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# Phuket Gazette



## Cheer Up

Despite a recent run of bad luck Phuket's football fans look forward to a better season

INSIDE TODAY

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■ BACK-BURNING LANDFILL UNLIKELY UNTIL ADDITIONAL CAPACITY ADDED

# Island rubbish: gaining ground

■ Daily production expected to hit 1,000 tonnes in next five years; Bt530mn in Government funding sought to retrofit old incineration plant.

By **Aatcha Khamlo**

PHUKET'S new incineration plant went on-line earlier this month, but the island still faces a major challenge due to an ever-growing waste stream that is expected to reach 1,000 tonnes daily by 2017.

Prachoom Suriya, chief of Phuket City Municipality Environmental Division that is responsible for burning all of the island's combustible waste, told a meeting on Tuesday: "Right now the amount of trash produced on the island is about 640 tonnes a day; we expect this to increase to 1,000 tons over the next five years."

He was speaking to a gathering of factory operators, local administrators and representatives of community groups at the new plant, built at a cost of 940mn baht by project contractors PJT Technology.

Project Coordinator Kittisak Aphichatabut said a plan to begin back-burning huge accumulations of waste stored in five landfills covering 120 rai behind the plant is unlikely to succeed unless additional incineration capacity is added.

The new plant, which comprises two burners, has a maximum burning capacity of 700 tonnes a day, not much higher than the current daily volume delivered: 640 tonnes per day. The plant also needs to be shut down for 45 days a year for maintenance, during which time using the landfill is the only option.

Mr Kittisak clarified that the proposed solution would not involve construction of a third incinerator, but rather redevelopment of the old incineration plant. The old plant was designed to house two burners with capacities of 250 tonnes/day each, but only housed a single burner.

Under a new 530mn baht plan already under consideration by Cabinet, the old plant would be fitted with two new burners. Once completed, the back-burning could begin in earnest and all five landfills would eventually be cleared after about five years' time, he said.



Landfills were overflowing in 2010, more burners are needed to cope with back-burning and expected increases. Photo: Gazette file

## Som Nong's killer caught



Full story on page 3

## Officials continue to give brush-off to elephant quota

Two more elephants were approved this week to work in Phuket's entertainment industry. The new additions, Pooklook and Thida, bringing the total number of registered pachyderms on the island to 190 - 14 more than the existing limit set by the Provincial Office in 2003.

Full story on Page 8

## A walk to remember: development of 'new' Toh Seh Hill park

New recreational facilities on Khao Toh Seh in Phuket Town will give local residents a new place to relax and enjoy some stunning views of the island. However, some local residents fear that the project, set to be completed in October, will bring more people and garbage to the area. They also are worried that authorities will cut down virgin forest to open up better views from the newly-constructed lookout points.

Full story on Pages 4-5

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## This Week



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Belgian Beverage Asia import Belgium's best brews. **Page 13**



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Chocoholics take heart. Dark chocolate is good for you. **Page 16**



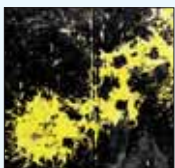
### Luxury living

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### Travel

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Paint ball: bringing a splattering of color to the battle. **Page 21**



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Phuket FC look to new coach to help escape relegation. **Page 46**

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# Boy, 6, drowns in wastewater pool

By Atchaa Khamlo

A YOUNG schoolboy who went missing on the morning of July 13 was found drowned in a water treatment pool at the Patong Municipality Water Treatment Plant later that day.

The child, six-year-old Yutthakarn "Marvin" Limtek, was staying at the home of his aunt Siriwan Noothong, near the water treatment plant off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road in central Patong.

Ms Siriwan said Marvin's father, Yutthana Limtek, 40, usually picked his son up early in the morning to take him to school, but was late that day.

Mr Yutthana became a single parent after his wife abandoned them about a year after Marvin was born, said Ms Siriwan.

Marvin went off to play near the treatment plant with an older boy. At around 10am the family realized he was missing.

A search for the boy started around 1pm.

Workers at the plant discovered the boy's shoes floating on the algae-covered water's sur-



Workers search the water treatment pool for Marvin. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

face of a treatment pool, 18 meters in diameter.

They drained about half of the four-meter-deep pool so they could stand inside and search for

his body, which was recovered at around 2:30pm.

The boy's family were in an inconsolable state of grief as his body was pulled from the pool..

## More in custody for cop shooting

POLICE have arrested three more suspects wanted for the late-night shotgun shooting of a Chalong police officer in a live music venue last month.

The victim, officer Nikom Jeenyuen, received shotgun wounds to the neck, chest, stomach and arm in the June 19 shooting at Saraphanpleng Bar, a live music venue on Patak Road, about 300 meters from Chalong Circle.

One suspect, 28-year-old Suppanet Sukkaew of Surat Thani, was caught and promptly arrested in Karon the night of the shooting.

Checking up on the progress of the investigation, the *Gazette* learned on Monday that three of his accomplices are now in custody.

Col Boonlert said Yoethin

"Teng" Ritthinil, a 28-year-old also from Surat Thani, was arrested in his home town in that southern province on July 9.

At 11pm on Friday, 33-year-old Wutthichai "Aod" Songsri from Trang and Nakhon Sawan native Khuanmuang Fuangfoong, also 33, surrendered themselves at Chalong Police Station.

The fifth suspect to date remains at-large as this edition goes to print. Col Boonlert identified him as Phiromchai "Un" Tuaktham.

All four suspects currently in custody have denied the charges including attempted murder, weapons violations and obstruction of a law officer in the line of duty.

Officer Nikom has been discharged from Vachira Hospital and is now recovering at home.

## Tawee re-elected Karon Mayor

By Orawin Narabal

THE preliminary vote count in last Sunday's Karon Municipality elections showed incumbent Tawee Thongcham re-elected as Karon Mayor, with 2,388 votes from the 3,929 voters who showed up at the polls.

