Photos: S Zona

success stories in my own plot.

Even as I look out, I can see the chalice vine outdoing all the other shrubs around the swimming pool, a large shrub sporting a dozen or so huge creamy white trumpets, a vine that genuinely deserve the imposing botanical title of *Solandra Longiflora*. For some reason, it is not a common sight in Phuket, and I can only assume that gardeners, like me, thought such an exotic shrub would be too difficult to cultivate. That is far from the case. It will put up both with indifferent soil and a range of climatic conditions. The chalice vine requires full sun to flower, but given the right position, it will bloom profusely and several times every year. The leaves are a deep, glossy green, and superbly complement the massive and exotic blooms. Another variety, *Grandiflora*, has similar, cup-like, yellow-gold flowers and narrower, elliptical leaves. Both are fragrant in the evening.

Hard to fault? Absolutely. But remember that *Solandra* is a vine,

and, like the *Allamanda* which it superficially resembles, has thick branches and a dense leaf cover that together weigh heavily on the plant's frame. Consequently, it will need support as it grows - and believe me- it grows rapidly. So it is best situated against a wall, or bedecking a trellis where it can be tied to an existing framework.

The other good news is that it is surprisingly easy to grow from hard-cuttings. Beg a couple from a friend, or visit the nursery opposite the basket shop on Chao Fa East. The owner has one 'mother' vine which she regularly layers or 'marcotts' - wrapping a bundle of compost-filled plastic around an incised piece of stem and allowing roots to develop.

So she usually has a supply. As I hope, and by using the same technique, will yours truly.

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



## DISCOVER LUXURY IN A RARE LOCATION

Flanked by five stunning beaches and overlooking glittering Patong Bay and the Andaman Sea. Bluepoint offers a touch of serenity in one of the last available sea view plots on Phuket's desirable west coast. Bluepoint is comprised of 20 freehold and leasehold condos all sophisticated in style with environmental preservation in mind. Choose Bluepoint and invest in an unrivalled lifestyle choice in a truly magical location.

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BLUEPOINT  
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2009 RAIC  
INNOVATION IN  
ARCHITECTURE  
AWARD



## Tip of the week

### Choosing the larger garden tools



**TAKE YOUR PICK:** A well stocked shed is no use here. Photo: Steenberg

IN TEMPERATE zones, the key digging implements for large jobs are spades and forks. However, in Phuket, where the earth is generally denser and less friable, a conventional square spade is useful for edging borders, but not much else.

A round-point shovel, available everywhere here, is better at turning over top-soil, or for shifting piles of soft soil or sand, but is still not ideal for deep digging. Most Thais choose a

mattock (a large-bladed hoe), and use it with a double-handed, hacking action as it offers plenty of leverage, and is good for making large planting holes. Believe it or not, a pick-axe is my weapon of choice for many situations. It is especially effective on the hard, compacted clay soil one encounters in the dry season.

For clearing leaf litter, a wire or bladed rake will do the job.

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## Properties For Sale

### MODERN-STYLE VILLA



Nai Harn. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Quick sale, we are moving July 1. Priced for quick sale, only 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-811 5017, 086-691 9047.

### GOOD VALUE

3bed, 4 bath, with pool. 5 million baht, a must to view. Tel: 076-374562, 089-469 2897. Email: adams.derrick75@yahoo.com

### PATONG APARTMENT, 1 BEDROOM

Front overlooks pool, fully furnished, TV, kitchen. Freehold: 4 million baht. Email: markloisw@hotmail.com

### LAND FOR QUICK SALE

Yamu 0.75 rai (x2) Mission Hills 1 rai. Offers invited. Tel: 081-087 9237 (English & Thai), 086-270 8727 (English). Email: crob58@gmail.com For more info visit <http://phuketlandforsale.net>

### CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio 30sqm, floor 15, seaview, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in July 2012. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Near British International School. 5-bedroom pool villa, 600/1,000sqm. 22 million baht ono. Tel: 084-185 4746.

### PATONG BANGLA ROAD

XL shophouse for sale. Phar Lap bar building. Have a look, make an offer. Email: coco.diorster@gmail.com

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

### HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### EXCEPTIONAL VALUE IN BKK



Large house in Sukhumvit Soi 54. 24 million baht. 104 sq wah, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 living areas, office, conference room, fitness room, large storeroom, laundry room. Quality fixtures & fittings. Space: 600sqm. Parking for 5 cars. Flood free. Email: scott.tanya@hotmail.com

### PA KHLOK HOUSE FOR SALE



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

### 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.

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### KAMALA HOUSE LEASEHOLD

18 years left, 300sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, furnished, sundeck, carport, photos available. Price: 3.75 million baht. Rent 32,000 baht per month for 6 months rent. Tel: 084-716 0502.

### BEACHFRONT FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, private pool, big sala on the beach. Great price. Tel: 088-168 5032.

### ONE-BEDROOM SEAVIEW CONDO



Unity 2 on the hill, 500m from beach, 4.35 million baht, 1.1 million baht down, take over construction progress payments. Email: keithb025@gmail.com

### ROOM FOR SALE

620,000 baht. Fully furnished, ready to move in, Chao Fa Road, only 15 minute to Central Festival, 10 minutes to Chalong and Rawai. Tel: 086-329 0705. Email: pisceanmark@hotmail.com

### MODERN HOUSE 3 OR 4 BR IN KATA

Good location with seaview and good Feng Shui. Private house, big swimming pool, near fruit market, supermarket, restaurant, club bar and 7 minute drive to Kata and Karon Beach. Tel: 086-783 7873 (English & Thai). Email: thomchaya444@yahoo.com

### APARTMENT WITH CAR AND MOTORBIKES

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, hot shower, aircon, satellite TV, internet, car park. For sale: furniture and car (Daihatsu Mira) & 2 motorbikes (Honda) 100,000 baht. Tel: 087-265 0652 (English). Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



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

### HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

### KOH YAO NOI

11rai 78sq wah, waterfront, unobstructed seaview, Chanote. Tel: 080-144 7801. Email: kohyaonoi999@yahoo.com

### 2-BUNGALOW COMPLEX

2 bedrooms to each bungalow and all bedrooms ensuite, Pool, fully secured electrified wall. Viewing strictly by appointment. Tel: 076-315216, 081-187 6940 (English). Email: roybeattie63@hotmail.co.uk

### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

### TOWNHOUSE IN PATONG



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

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## Properties For Rent

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Ao Makham. Tel: 081-892 4311. 20,000 baht/month. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

### RAWAI RENT

Nice, 1-bedroom apartment. 2 aircons, cable, kitchen, fridge, fully furnished. 10,000 baht. Tel: 085-757 3240.

### PATONG STUDIO FOR RENT

Close to beach. Aircon, cable, kitchen, fridge. 9,000 baht. Long stay: 8,000 baht. Tel: 085-757 3240.

### POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, Internet, cable TV. Available now. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

### RAWAI BEACH HOUSE

65,000++ 6-month lease. Tel: 081-397 6309.

### ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### CONDO PATONG

Studios and one-bedroom apartments for rent at Phuket Place and Patong Tower. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### PA KHLOK BUNGALOWS

2 bathrooms, fully furnished, com pool. Please call for more informations. Tel: 081-079 7121, 086-268 8926.

### ONE UNIT PATONG

One bedroom unit Patong. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, WiFi and power, top view and quite 20,000 baht per month. Contact Phtam 082-271 4487.

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

Patong Condotel, 1-year contract, 14,000 baht per month. 1 bedroom, 1 living room, dining room with kitchen, fully furnished. Tel: 081-536 7985.

### ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

### HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### BEACH VILLA NEAR LAGUNA

3 BEDROOMS SLEEP 6  
AVAIL FOR SHORTTERM RENTAL  
AT 2,000 BAHT PER NIGHT  
PLEASE CALL 081-0861428

### PATONG LUXURY APARTMENTS

WiFi, maid, big pool, security, cable TV. Close to Town. From 24,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

### RAWAI POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Large 3 and 4-bedroom villas with private pool. Quiet location near beach. Tel: 087-893 8747.

### THE HEIGHTS 2 + 3 BED APTS

2-bed, spacious, modern apartments, huge terraces & 3 bed pool villas. Free Wi-Fi. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



near Heroine Monument. furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

### BANG TAO VILLAS FOR RENT

1, 2, 4 bedrooms, with large pool, fully furnished, from 18,000 baht. Tel: 090-156 7927.

### 2-BED HOUSE RAWAI

May to September. 13,000 baht per month. Garden, WiFi, TV. Or for sale: 3.3 million baht. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

### 1 YR, 2-3 BED HOUSE WITH POOL

Fully furnished, with maid on Tuesday and TV package. From mid-May, 40,000 baht per month - can negotiate. Tel: 081-895 6267. Email: patsypalm@hotmail.com

### BUNGALOW, RAWAI

9,000 baht, fully furnished, kitchen, WiFi, TV. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

### KAMALA APARTMENT



Fully furnished with kitchen, ready to move in. Starts at 18,000 baht/month. Contact Mr Joke. 088-751 3066. Email: handyman@phuketplus.co.th

### PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL



1 and 2 bed available, 800m to beach, fully furnished, swimming pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable TV, parking. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

### KATA HILL ONE BEDROOM

Fully-furnished, one bedroom, bath, kitchen, air-con, internet and cable TV. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### ROOM FOR RENT

20,000 baht monthly long-term. basis, fully furnished, TV, aircon, fridge, toilet. Other facilities: swimming pool, pool table, bar, restaurant. Patong, Phuket. Call Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.



### 4-Bedroom Villa for Rent / Sale

Fully Finished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included.  
[www.PropertySeekByKMD.com](http://www.PropertySeekByKMD.com)  
(081) 895-7310

### LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

Swimming pool, Kitchen, Free WiFi, fully furnished. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.nanai villa.com](http://www.nanai villa.com)

### ROYAL PLACE CONDO

1 bedroom, fully furnished, parking, swimming pool, 2nd floor, peaceful. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



Long term 10,000 baht per month. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, car park. Contact Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

### KATA PHUKET



Apts & pool penthouses. 1, 2, 3 bedrooms, few mins walk to 2 beaches, free WiFi. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### 4-BED POOL VILLA FOR RENT



This fully furnished and spacious home is located in Baan Suan Loch Palm. 5 mins to golf courses, 10 mins to Int schools, 15 mins to Patong and Central. 65,000 baht/month, includes gardening and pool services. Available now! Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

### 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>

### SPACIOUS STUDIO

5 mins walk to beach and 10 mins to Jungceylon. Call or mail for details. Tel: +65-9-007 8633 (English), 084-883 5751 (English & Thai). Email: casajope@yahoo.com Please see our website at [www.phuket-patong-condo.com/Studio/](http://www.phuket-patong-condo.com/Studio/)

### LUXURY POOL VILLA

Designed for comfort, has everything. Near Laguna. Lease 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

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## Villa Manager

- Excellent English communication
- Knowledge of Villa hospitality
- Experience of working in villa/ live in
- Leadership, teamwork
- Experience of housekeeping, food, maintenance
- Driving license, own car

Contact: [hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com](mailto:hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com)  
Tel: 076-527633  
Mobile: 087-8810003 HR

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Experience in business administration combined with good management and organizational skills is essential. A good command of written and spoken English is also important. Knowledge of PageMaker/InDesign and Office software would be an advantage.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to [neil@phuketgazette.net](mailto:neil@phuketgazette.net)

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew  
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Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

## MY STORAGE

Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

MY STORAGE – Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket – is seeking a well organised and enthusiastic Facility Administrator / PA.

### Facility Administrator / PA

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 years old or older, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in the related field
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative and communication skills required
- Bookkeeping and office management skills required
- Self-motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service-minded and must have attention to detail
- Experience in property management an advantage.