Mr Tawee's only opponent in the election, Narong Natang, secured 1,345 of the votes.

If approved, Sunday's result will secure Mr Tawee's third term as Karon's mayor.

Almost 73 per cent of the 5,391 eligible voters cast their ballots on Sunday. Of these, 60 chose the "no vote" option.

There were 136 spoiled ballots.

Mr Tawee's team, Thong Thin Gao Na (Community Progress),



Tawee Thongcham re-elected Mayor. Photo: Karon Municipality PR

secured a clean sweep of all council seats in the Kata-Karon Voting District One.

The new council members are: Capt Jadet Wicharasorn, Som-

potch Mooktieb, Anurak Jamklai, Jarun Srisawasdi, Sawat Patkor and Pornchai Faingam

Thong Thin Gao Na also secured five of the six council seats in Kata-Karon Voting District Two.

Mr Narong's party, Pracha Ruam Jai (United People), got their foot in the door with a single board member.

The District Two council members are: Kritsada Jaikaw (Pracha Ruam Jai), Meechai Navin, Joranut Sanguanporn, Setthawut Thammawat, Piroj Sangkaew and Kanae Churak.

In accordance with the Election Act, the Election Commission in Bangkok now has 30 days to confirm the results, said Kittipong Thiengkunagrit, director of the Phuket Election Commission.



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## Fisherman found at sea stabbed to death



Rescue workers prepare the body for transportation to the mortuary.

POLICE believe the mutilated body of a man recovered in the waters off of the Rassada Fishing Port Tuesday morning is that of a Burmese fisherman.

At the scene, Por Phichainava Company Pier, police and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers found a large contingent of Burmese fishing industry workers staring at the body.

After rescue workers pulled the body from the water, police investigators counted 13 stab wounds to his chest, abdomen and head.

No form of identification was found on the dark-skinned body, the age of which was estimated at about 35 years.

The victim had an image of an eagle tattooed across his chest.

Police believe the time of death was about nine hours earlier.

"I presume the victim was a Burmese crew member aboard a fishing vessel. He was probably stabbed to death by an assailant, who then threw his body into the sea to conceal the evidence," said Lt Col Sien Kaewthong.

Police have launched an investigation to uncover the identity of the man and his assailant.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Killer caught, Sunisa cremated

SUNISA "Nong Som" Saiyoy, 17, who was strangled to death by confessed killer Kittikhun Wonghajakk in her home on July 10, was cremated July 15 at Wat Tai.

Family members, classmates from Wichit Songkram School, along with Chalong Mayor Samran Jindapol and municipality council members attended the afternoon ceremony.

At the ceremony Khaneung Saiyoy, Nong Som's father, thanked the police for finding her killer so quickly.

"I'm still devastated at having lost my daughter in this way. I would like to advise everyone to take care of your loved ones, don't let them be alone – always make sure your house is secure," he said with tears in his eyes.

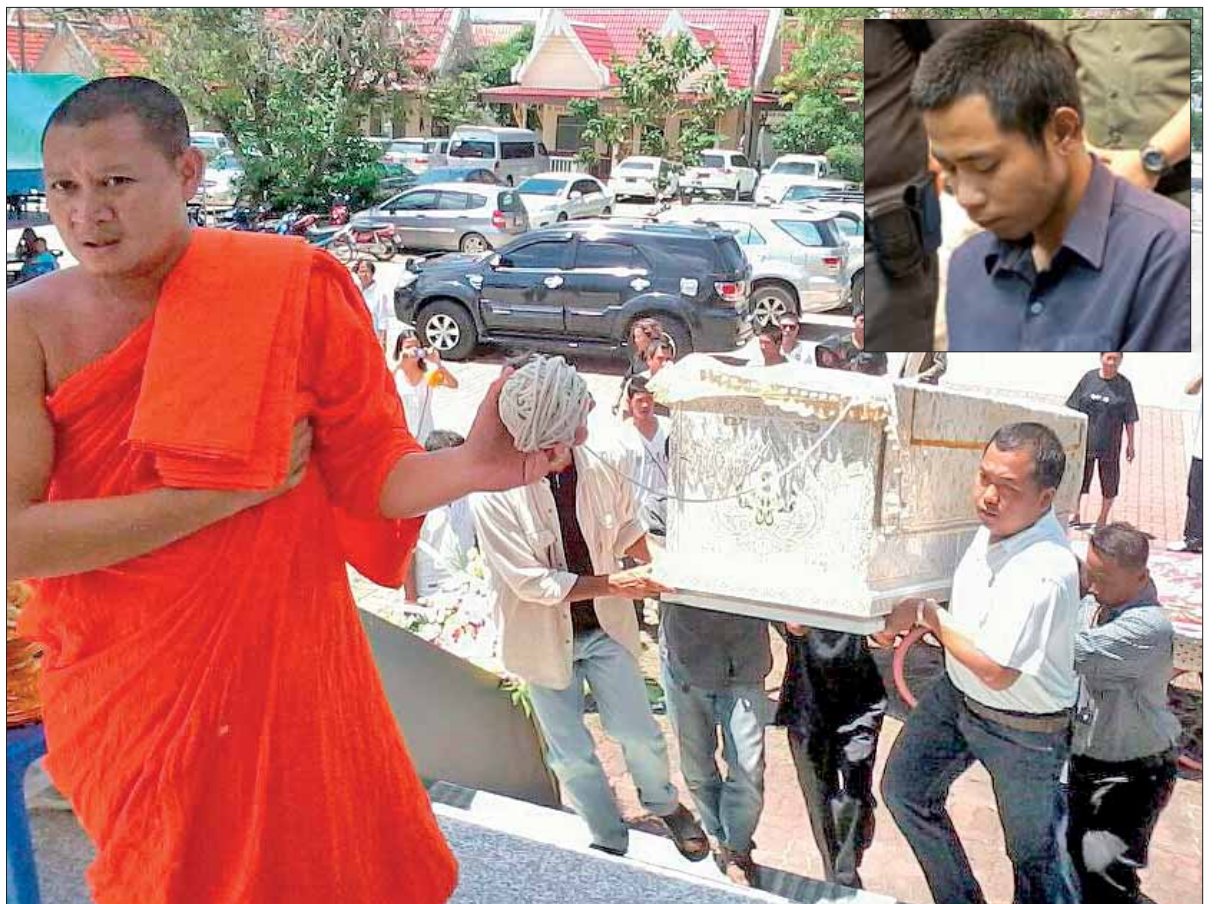
Nong Som, suffering from a headache on July 10 had stayed home while her parents went out to sell fruit. She was home alone when 28-year-old Kittikhun Wonghajakk, high on drugs, broke into the house to rob, attempted to rape her and then killed her.