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to [hr@mystorageasia.com](mailto:hr@mystorageasia.com) or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit [mystorageasia.com](http://mystorageasia.com)

### JAPANESE STAFF

Wedding coordinator. Japanese female, good English and computer skills. Sa-mer Wedding (Boat Lagoon). Email: [info@sa-mer.com](mailto:info@sa-mer.com) Please see our website: [www.sa-mer.com](http://www.sa-mer.com)

### SALES OFFICER

Required: bachelor's degree, female, good written and spoken English. Computer literate. Tel. 076-244491. Email: [don1719@hotmail.com](mailto:don1719@hotmail.com) Website: [www.layan-tara.com](http://www.layan-tara.com)



Phuket International Hospital provides high quality hospital services to both Thai and Foreign Nationals, and is seeking to employ a German speaking coordinator.

### GERMAN COORDINATOR PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

This is a full time position open to both Thai and Foreign nationals

The German Coordinator's primary role is, at a macro level, to act as an interface between the foreign community and the hospital and at a micro level, between the patient and healthcare providers.

#### Essential Qualifications

- Fluency in German or more European languages
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

#### Desirable Qualifications

- Clinical, nursing or other relevant health care skills or experience
- Thai language proficiency
- Marketing or Management experience
- Professional presentation
- Demonstrated ability to meet defined objectives and deadlines
- Computer skills

Interested candidates should contact James Cawood or Lotte Dietrich for a position description and forward their CV-supporting documents by May 15, 2012 to [james@phuketinternationalhospital.com](mailto:james@phuketinternationalhospital.com) or [lotte@phuketinternationalhospital.com](mailto:lotte@phuketinternationalhospital.com)



### Dive Supply – Phuket

Challenging position at our head office in Chalong:

### ASSISTANT WORKSHOP MANAGER

- Foreign national, 28+
- Technical background
- Excellent English
- Managerial experience
- Customer Service Skills
- Experience with Thai staff
- Computer literate

We offer excellent salary & benefits, permanent position  
To apply send CV, photo, availability & salary to

[service@divesupply.com](mailto:service@divesupply.com)

### RECEPTION STAFF

Responsible Thai female needed for reception at Patong hotel. Monthly salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### REAL-ESTATE STAFF WANTED



Looking for full-time young Thai staff, fluent in spoken and written English with real estate business experience. Tel: 084-060 7050. Please send an email with a photo to [info@moloko-phuket.com](mailto:info@moloko-phuket.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://moloko-phuket.com>

### THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shifting schedule, can speak English, customer service. Good salary with bonus. Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

### ACCOUNTANT

Elite Yachting in Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket is looking for a Thai accountant with a bachelor's degree and min 3-5 years experience. Good knowledge of Quickbooks, well organized and fluent in spoken & written English. Responsible for invoicing, payments, VAT, w/t, salaries, income/expense statements for yacht accounts etc. Interested. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to [jurg@phuket-yachts.com](mailto:jurg@phuket-yachts.com)

## GENESIS

THE MAGIC SPECTACULAR  
by DANZE FANTASY

Genesis is a world class show created by internationally known Danze Fantasy Productions. Located in a brand new 450-seat theatre, the business is growing rapidly and we urgently need additional talented, experienced managers to join the team. Contact: [hr@danzefantasy.com](mailto:hr@danzefantasy.com)

### Business Operations Manager

#### Experience Required:

- ▶ Degree in Business or Accounting
- ▶ Previously held senior position in a service business
- ▶ Experience in setting up business process
- ▶ Sales/Marketing experience a plus
- ▶ Must be organised and detail oriented
- ▶ Understanding of business IT programs – Quick books, etc.
- ▶ 2+ years experience in managing a Thai business/staff

#### Job Description & Responsibilities:

- ▶ Oversee operation of approximately 45 staff
- ▶ Manage Finance, HR, Box Office and Concession teams
- ▶ Drive internal process efficiency for staff, customers and suppliers
- ▶ Produce regular reporting for business owners

### Grace Garden Management Ltd.

Grace Garden Management Co., Ltd. is going to launch a top class dining restaurant on the east coast of Phuket, The Breeze @ Cape Yamu.

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our business:

### Cook 1 Position

- at least 3-4 years experience, fusion cooking, international cuisine.
- be able to manage of supplies and inventory

### Bar Manager 1 Position

- 1 year experience in beverage section, control the bar system, mix drinks and create cocktails

### Waiters or Waitresses 3 Positions

All above position should be able to communicate in English Please send your CV to Human Resources Department

222 Moo 7, Paklok Sub-district, Thalang District, Phuket 83110  
Email: [annie@campbellkane.com](mailto:annie@campbellkane.com)  
Tel: 089 4741268, Fax 076 529673

## Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking for the following positions:

- ▶ Bakery Chef
- ▶ Assistant Resort Manager

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or  
email your CV to [hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net),  
[www.sunwingphuket.com](http://www.sunwingphuket.com)

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Looking for a better candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net/)

**italasia**  
ITALASIA GROUP - THAILAND  
Phuket Branch phone 076 282561



## EXECUTIVE SALES MANAGER - PHUKET

Italasia is the exclusive Importer of Illy Coffee - Gruppo illy products and La Spaziale Coffee Machines in Thailand. Illy coffee quality and services are appreciated by Hotels and restaurants worldwide and enjoyed by consumers at fine restaurants, hotels, cafes, retail stores in Thailand and other 150 countries worldwide. Illy's culture can be described as offering an environment with perfect blend of empowered quality-minded professionals who achieve results through teamwork and innovation.

### Position Description

Our Phuket Branch has a position available for a motivated Sales Manager who has excellent relationship skills and can demonstrate an outstanding track record in sales.

### Responsibilities

To help deliver our strategy the successful candidate will be responsible for:  
Promote and represent the interests of illy Coffee

Assist Country Manager in implementing the illy coffee business plan in Phuket  
Develop and hunt for new and strategic client opportunities;  
Achieve monthly and quarterly targets set by the Country Manager.