Immediately after the murder, police focused their investigation on known burglars in Phuket.

Kittikhun, recognized from an old case file by an officer was arrested with stolen property. When police searched his rented accommodation they found a variety of stolen objects; among them were items that matched the description of property reported missing from Ms Sunisa's house. Once family identified the stolen property, Kittikhun became the main suspect in the investigation.

The case against Kittikhun became airtight when it was discovered that the shoes he was wearing at the time of arrest were a perfect match to footprints discovered at the murder scene.

In his confession to the media



Family and classmates gather for the cremation of Nong Som. INSET: Kittikhun. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

on July 12, Kittikhun said:

"On that day I took *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and *ya bah* (meth in tablet form) before going to rob the house.

"My target was an empty house with no security system. I intended to break into the house and steal things. I broke into the victim's house and searched for stuff in two other rooms. Once I saw the victim in her room, I felt sexually aroused."

"When I saw her my first thought was to rape her, but I did not do it. So I left the house and headed back to my place, not realizing she was dead.

"I am so sorry for what I did. If it were possible, I would tell her that I never meant to kill her," he said.

Security was heightened around Chalong on the morning of July 14, when police and the confessed drug-addicted killer re-enacted the crime. However, the large crowd got out of hand.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Narong Laksanawimon explained that the re-enactment got out of control due to how quickly the crowd grew after the arrival of Kittikhun.

"When the first police team arrived at the scene there were only about 100 villagers there... But we still ordered 80 officers to come and help [with crowd control]. But when Kittikhun arrived a lot more villagers showed up to watch – most of them were angry and ready to attack him.

"Normally we would analyze the situation before the re-enactment. If there are more than 200 to 300 people, we would cancel it to ensure the safety of the suspect. But this time the number of people who came to watch quickly increased after the suspect arrived, and the situation got out of control."

"We cut the re-enactment short to get Kittikhun out safely," said Col Narong.

The aunt, who did not want her name to be reported, would like to see Kittikhun get the death penalty.

"I wish him dead. He doesn't deserve to live. He will harm other people as long as he remains alive. He is a thief; a career criminal," she said.

— Phuket Gazette

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# National Parks Dept to charge resort owner with encroachment

THE owners of a Phuket beach resort project will likely face legal action for encroaching on national park land following an inspection of the site this week by the Director General of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP).

The resort is one of ten the agency will be investigating for possible land encroachment.

"In May I went to Nai Thon Beach and noticed the construction of the Pullman Phuket Arcadia Naithon Beach Resort up on the hill. I suspected the resort was being illegally built on the land. When I travelled back to Bangkok, I set up an inspection team to verify the resort's land-use documents," explained DNP Director-General Damrong Phidet.

During their investigation, Mr Damrong and his team discovered that 38 of the 39 rai used for the project was actually within the boundaries of the Sirinath National Park. However, three Chanote land title deeds issued to the resort for the use of 13 rai of the land had been approved by a former Sirinath National Park chief, who con-



Mr Damrong and his team walk the grounds of the construction site.

firmed that the land specified was not inside the park.

"I thought I was going to have to take legal action against the former park chief, but after examining the land documents we realized that the owner asked for his permission to build the resort on land outside the park. When construction began, however, it was in a different area, that is protected land. Because of this, we will have to take legal action against the resort owner," he said.

When project developer

Wiranun Pitupakorn arrived on site during the inspection, he told Mr Damrong the resort had all the necessary land deeds and construction permits.

The legality of the construction has also been defended by Phuket Arcadia Co Ltd Executive Director Maitree Narukatpichai, Executive Director of Phuket Arcadia Ltd, which owns the Nai Thon resort.

Mr Damrong advised Mr Wiranun to bring the related documents to Tha Chat Chai Police Station, where a report of the alleged encroachment was already on file.

"We are now in the process of verifying Chanote title deeds of the remaining 25 rai of the resort," he added.

Pullman Phuket Arcadia Naithon Beach Resort is only the first of 10 hotels and resorts on Mr Damrong's list requiring land ownership verification. By his estimates, these projects collectively represent a minimum of 2 billion baht of investment.

Mr Damrong plans to conclude his investigation within a month.

— **Orawin Narabal**

# A glimpse

**WHILE a project to create new recreational facilities on Khao Toh Seh in Phuket Town will give local residents a new place to relax and enjoy the views, some local residents fear that it will bring more people and garbage to the area.**

**They are also worried that authorities will cut down virgin forest to open up better views from the newly-constructed lookout points.**

*Gazette news editor Stephen Fein reports.*

WORK on a project to upgrade recreational facilities on Khao Toh Seh (Toh Seh Hill) got underway in mid-September 2011, when the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), which is responsible for the narrow road up the hill, awarded a 19.6 million baht contract to Construction Exclusiveness Co Ltd. The Bangkok-based construction firm was given 300 days, until July 16 this year, to complete the project.

With that deadline looming, the *Gazette* visited the site one Sunday morning in early July to see if the project was nearing completion.

After a steep drive up from the start of Toh Seh Road, opposite Phuket Provincial Hall, our first stop was the parking area at Toh Seh Shrine.

Located next to a waterfall, the shrine is believed by some to be the abode of the spirits of three semi-legendary Muslims — nicknamed Toh Seh Dum, Toh Seh Dang and Toh Seh Khaw — who first settled in different parts of Phuket. Drinking water

from the waterfall is believed by some to be an elixir for the ailing.

From the shrine we began our walk up the hill to one of the seven project work sites: site number three, where we found workers busy surveying and preparing concrete forms.

Here, project supervisor Somyot Jiamkokgroud explained that the project comprises seven different "points". The first point is a widening of the road near the entrance to Wat Chaoreoen Sammanakit, at the base of the hill, to create more parking spaces for cars. The second point is about 800 meters uphill, near the small parking lot that serves both the shrine and the Green Forest Restaurant, which opened in 2010. Public bathrooms are being installed in this area, where we also saw what we assumed to be a black wild boar trotting about.

Mr Somyot said that when the work in all seven areas is

complete, the entire road surface would be repaved and the sidewalk of interlocking paving stones would be repaired or replaced.

Asked about the July 16 deadline posted on a sign announcing the project, Mr Somyot said the OrBorJor had extended the work period due to the flooding last year.

Mr Somyot told the *Gazette* that point three would be an "activity point" with *salas* and a lookout point. However, there is as yet no view whatsoever, due to the thick vegetation surrounding it. Asked if clearing the surrounding jungle was part of his work scope he made it clear it was not. In fact, trees were being planted in the area by the company as part of its landscaping work.

The other four points further up were all complete or nearly complete, he said, so we continued to work our way up the hill, the top of which is home to broadcast towers.

Site four has two completed *sala* and several lookout points, though again the views are almost completely obscured by thick vegetation. Just to the south of it, however, there is a verge where one can look out over Koh Sireh and the other islands of Phang Nga Bay.

At this point we talked to two women who are among the hundreds of fitness enthusiasts who walk, jog or cycle up the hill.

"Aew", the owner of a business in Phuket Town, said that her only concern about the project was that workers would cut down trees to improve the views from the lookout points, thus doing away with some of the last stands of virgin forest in Phuket Town. Others we spoke to shared similar concerns.

After more walking we reached Point 5, a shady area which was already home to an old "fitness park". Among the new facilities found here were three functioning bathrooms, several large platforms and several west-facing looking *salas* — again with little or no view due to thick vegetation.



Fitness enthusiast "Aew" (dressed in yellow Phang Nga FC shirt) and friend make the trek up the hill every day.

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# of 'new' Toh Seh Hill park



Viewpoint 7: Signs marking each of the seven recreation sites are painted in the trademark pink of the current OrBorJor administration of Paiboon Upatising, with a pair of golden monkey statues sitting atop.

In this area there is also an old sign explaining that *Khao Toh Seh* is a National Forest Reserve. The main access road is in Phuket Town, but most of the 550-rai park, established back in 1964, lies in Rassada subdistrict.

Point 6 further up is much the same: west-facing *salas* – but no view. We learned later that this would eventually become an “animal feeding” station for the many macaques and dogs that call the hill home. This is the area where most of the monkey feeding goes on.

Continuing uphill, we huffed and puffed our way through a large colony of primates up to Point 7, where we finally got to enjoy a truly spectacular and panoramic view from a large lookout point.

From here, one can look across a wide swath of Phuket Town from Saphan Hin to the south all the way to Samkong in the north.

Clearly visible in the foreground are Vachira Hospital and Khao Rang behind it. As Toh Seh is twice the elevation of Khao Rang, it is also possible to look right over it to see the Kamala Hills far in the distance, as well as Chalong Bay and the Big Buddha image high up in the Nakkerd Hills in Karon.

Remarkably, we had this lookout point all to ourselves.

After descending somewhat rubber-legged to the car, we called Anuphap Petchmeesri, one of three OrBorJor civil engineers overseeing construction, to ask about the project.

He explained that the OrBorJor had given the company a 180-day extension for the completion of the project, which is now expected to be done in October.

Asked about the felling of trees blocking what would otherwise be impressive views, he said “Those

trees are all on Forest Department land. They told us not to fell any trees if possible, just to trim lower branches that might be in the way.”

Once word about the new look-outs gets out, there is bound to be an upsurge of visitors and its inevitable result: garbage.

To this, Mr Anuphap said that the contractor is responsible for all solid waste removal during construction, after which time it would revert to his department.

Asked about the black pig spotted near the shrine, he said he didn't think it was a wild boar.

Currently, there is very little vehicular traffic on Khao Toh Seh Road, which is a good thing because it is only one lane wide and some real problems can result if two cars meet going different directions on the steep inclines.

See related editorial page 10.