Skills, Experience, Qualifications and Personality Attributes

The candidate MUST HAVE the following skills, experience, qualifications and personality attributes:

### Skills & Experiences

At least 5 years related working experience; Experience in selling B2B; Experience with HORECA/F&B channels; Excellent in communication skill; Excellent selling skill; Referral from 2 previous job assignments; At least 4 years related working experience;

### Personality Attributes

A positive, results orientated and customer focused attitude; Be self-motivated and willing to work outside or normal business working hours to meet business and client expectations and objectives; A desire to take responsibility and ownership to see actions/issues through to completion; A flexible attitude.

### Remuneration and benefits

Attractive base salary, incentives and allowances; professional training from Università del Caffè - Thailand.

### Contact

Interested candidates please send CV to [illycoffeethailand@me.com](mailto:illycoffeethailand@me.com)

Preferred language for received applications: English - advanced only.

## SALES & MARKETING POSITIONS

Highly successful Sales & Marketing company requires motivated individuals to join our team here in beautiful Phuket. Immediate start available. English speaking, full training, excellent earning potential and startup packages available. Come and join a winning team. Email: [jengore@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jengore@inspire.net.nz)

## LIVE IN HOUSE MAID

English couple, no children, need Thai housemaid to live in. Tel: 085-790 2241.

## BOAT CREW WANTED

Looking for experienced crew for 6 months to cruise Phuket / Borneo / Phuket on comfortable 20m trawler yacht. Tel: 082-806 9104 (English). Please send CV to [boatjob1234@gmail.com](mailto:boatjob1234@gmail.com)

## SUCCESSFUL SALES & MARKETING

Company requires enthusiastic, motivated individuals to join our well-established and successful team. English speaking. Full training, great commissions & startup / entry packages available. Email: [jengore@hotmail.com](mailto:jengore@hotmail.com)

## ASSISTANT MANAGER IN PHUKET

- Bachelor's degree
- Good English
- Thai National
- Female 25-28 years old

Please send resume, photo & expected salary to [svcp@svensonhaircenter.com](mailto:svcp@svensonhaircenter.com) or call 076-249657-8

## DRIVER BANG TAO

Family need a driver with experience, English skills. Salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 3470.

## CAN CONNECTION

Can connection to very big company for soft drink. Good commission. Tel: 089-593 8303.

## JOB WITH A SEAVIEW

Office admin-secretary (Thai) needed for property sales office in Nai Thon. Fluent English and Thai (speaking, writing, computer skills, email, internet) required. Salary from 17,000 baht. Depends on skills, experience. Tel: 084-840 7624.

## SENIOR ACCOUNTANT KAMALA

For trading company in Kamala. We seek an experienced Senior Accountant. Must know Express software, English, and understand the import business. Salary starts at 25,000 baht + transportation + accommodation + BUPA health insurance. Work 6 days a week. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-322663, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-322664. Email: [skgf@skgf.asia](mailto:skgf@skgf.asia)

## Phuket Gazette

As the result of a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

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- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
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### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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on live-aboard 60ft yacht based at Phi Phi. Tel: 081-891 9726 (Thai), 082-839 7701 (Eng).

## JOBS FOR HOTEL WORKERS

Hiring reception & housekeeping positions now. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (English & Thai). Email: [dshumny@yahoo.com](mailto:dshumny@yahoo.com)

## RECEPTIONIST KATA

Hotel needs reliable Thai female. Salary: 12,000 baht per month. 2 days off a week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10-12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: [info@cra vensnurseryphuket.com](mailto:info@cra vensnurseryphuket.com)

## SALES MANAGER

Property Sales Consultant. Thai national, 3-5 years experience. Good Thai and English, proactive and organized. Computer literate, have own car and laptop. The Charm residence. Tel: 076-344499. Email: [info@thecharmphuket.com](mailto:info@thecharmphuket.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT

Do you really like Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook and other social networks? Do you perfectly understand how they work or even have started social media campaigns on them? Do you have excellent written English and a professional approach? We have just finished and are now launching our new web project Truepedia. It is a multilingual Internet encyclopedia of the products that anyone can edit (it's like a "wikipedia of products"). We need someone to create a social media campaign to advertise Truepedia and spread its idea all over the world. Interested? Email us to [hr@truepedia.org](mailto:hr@truepedia.org)

## KARON HILLSIDE HOTEL

Looking for the following positions no English is required: Gardener, Handyman. For the following positions English is required: Bar and restaurant service staff, Reception staff, Night reception. Good starting salary and service charge. Only Thai nationals. Please contact Sandy on 082-281 4394. Email: [info@karonhillsidehotel.com](mailto:info@karonhillsidehotel.com)

## NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Brainy House is a private English-language school. We are looking for native English teachers to start ASAP. For children 6-8 years old. We offer an excellent compensation. Please send a cover letter and CV to: [info@brainyhouse.com](mailto:info@brainyhouse.com) Tel: 080-907 7466 (contact Sasi).

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- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

### PATONG

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

### PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

### CHERNG TALAY

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

### RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

### KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

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## Articles For Sale

### FREEZER, FUGE TABLE

Sanden freezer, excl cond, 8,500 baht. Fugeball soccer table, as new, 10 baht per game, 35,000 baht. Tel: 086-283 9100.

### NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sun parasol@gmail.com

### FURNITURE AND MORE

Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Please call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@hotmail.com

### COFFEE TABLE

Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

### FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

### 7KW. 3-PHASE WATER PUMP



Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margy on 089-908 7486.

### HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

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### CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

## Articles Wanted

### FULL-SIZED USED BATH WANTED

Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo

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Used 20 to 24 foot (6 to 7 meter) ladder wanted to either rent or purchase. Tel: 081-797 2110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

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### SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

Amp + 5 powerful speakers, crisp treble & solid bass. Paid 15,000 baht, sell 7,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

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Soken AMP & 5 Speaker Surround Sound, Solid Bass. Cost 16, sell 8000. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

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## Bar & Restaurant Equipment

### PRIME LOCATION IN RAWAI

Refurbished for 170,000 baht. Nice bar and 5 bedrooms on three floors. Includes a lot of furniture and music systems. Tel: 087-474 0169. Email: paahlan@gmail.com

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## Business Opportunities

### RESTAURANT/BAR

For lease or rent. Kata Beach center. Fully equipped kitchen. many possibilities, also good for catering. Must see. Call Scott 081-828 0972.