Project supervisor Somyot Jiamkokgroud explained that clearing out virgin jungle for better views was not part of the job. Photos: Stephen Fein

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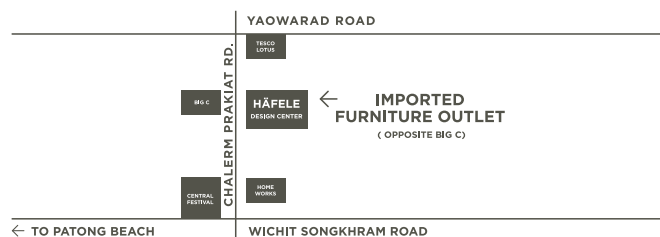
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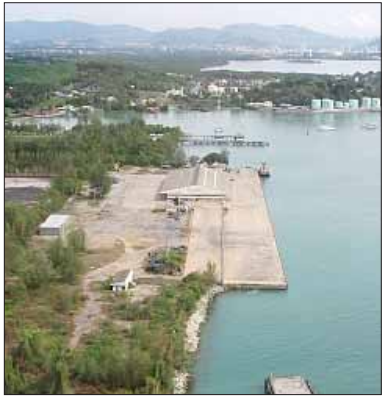
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## Deep Sea Port inadequate for large ships



Phuket Deep Sea Port on Cape Panwa. Photo: Stephen Fein

IN AN effort to kick-start the stalled Phuket Deep Sea Port expansion project, the head of the local Marine Department Office escorted representatives from two major cruise line companies to a meeting with Governor Tri Augkaradacha on July 12 to discuss the problems encountered by large ships using the facility.

Located at Cape Panwa, the deep sea port has long been criticized as too small to accommodate large vessels, both cargo and passenger, for docking.

Marine Department Region 5 chief Phuripat Theerakulpisuk said the two operators, Royal Caribbean Cruises and Princess Cruises, wanted to see the government get more involved in a project to lengthen the wharf and dredge the seabed offshore.

Chief Phuripat cited one example of a Royal Caribbean Cruise ship, measuring 312 meters long and 38m wide, that is forced to moor about four kilometers from the wharf and ferry its passengers ashore on smaller vessels.

"It's uncomfortable for passengers. I truly believe if the port were improved, there would be a lot more ships from across the world arriving on Phuket," said Chief Phuripat.

"Chaophaya Terminal International Co Ltd, which manages the port, is working on a deep sea port development project in order to handle more cruise ships. The plan has been submitted to authorities and is under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consideration process," Mr Phuripat explained.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Illegal diesel funding separatist terrorism in southern provinces

By Chutharat Plerin

CUSTOMS officials who seized over 200,000 liters of smuggled diesel fuel off Phuket on July 9 suspect the profits from such sales are likely being channeled to support terrorist activities.

"Customs have been cracking down on illegally imported goods, especially fuel, which is probably being used to support terrorism," said Rakob Srisupaat, Director of Investigation and Suppression Bureau, Customs Department at Phuket Customs Sea Port.

Mr Rakob made the comments at a press conference, two days after officers intercepted the 141-tonne vessel *Nok Nan Nam* about 10 kilometers east of Koh Racha Noi at 3:30am.

The vessel was laden with about 230,000 liters of illegal diesel with an estimated black market value of approximately 6.9 million baht, the press was told.

The Burmese captain, Lin Au, and his six Burmese crew members were arrested.

"The suspects confessed that they were hired to smuggle fuel from Phuket to Ranong," said Director Rakob.

"They told us that the boat owner was Thai," he added.

The suspects have been charged for delivering goods with



The 141 gross ton ship, *Nok Nan Nam*, was illegally importing 230,000 liters of fuel. Authorities believe the profits were destined for terrorist coffers. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

the intention of defrauding the government by failure to pay taxes.

Nimit Sangampai, Director of Marine Investigation and Suppression Department Region 2, explained to the *Gazette* Mr Rakob's assertion at the press

conference about the profits from illegal diesel being used to support terrorist activities.

"We have confirmation from our source that some illegal diesel operators use their profits to fund terrorism in the South," he said.

"So far, we've identified one such team operating in Pattani. However, we have to crack down on all illegal goods operators to prevent such organizations from supporting terrorists," he added.

## Bt900,000 counterfeit luggage seized

CUSTOMS Department investigators on July 15 intercepted a shipment of counterfeit luggage with an estimated street value of more than 900,000 baht.

At a press conference held at Phuket Port Customs House the following day, Phuket Investigation and Suppression Unit chief Jaroen Chamnigarn revealed that 351 copies of famous brand-name suitcases and bags were recovered as a result of the operation.

The shipment was awaiting collection at the offices of a freight agency on the bypass road when officers moved in.

"We watched the shipping company warehouse and waited for the

consignment to arrive [by truck]. When it did, we found it consisted of boxes wrapped in white sacks," chief Jaroen said.

"Inside we found counterfeit luggage, some the wheeled variety, others the bag type. All bore fake labels of famous brands".

The haul recovered 81 trolley cases in the styles of Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Gucci, and Mulberry, and a further 270 brand name hold-all copies in the styles of Louis Vuitton, Mulberry, Prada, Mont Blanc, Gucci and Chanel.

Figures released by Phuket Customs House show that from January 2011 to January this year, 24 consignments of counterfeit



Customs officers believe that most of the fake goods recovered were manufactured in China. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

goods, with an estimated value of 2.8 million baht, were seized by customs officers in Phuket.

Despite periodic seizures,

counterfeit goods are openly sold year-round in retail outlets throughout the island.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Public masturbator hits 'jackpot' in elevator ride

A PUBLIC masturbator is on the loose in Pathum Thani and one victim of the self-pleasurizer wants the world to know.

Last week, a woman known by the Twitter handle @Chuanpachi reported a unsavory incident in a public elevator that occurred around 4pm on July 15.

She was standing in the crowded elevator with her boyfriend when she felt something push against her buttocks.

"I'm an optimist so I thought it could have been a bag," she said.

"I moved out the way, but when the lift opened I felt some-

thing warm on my leg."

She got out of the lift to wipe her leg and was shocked: her shirt and trouser leg were covered in semen.

"It was good that I was wearing an overcoat," she said. "So I threw it away and bought some new trousers."

The woman then asked employees of the shopping center to show her the security camera footage.

The perpetrator had been standing in the lift for 45 minutes before "hitting the jackpot", to use @Chuanpachi's words.

The victim said she hoped that telling the world about what hap-



pened could serve as a warning to other potential victims.

She said was "not afraid" as the attacker was obviously "only mentally ill". Nevertheless, she said she was worried for people in his family and afraid his behavior might develop into something more dangerous.

— Sanook News

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## In brief...

## No drive-thru

EIGHT people were injured when an out-of-control pickup truck full of Burmese workers slammed into the River Beer Garden in Rassada late evening on July 16.

The pickup damaged 11 cars and motorcycles before stopping against a concrete support near the cashier's station.

Among the eight people injured at least two suffered broken legs.

The injured were taken to hospital and the driver to the police station.

## Heavy weather strands tourists

MORE than 100 tourists on their way to Phi Phi Don Island on July 11 were forced to shelter from heavy seas at Maya Bay on Phi Phi Leh Island.

Several speedboats and longtail boats were forced to seek protection in the bay, where the movie 'The Beach', starring Leonardo Di Caprio, was filmed in 2000.

Conditions eventually improved and the vessels were able to reach their destinations, with no reports of sinking or injury.

# Loanshark crackdown

## Council member calls for justice after brother is beaten unconscious by 20 men

By: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A RASSADA Municipality council member has called for a crackdown on loan sharks after his brother was attacked and brutally beaten by a group of armed men he claims were hired by illegal moneylenders.

Rassada Municipality council member Chainarong Pillavas and his brother Suthipong Pillavas, who claims to have been attacked by some 20 thugs hired by the loanshark, made a direct plea to the police during a press conference at Bangkok Hospital Phuket July 12.

"There are a lot of loan shark gangs in Phuket. They have no issue with physically attacking debtors; it doesn't matter if they are children or elderly people. I would like police to put a stop to this," said Mr Chainarong, who was a policeman himself before getting into politics years ago.

Mr Chainarong's younger brother, Mr Suthipong, described the attack that hospitalized him:



Mr Suthipong says that he was set upon by an armed gang after he asked for an extension on a former employees loan. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"On Wednesday [July 11] night, at around 8pm, I was sitting in my shipyard in Phuket Town. Four bag men came to collect the

interest on a 30,000 baht loan taken out by one of my former employees. These are the kind of loan sharks that offer desperate

people high-interest loans. They threaten violence against those who fail to pay off their debts or keep up the interest payments," said Mr Suthiong at the press conference.

"I asked them to postpone the workers payment because he had resigned, which made them furious.

"The gang left, but returned with more men, about 20 in total. They had guns and knives and sticks; they attacked me.

"Two men pointed guns at my head, while others hit me with wooden sticks and cut my chest and kicked me until I passed out. Then they were all gone."

A complaint was filed with the Phuket City Police by his brother Chainarong, who held the rank of Senior Sgt Maj when he left the Phuket City Police force.

"I wasn't even the one who had borrowed the money, but I am the one who was attacked," said Mr Suthipong, who admitted that he had vouched for the employee in question.

# Full budget for Chalong hospital project unlikely

THE mayor of Chalong handed a letter of complaint to Public Health Minister Witthaya Buranasiri for the ministry's failure to provide 186 million baht to upgrade Chalong hospital.

The financial package, provisionally agreed to by the Cabinet at the mobile meeting in March, was to turn "Chalong Health Promoting Station" into a 30-bed hospital, with ER facilities and accommodation.

In the letter presented to Mr Witthaya during a visit last week, Chalong Mayor Samran Jindapol asked for the budget request to upgrade the facility be granted, as the expansion plan to better serve people in the Chalong, Rawai and Karon areas was still viable and moving forward.

"There are 40,000 to 50,000 people living in the Chalong area. This number doesn't include foreign



Chalong Mayor Samran Jindapol (purple shirt) says the hospital upgrade is needed. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

tourists, Burmese laborers or residents in Rawai and Karon," Mayor Samran said.

"There are many accidents in this area and it takes too long to transport injured people to hospital in Phuket Town - Chalong Hospital is needed," he added.

Deputy Public Health Minister Surawit Khonsomboon and his team on July 6 inspected the proposed project site.

"I am not sure if we will be able to allot the full 186mn baht, as it is a lot of money for just one project," said Mr Surawit.

"However, the Chalong Municipality has reduced the budget request from 186mn to 70mn baht. They now estimate they can reduce the building cost to 102mn baht, but they will still need to find 32mn baht from elsewhere," he explained.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Abhisit: A blueprint for Phuket

DEMOCRAT Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva called on the people of Phuket to help develop a "blueprint" to save the island's tourism industry.

About a thousand local people who joined the seminar were asked to help construct a clear picture of the issues to be faced.

"Phuket has many problems including public transport, illegal taxis and the mafia," Deputy Rassada Mayor Pawat Supphasuwan told the gathering.

"If these problems aren't solved, it will be the ruin of Phuket

tourism,' he warned the seminar. Tanan Tanpaiboon, adviser and past president of the Property Association, explained that the province was becoming over developed.

Although tourist figures continue to increase, this was not enough to justify the huge expansion of new real estate projects on the island.

"I worry that if construction is not controlled, Phuket will face an economic bubble in the future," he said.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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# More to join 'island herd'

## Existing limit for elephants registered on Phuket continually disregarded

By Atchaa Khamlo & Stephen Fein

TWO elephants were approved to work in Phuket this week, bringing the total number of registered pachyderms on the island to 190, which is 14 more than the existing limit set by the Provincial Office in 2003.

The increase in the number of elephants beyond the set limit was noted during the meeting by Phuket Provincial Livestock chief Weerasit Phutthipairote.

However, Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak appeared unworried.

"Since any elephant brought onto the island has to be approved by our committee first, I think things will be okay," V/Gov Somkiet said.

"The examination [of the elephant identification papers and future living conditions] will continue to be strict," he added.