### MUSHROOM BAR OTOP FOR SALE!

Good location in Patong Otop shopping center, surrounded by Centra Ashlee hotel, Buamanburi and Mercure. Easy to run business. Monthly rent: 10,000 baht. It will sell quickly with the cheapest price in the whole area: only 395,000 baht. Tel: 086-278 5759 (English & Thai), 084-342 6704 (English). Email: sukhontip@hotmail.com

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3 story, 10-meter-wide double shop premises plus 10 newly fully furnished rental rooms above them for sale in Phuket Country Club area. Chanote title. 22 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 081-606 5772 (English & Thai). Email: saew\_hong@hotmail.com

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### OFFICE, BUSINESS SPACE

for rent on 5th floor of Patong Tower. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-341370. Email: i\_am\_krittapak@hotmail.com

### PATONG BAR FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379.

### PRIME LOCATION IN RAWAI

Refurbished for 170,000 baht. Nice bar and 5 bedrooms on three floors. Includes a lot of furniture and music systems. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-474 0169. Email: paahlan@gmail.com

### FOR QUICK SALE

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### CO LTD, 2 WP, TAT, FOR SALE

Company for sale with 2 wp and TAT. 50,000 baht + costs of changing. Tel: 087-980 7570 (English). Email: malbab@gazeta.pl

### PRIME LOCATION IN RAWAI

Refurbished for 170,000 baht. Nice bar and 5 bedrooms on three floors. Includes a lot of furniture and music systems. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-474 0169. Email: paahlan@gmail.com

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

8 rooms apartment internet cafe sale 1.2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-794 6530.

### SUPER BUSINESS DEAL

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**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**
**Crossword puzzle:**

**COFFEE break**

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**ROCKWELL  
COMMANDER 114**

HS-AWS. Year: 1976. Operated in Thailand for 6 years. Engine: Lycoming IO-540T4B5D. 1,300hrs and 700hrs until TBO. Garmin and King radios. Autopilot and Stormscope. Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra. Contact Tony Scragg at mobile 081-906 3250.

## TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418

## CESSNA 172P

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If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Please see our website: [www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter](http://www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter)

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**Notice from Thai Flying Club:** There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email [tom@thaiflyingclub.com](mailto:tom@thaiflyingclub.com), Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



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(in Thailand for the last 6 years)  
Previous Registrations:  
N4798W – USA  
N479GE – USA  
I-ECCE – Italy  
G-BVNI – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

### Specs:

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Horsepower: 260             | Gross Weight: 3140 lbs          |
| Top Speed: 166 kts          | Empty Weight: 2094 lbs          |
| Cruise Speed: 157 kts       | Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable |
| Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts | Range: 700 nm                   |
| Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm     | Fuel Av Gas 100LL               |
| Ceiling: 17,400 ft          | 1 crew plus 3 passengers        |

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIb Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

**Price:** 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

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# Red versus Blue

By Dean Noble

THE FA Cup offers the highlight of the footballing action this week-end with no other "must-see" game for the neutral.

Liverpool go into the match as the underdogs, especially after failing to overcome Fulham, losing 1-0 at Anfield to a Martin Skrtel's own goal. This was Fulham's first ever win on Merseyside.

The Reds appear to be in some disarray going into the final with manager Kenny Dalglish disappointed with the attitude of his players, though resting nine of his first-team certainly highlighted his priorities.

Liverpool will travel to Wembley with a fairly fit squad, the only notable exception is Scottish international midfielder, Charlie Adam, out with strained knee ligaments since March.

Whether their fans will get to see the match has become a question

of debate with ticket allocations reduced to 25,000 for each side, though the FA gave an extra 1,000 to both earlier in the week, poor public trans-



portation arrangements, and of course the ubiquitous bank holiday road repairs. This does not bode well for the London 2012

Olympics if used as a tester.

Chelsea on the other hand seem to hold all the cards, with their fans likely to dominate the seating, but it's going to be who dominates the midfield that matters.

Steven Gerrard's, who has welcomed Roy Hodgson's appointment as the new England coach, and his counterpart Frank Lampard's battle in the middle of the park may well determine whose ribbons get tied to the cup.

Dangermen to watch out for are Fernando Torres, whose goal scoring drought is well and truly over, and of course, Luis Suárez.

Most predictions are a 2-1 win in favor of Chelsea, though this writer would like a Red win, let the Blues have the Champions trophy.

Just to note, Welsh champions, The New Saints have submitted an application to the FA for inclusion into next year's competition.



| PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES  |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| ARSENAL vs NORWICH       | SATURDAY, 05 MAY 2012 18:45  |
| NEWCASTLE vs MAN CITY    | SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012 19:30    |
| ASTON VILLA vs TOTTENHAM | SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012 20:00    |
| Bolton vs West Brom      | SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012 20:00    |
| Fulham vs Sunderland     | SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012 20:00    |
| QPR vs Stoke             | SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012 20:00    |
| Wolves vs Everton        | SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012 20:00    |
| MAN UTD vs SWANSEA       | SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012 22:00    |
| Blackburn vs Wigan       | TUESDAY, 08 MAY 2012 02:00   |
| LIVERPOOL vs CHELSEA     | WEDNESDAY, 09 MAY 2012 02:00 |

| PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MAN CITY vs QPR         | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| SUNDERLAND vs MAN UTD   | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| WEST BROM vs ARSENAL    | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| TOTTENHAM vs FULHAM     | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| EVERTON vs NEWCASTLE    | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| CHELSEA vs BLACKBURN    | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| Norwich vs Aston Villa  | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| Stoke vs Bolton         | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| Wigan vs Wolves         | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |
| Swansea vs Liverpool    | SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2012 21:00 |

# F1 rumors, rules and rumblings

THE three week gap between grand prix is to accommodate FIA approved testing of upgrades at Mugello, near Florence. It is also the time the "rumor and disinformation mills" upgrade.

Mugello is not an F1 circuit, and according to hearsay teams are ambivalent about testing on an unknown track. McLaren scheduled test drivers only, although Lewis Hamilton suggested he might go. Jenson Button claimed McLaren has nothing big to test anyway, while Red Bull's Vettel said each tiny change is critical to them. The word is that tiny tweaks to his rear-end gave Vettel the Bahrain race.

The technical battleground has for decades been about aerodynamic down-force, which pushes the car down onto the track at different speeds. Red Bull has often looked brilliant with its straight line speed, but less stable at lower speeds. Down-force is provided by wings at the front and rear of the vehicle, and by the ground effect of low pressure air under the flat car bottom. Cars sport numerous "barge boards" and turning vanes that closely control the flow of the air over, under, and around the car.



Sebastian Vettel.

Red Bull did so well last year because they mastered air flow technologies that have been specifically outlawed this season, supposedly upsetting Red Bull. The whole car, including engine, fluids and driver, must weigh at least 640 kg. The cars are typically lighter, and ballast placed at the bottom of the chassis lowers the center of gravity. It is said that Formula One cars create enough down-force to drive on the ceiling.

Pirelli took charge of tyres in 2011 and pursued a new aggressive strategy.

Tyres now degrade quickly and leave "marbles" which provide a skiddy surface off the racing line. This degradation has been credited with providing a magnificent racing season.

After Bahrain, Schumacher of Mercedes grumbled that tyres now play too important a role, preventing drivers from competing at normal race speeds. On the other hand, engineers generally learn how to manage any constraints within a season, and it has brought strategy to the fore.

Each driver is allowed one gearbox for four consecutive events. An unscheduled



DONUT: Button plays to the crowd in Hungary this week in his old car the MP-4-26. Photo: AFP

gearbox change costs a driver five grid places unless he failed to finish the previous race for reasons beyond the team's control. The gossip is that Bruno Senna of Williams and Button of McLaren were both retired by their teams in Bahrain with "gamesmanship gearbox problems" to allow a penalty-free gearbox change in the next race. The buzz is that Williams discovered a gearbox manufacturing fault and had no spare-parts, and according to tittle-tattle McLaren needed to change Button's

gearbox, but did not want him to lose five places as Hamilton did in Shanghai.

F1 as we know it is largely the creation and property of Bernie Ecclestone. Now the biggest rumor is that F1 will IPO in Singapore. Peter Brabeck, the Chairman of Nestlé, is touted as Bernie's post IPO successor. Brabeck believes that a company should not simply focus on its core competencies. The chit-chat is of a big change in merchandising and target audience for F1.

— The Digby

## SPORTS briefs...

**RUGBY:** Former England fly-half Danny Cipriani has signed with the Sale Sharks, after his contract with the Melbourne Rebels was terminated early by mutual consent.

Cipriani is hoping the move will resurrect his international career following the appointment of Stuart Lancaster on a permanent basis.

Cipriani showed early promise, however disciplinary issues meant he was sidelined by former England coach, Martin Johnson.

Cipriani became the club's highest scorer, though just last month breached its code of conduct.

**STRANGE SPORTS:** Chessboxing is a combination of chess with boxing in alternating rounds.

Competitors may win by a knockout, achieving checkmate, by the judges' decision, or if their opponent's twelve minutes of chess time is exceeded. Chessboxers must be skilled boxers, and have a minimum chess ELO ranking of 1800.

The next major event, to be held on June 24, is billed as the "Battle of the Cities". The encounter, between Berlin and London, is a repeat of last year's match, where the Germans loss 2-1, all won by checkmate.

**CRICKET:** England women's captain Charlotte Edwards is part of a campaign to get young girls to play cricket named 'Girls on the Front Foot'.

The venture is aimed to give girls the same opportunity as boys to play cricket, as well as allowing those from disadvantaged backgrounds to increase their aspirations.

Locally, the Phuket Cricket Group has a youth development program designed to foster and grow the game, particularly in schools with a Sawadee League. For more information visit [phuketcricketgroup.com](http://phuketcricketgroup.com).

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# Marlin reel in Sea Kirin



CONSOLATION: Phuket's late goal.

FIRST BUT NOT LAST: Kanoute Ibrahim scores from a free kick in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute. Photo: srirachafc.com: Blue

## Thai Yamaha 1

By Steven Layne

FC PHUKET were taken for an unpleasant ride by the Sriracha Suzuki FC "Blue Marlin", with the "Southern Sea Kirin" succumbing 4-2 in a grueling away match on Sunday evening in Chonburi.

The 2012 season's seventh fixture was played in front of about 1,000 fans at Suzuki Stadium, situated some 20 kilometers north of Pattaya.

Among spectators were about 50 loyal "Hulk" fans who had endured the overnight trip from Phuket, only to return home empty handed.

Backed with Premiere League experience from last season, a full-formed Sriracha took charge to seize four unanswered goals in the first 60 minutes of play.

The first two goals were scored by Japanese midfielder Kojima Seiya in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> minutes.

In the first score, Sriracha's captain, Argentine forward Gaston Raul Gonzalez took a strike from six yards out, which was deflected by Phuket's Brazilian goalkeeper Alonso Jose Carvalho da Silva.

The subsequent follow up by Seiya, however, did not miss its mark at the back of the net.

About 10 minutes later, the 23-year-old Japanese national struck again, this time with a perfectly weighted strike from 30 yards out.

The final goal of the first half was credited to Thai forward Narakorn Kana, the result of a determined drive from right wing to center pitch, completed with a 25-yard strike to put his side up 3-0 going into half time.

The goal deficit was further widened 15 minutes into the second half with a header by the

Argentine captain Gonzalez, cashing in on an on-target corner kick to put the Marlin up 4-0.

With the home stands relishing in confidence, Phuket finally redeemed themselves in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute with Ivorian forward, Kanoute Ibrahim scoring his first goal of the season from a finely-tuned free kick from 25 yards out.