The two new female elephants, Pooklook, aged five, and Thida, 10, will be performing at the Siam Niramit Phuket theater along with two other elephants already owned by the company.

The committee approved the elephants based on a review of their identification papers, which confirmed they were born in captivity and not taken from the wild. The committee also took into account several other factors about the future living conditions of the young elephants.

However, the committee plans to re-examine the elephants' identification documents on arrival in Phuket, as allegations of fraudulent identification papers for elephants has been rife across Thailand in recent years.

Pooklook and Thida, currently



Edwin Wiek: 'Rules should be followed'. Photo: Gazette file



Livestock Office Chief Weerasit Phutthipairote. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

living at Dream World amusement park in Bangkok, will be transferred to Phuket as soon as the Livestock Office has approved all the necessary documents, explained Santi Paengnukroh of Siam Niramit Phuket.

Wildlife activist Edwin Wiek, founder of the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT), expressed concern that local officials showed so little concern for breaching regulations established by their own offices.

"It's typical. Any issues involving animals seem to be of no concern to officials these days," he said.



The two new elephants have been approved to join Siam Niramit Phuket (pictured), bringing the number there to four. Photo: Gazette file

"I don't remember exactly why they came to this 190 limit, but I think it was because there was too much competition going on at the time and the animal welfare standards were pretty bad for the elephants as a result. If that's the rule, they should live up to the rule or change the bloody rule. They are just stepping over their rules on the spur of the moment, always coming up with an excuse."

The Dutchman said he was unaware of any legal cases brought against parties who had baby elephants seized during inspections on the island this year.

"All of the cases were settled, which is outrageous. I can only ask from an animal welfare point of view that if these animals surpass 190 in number, how can officials ensure that their living standards will be okay?"

As for the documentation process, he said it was almost impossible to tell with certainty from identification papers if baby elephants were actually born in captivity or captured in the wild because the process does not involve DNA information.

Asked about the effectiveness of microchips, he said:

"Microchips can easily be taken out, either when the elephant is dead or you don't want it anymore. It's just that simple. It's like a license plate on a car. You can just take the screws out and put it on another car. If you don't have the chassis number, you can drive a stolen car forever. So the chassis number is the DNA of the elephant, and the microchip is the license plate," he said.

His own efforts to establish a more watertight system of ID cards, as is already in place in many countries, have so far found little resonance with Thai officialdom, he said.

However, he expects such a system to be introduced by the government itself in a few years time, probably before the next Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) conference, to be hosted in Thailand in 2013.

Mr Wiek said he plans to meet soon with Democrat Party officials interested in animal welfare laws.

He is also preparing to defend himself in Petchburi Court against criminal charges brought against him by the Department of National Parks (DNP).

The case followed a complaint by DNP Director-General Damrong Phidet, who said that he should be charged with "assisting in a crime" following a highly-publicized raid of the WFFT sanctuary in Phetchburi.

Mr Wiek views the raid and subsequent charges against him as a vendetta for an expose about the trade in baby elephants that led to the inspections early this year.

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## Hundreds of sea urchins beached by strong monsoon season waves

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET Marine Biological Center (PMBC) officers took to the beach of Koh Lone in Rawai on Monday for a follow-up investigation into the deaths of hundreds of sea urchins washed ashore on July 14.

Only about 50 of the 400 fire urchins (*Astropyga Radiata*), also known as red urchins, were found alive by PMBC officers along a 200-meter stretch of the beach.

"We received a report from Koh Lone Moo 3 in Rawai that an unusually large number of sea urchins were found dead on the beach, so we immediately investigated," said Nipon Pongsuwan, a reef specialist at the PMBC.

"This morning, officers went to inspect the area again. This time, no new sea urchins were found washed ashore," said the



Some of the 400 fire urchins washed at Koh Lone last weekend. Photo: Phuket Marine Biological Center

veteran marine biologist.

He went on to explain that the urchins were most likely washed ashore from their grassy, shallow-water habitat by the strong

wind-driven winds of the monsoon season. However, there was some concern that the deaths could be linked to a decrease in the salinity of the water.

"We have yet to confirm if there has been a decrease in the salinity of their habitat. Freshwater usually only runs into that area during heavy rains. We are currently assuming that the sea urchins were washed ashore and died on the beach," he said.

This species of sea urchin is of particular importance to the sea-grass environment because they function as "cleaners" in the ecosystem, Mr Nipon explained.

Local fishermen confirmed to PMBC officers that they often find this species of sea urchin beached during the monsoon season.

"This happened at about the same time last year," Mr Nipon said.



# The King recovers from rapid heartbeat, Royal duties postponed



His Majesty The King. Photo: The Nation

HM KING Bhumibol Adulyadej has recovered from a rapid heartbeat and shaking right hand, though he will not be taking part in Royal Duties for some time.

A statement from the Royal Household Bureau said: "Doctors used X-rays to examine his brain and found a small amount of blood had percolated through the left side of the meninges [the membrane around the brain]."

After the condition was discovered last Thursday, HM The King was treated with intravenous medicine and the shaking stopped.

By the next day, he was able to move his hand normally and his heartbeat and blood pressure had returned to normal.

The team of physicians recommended that His Majesty cancel all activities for a while.

Agriculture Minister Teera Wongsamut said he had been informed by Deputy Lord Chamberlain Dissathorn Watcharothai that His Majesty had indefinitely postponed a previously planned trip to Khao Cha-ngum in Ratchaburi, where he had planned to inspect the progress of one of the many Royal Projects he has initiated.



His Majesty The King. Photo: The Nation

## Eight killed in smuggler gun battle

THAI security forces killed eight suspected drug smugglers in a late night firefight on the border with Myanmar on Monday.

The force of police, soldiers and border patrol officers seized around 70kg of *ya ice* (crystal meth) and 550,000 *ya ba* (methamphetamine pills) in the incident.