Despite the overwhelming goal deficit, Phuket would get the last "hoorah" in the final moments of regulation.

An on-target corner kick from Phuket's Thawadech Aunthong should have been an easy save by Sriracha's goalkeeper Nanthaphon Supathai.

However, the keeper's nervous bluster instead awarded Phuket fan's with one final consolation goal for the long ride home.

Rubbing salt on Phuket's wounds in the final ticks of penalty time was a red card dished

out to Brazilian midfielder Marcio Santos for an aggressive tackle.

This concluded the evening's nine prior bookings, which comprised six yellow cards to Phuket and three more to Sriracha.

The victory moved Sriracha up into fourth place of the 18-team Thai Yamaha League 1 (TD1), while Phuket plummet into lowly 15<sup>th</sup>.

With little time to recover, Phuket returned home to play a special international friendly match on Wednesday evening against Myanmar league leaders Yadanarbon FC.

Avoiding the risk of unnecessary injuries, both sides expectedly played with reserve, delivering a final 0-0 result, before the Burmese continued on to Krabi.

Phuket promptly return to league play this weekend, set to host 16<sup>th</sup> placed Saraburi FC on Saturday, May 5 at Surakul Stadium. Kickoff is at 4pm.

| YAMAHA ONE LEAGUE TABLE |             |    |     |    |
|-------------------------|-------------|----|-----|----|
| TEAM                    | P           | GD | PTS |    |
| 1                       | Krabi       | 7  | 8   | 18 |
| 2                       | Ratchaburi  | 7  | 8   | 15 |
| 3                       | PTT Rayong  | 7  | 5   | 14 |
| 4                       | Sriracha    | 7  | 5   | 13 |
| 5                       | Suphanburi  | 7  | 6   | 12 |
| 6                       | Songkhla    | 7  | 3   | 11 |
| 7                       | Bangkok Utd | 7  | 1   | 10 |
| 8                       | Pattalung   | 7  | 1   | 10 |
| 9                       | Korat       | 7  | -2  | 10 |
| 10                      | Khon Kaen   | 7  | -1  | 9  |
| 11                      | Rajpracha   | 7  | -1  | 9  |
| 12                      | Bangkok FC  | 7  | 1   | 8  |
| 13                      | Air Force   | 7  | -1  | 8  |
| 14                      | Royal Navy  | 7  | -1  | 7  |
| 15                      | Phuket      | 7  | -4  | 7  |
| 16                      | Saraburi    | 7  | -4  | 5  |
| 17                      | JW Rangsit  | 7  | -9  | 5  |
| 18                      | Chanthaburi | 7  | -15 | 1  |

## WEEKEND 8 FIXTURES

| SATURDAY, 05 MAY 2012          |    | 4pm         |
|--------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Rajpracha                      | VS | Songkhla    |
| @ Surakul Stadium, Phuket      |    |             |
| Chanthaburi                    | VS | Sriracha    |
| @ Central Stadium, Chanthaburi |    |             |
| SATURDAY, 05 MAY 2012          |    | 5pm         |
| Ratchaburi                     | VS | Pattalung   |
| @ Central Stadium, Ratchaburi  |    |             |
| SATURDAY, 05 MAY 2012          |    | 6pm         |
| Royal Navy                     | VS | Suphanburi  |
| @ Royal Navy Stadium, Sataheep |    |             |
| Krabi                          | VS | Khon Kaen   |
| @ Central Stadium, Krabi       |    |             |
| SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012            |    | 4pm         |
| JW Rangsit                     | VS | Rajpracha   |
| @ Rama V Academy, Nakhon Nayok |    |             |
| SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012            |    | 6pm         |
| Songkhla                       | VS | Korat       |
| @ Dinsulanon Stadium, Songkhla |    |             |
| SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012            |    | 6pm         |
| Air Force Utd                  | VS | Bangkok FC  |
| @ Tuptemee Stadium, Bangkok    |    |             |
| SUNDAY, 06 MAY 2012            |    | 7pm         |
| PTT Rayong                     | VS | Bangkok Utd |
| @ PTT Stadium, Rayong          |    |             |

## Andaman Eagles soar to the top

TD1 newcomers Krabi FC have seized top rank honors (see table top, right) after prevailing in their away-match against Bangkok United 0-1 thanks in part to a 51<sup>st</sup> minute goal by Soukaphone Vongchiengkham.

Soukaphone, a 20-year-old Lao national, leads the "Andaman Eagles" with three goals so far this season. Meanwhile Songkhla FC's 1-0 away-loss to Rajpracha

and Pattalung's 0-1 home-loss to Airforce United resulted in the two Southern sides dropping into 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place, respectively.

The season's biggest upsets so far were also recorded over the weekend with a 2-5 home-loss by Nakhon Ratchasima FC to PTT Rayong; 5-0 home-shut-out by Bangkok FC over JW Rangsit and 4-0 pummeling by Suphanburi over Chanthaburi.



## Table finished

IN THE final game of the Island Furniture League regular season before the finals, Laguna took on newcomers Thanyapura Tigers (TNT) last Sunday at the ACG.

Laguna demonstrated once again the importance of batting their full allocation of overs, which has been one of their fundamentals to their success this season, posting a score of 5 for 227. Their innings was anchored by opener Darren Shaw who batted for 3 hours to post a score of 76 runs with all other batsmen providing solid support.

Man of the match was Shaw, with Sameer Khan and Andrew Cole also noted by the umpires for their contributions, in particular Khan (35) who picked up two wickets for 44 runs.

TNT were bowled out for a total of 154 from 33 overs, in a competitive and good spirited match which finished in a monsoon downpour.

The result saw Laguna finish as minor premiers being defeated only once all season which should give them confidence going into the final against the Village, who have been the other form team this season.

So at the completion of the regular season matches the league table ended with Laguna on top with 32 points followed by the Village on 30 points.

| Team                  | Played | Won | Lost | Points |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|------|--------|
| Laguna CC             | 6      | 5   | 1    | 32     |
| The Village           | 6      | 5   | 1    | 30     |
| Island CC             | 6      | 4   | 2    | 26     |
| Patong CC             | 6      | 3   | 3    | 25     |
| Liquid Lounge Lizards | 6      | 2   | 4    | 18     |
| Thanyapura Tigers     | 6      | 2   | 4    | 16     |
| Phuket Leopards       | 6      | 0   | 6    | 1      |

They will meet in the final on Sunday 13 May to determine who this year's champions are.

Playoff for third and fourth will take place this weekend between former champions Island Cricket Club and Patong, with both teams looking to salvage some pride after an up and down season.

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# Boards, beaches and babes



Boards for hire outside Nautilus surf shop.

By Chris Hudon

PHUKET offers a variety of sports for any interest and is home to one you won't find elsewhere in Thailand: surfing.

There are other places where it's technically possible to surf but your best chance of finding waves in The Kingdom is going to be on Phuket's Western shore.

We are entering surf season, which in Phuket coincides with the northeastern monsoon winds shifting to the southwest (May to November).

These shifting winds bring heavy rains and swell that become Phuket's waves. Apparently waves get pretty big here during storm activities – 2-3 meters I've heard; this is my first year surfing in Phuket.



SURF'S UP: Waves break over the rocks on the northern end of Kata Noi beach last weekend.

No beach in Phuket is more synonymous with surfing than Kata. It's crowded but easy enough to start out if you're learning. Kata (Yai) is long and shallow with waves breaking mostly in-shore. Locals say it's best about midway through the change from high to low tide. Probably either late afternoon or early morning. You can check the *Gazette's* website for a tide table.

Tucked away at the southern end of Kata beach is one of Phuket's longest standing surf shops and where you can find (as far as I know) the only surfboard shaper born and bred in Phuket. His name is Tony, a Thai native. Tony has been a resident of Kata all his life and works giving surf lessons at Nautilus Dive & Surf Shop.

Nautilus is where you can rent a board by the hour at 150 baht, 400 baht per half day or

500 baht all day long. Although this can seem steep if you're a regular surfer there is an added benefit. Don't like the board your surfing? If it's not working then trade up.

Many factors impact whether a session is calm and enjoyable or you curse your way back through 'the soup' (white water created by breaking waves). Some of those factors are tide (high or low), break (beach or reef), wind (onshore or offshore), currents, the size of your board and the size of the waves.

When waves are bigger mechanics work better on a shorter board. On a 'shortboard' you go faster and can 'duck dive' (dip the nose of your board under big waves) and get through large surf. The opposite is also true, 'longboards' are better when waves are small.

The biggest advantage of Nautilus is that



Babes wave to a surfer. Photos: Chris Hudon

you have access to all board sizes during the same session. Of course the most economical way to surf often is to buy your own board. I have seen them available from 5,000 baht and up, depending on what you want. Check the *Gazette* classifieds as well as local surf spots for people looking to sell or trade their boards.

This year's season has just begun and now is the time to get your gear ready. You'll probably need a rash guard (it does what the name suggests), wax, board, leash (the thing that straps onto your leg) and a whole lot of patience.

In future articles we'll cover surf spots in more detail but for now just get your gear situated because last weekend saw thigh to chest-high waves. Remember, "Ride the wave not the board," and "Always share the waves."



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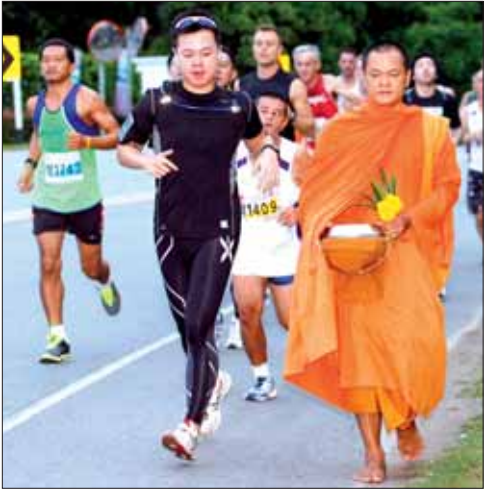








# Racers ready for Laguna Marathon



The long road ahead. Photos: Laguna Phuket

HUNDREDS of runners from around the world are primed to run in the seventh annual Laguna Phuket International Marathon on Sunday, 10 June.

This year, promoters are looking to re-affirm their status as Asia's fastest growing family-friendly marathon destination.

International registration opened in October and since then, entries have surged ahead of last year's numbers at this time. This year's total international entries have now reached close to 1,000.

Local entries opened on 1 April with great



AND THEY'RE OFF: Children launch from the starting line of last year's Laguna Marathon.

enthusiasm. The total number of participants, local and international, is expected to exceed last year's record of 5,000 people. The largest international group so far is Japan, with more than 200 runners, followed by Singapore (96) and Hong Kong (78).

Year-on-year growth since the inaugural 2006 event with less than 2,000 runners makes Laguna Phuket International Marathon Asia's biggest and fastest growing marathon destination.

This year there will be races for all ability levels. In addition to the full marathon,

there will be a 21.1km half marathon, 10.5km run, 5km community walk and 2km children's race.

Spectators can also enjoy a two day expo, with sponsor booths and activities around Laguna Phuket, which creates a carnival-like atmosphere.

Event Director, Roman Floesser, of organiser Go Adventure Asia, said, "We encourage runners to enjoy the scenery and have a fantastic race experience instead of pushing themselves to achieve personal best times. "It's all about participation and



Some walk and some roll to the finish line.

having fun in a great atmosphere."

Runners are encouraged to take part in fundraising for Laguna Phuket's initiative to support local schools with a new Mobile Library Learning Centre. The centre is designed to bring reading and educational resources to remote rural schools on a routine basis.

Online registration is available until June 2 at: [phuketmarathon.com](http://phuketmarathon.com) with special deals at Laguna Phuket hotels also available on the website.

– Phuket Gazette

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