The attack came after authorities received a tip-off that drug traffickers would attempt to smuggle narcotics into Thailand.

At around 4am in the mountains near the Thai-Myanmar border in Mae Sai district, the Thai authorities spotted 10 to 12 men carrying bags walking towards the Thai side. Some were carrying firearms.

Police said the authorities shouted at them to stop, but instead the men opened fire on the Thai forces and tried to retreat. The gunfight lasted about 15 minutes.

The Thai authorities waited until dawn before moving in to check the scene. They found eight bodies and nine bags along with AK-47 assault rifles and 9mm handguns.

Recent years have seen a sharp increase in the amount of methamphetamine smuggled into Thailand; the drug is manufactured by rebel groups in Myanmar, such as the United Wa State Army, to fund their activities.

# American among political prisoners to gain freedom

A NUMBER of high-profile political prisoners have recently been released from Thai prisons, including 27 red-shirt detainees and Joe Gordon, an American convicted under the *lese majeste* laws.

Mr Gordon, who was born in Thailand but has US citizenship, was freed from Bangkok Remand Prison July 10 after receiving a Royal Pardon.

In December, the 55-year-old was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for translating parts of a banned biography of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and posting them on his blog.

Unusually for a *lese majeste* conviction, Mr Gordon, born Lerpong Wichaikhammat, committed the crimes while living in the United States.

"We are very pleased that he has been granted a Royal Amnesty," US press attache Walter Braunohler said. "We have been urging the Thai authorities, both publicly and privately, to ensure that freedom of expression is respected."

Mr Gordon's release came amid anger in some circles over the death in custody of 61-year-old Amphon Tangnoppaku, another

## AROUND THE nation

*lese majeste* convict in Bangkok Remand Prison.

Meanwhile, several red-shirt detainees have been released from Laksi Temporary Detention Center after the Justice Ministry secured a 54 million baht bail fund for the purpose.

On June 26, 13 prisoners from Mukdahan Province were released from Laksi on bail of 2mn baht each.

The men were held for the burning of Mukdahan Provincial Hall in May 2010, as anti-government protests in Bangkok were being put down by security forces.

Then on July 9, nine more suspects were released from Laksri. The men were also suspected of arson attacks related to the 2010 unrest. Their release was secured after the Justice Ministry provided 1mn baht bail for each suspect.

Earlier, five detainees from



American Joe Gordon convicted of *lese majeste* received a Royal Pardon and was freed from prison July 10. Photo: The Nation

Chiang Mai were released. The men were arrested in connection with an incident in 2009 in which a yellow-shirt supporter

was killed by rival red shirts.

Similar bail releases are being sought for some 20 red shirts still in custody at the Laksi facility.

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# Careful with Toh Seh Hill project

A PROJECT by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) to develop Toh Seh Hill as a recreational site is well-intentioned, and the *Gazette* hopes that the current OrBorJor – as well as the administrations that follow it – are prepared to commit sufficient resources to ensure that the hill's natural charm is not despoiled by garbage, traffic snarls, and other problems that could stem from an expected increase in popularity due to its new attractions. [See news feature, pages 4-5]

At the moment, there are no apparent restrictions on vehicle access to Toh Seh Road, apart from those naturally imposed by the steep and narrow nature of the road itself. Thus far, that has been enough to keep most drivers from venturing up the hill.

All that could change very quickly, however, when profit-driven members of the Phuket taxi and tuk-tuk brigades realize there is a new cash cow primed for milking.

The *Gazette* hopes that once the project is completed the OrBorJor, which is responsible for the road, monitors changes in road use and considers restricting access to all but necessary vehicles, such as those involved in sanitation inside the park or others operated by employees of the television station broadcast towers atop the hill.

These television station drivers and others operating on the road will also need to drive more slowly to ensure that human corpses aren't added to the disturbingly high number of dead macaques and dogs that have been run over there in recent years.

While there is limited parking near the Khao Toh Seh Shrine, about half-way up the hill, the prospect of the area becoming a popular tourist attraction, similar to the "Big Buddha" peak in the Nakkerd Hills in Karon and Rang Hill in Phuket Town, is a cause of considerable concern, especially among the many people who use Khao Toh Seh to get their daily exercise in a quiet and shady, natural setting. Their numbers include many OrBorJor staff and other government workers who work at offices in the government quarter at the base of the hill.

It appears inevitable that some time before the end of the year workers will head to the hill, chainsaws in hand, to remove vegetation that is currently blocking what would otherwise be scenic views from the new lookout points.

The *Gazette* only hopes that this effort will be overseen with great discretion; the hill is not only the last major reserve for native, virgin forest in the area, but also serves as a much needed lung for the urban sprawl that has engulfed the surrounding greater Phuket Town area.

As more and more of the island is covered with concrete and bitumen, now is the time to end encroachment on state land once and for all and ensure that all of the island's remaining stands of virgin forests are preserved for future generations.



## Leading the way to homeland jobs

Re: *Gazette online, Senate seeks action on foreign tour guides in Phuket, July 13*

Shame on those senior civil servants who are in charge of enforcing the law and instead ignore all the illegal activities for a few baht. CCTV cameras should be used to monitor illegal tour guides and foreigners working without proper documents. Thousands of foreigners work as dive masters, dive instructors, and skippers on yacht charters and so on at the expense of those who are properly registered.

Singapore authorizes Foreign Guides to work temporarily if they arrive with the tour group and go back with the same tour group. Local guides may be used as mediators to fix details during the stay of the foreign tour group. Thailand should use that rule and end the problem.

Whistle-Blower  
Gazette forum

### Life versus leisure

Re: *B500 million Phuket Historical Park approval given, July 13*

Better spend some of this money on the Chalong Hospital Project. The lifesaving project is not funded, but 500 million for statues [entire park] is available. Somebody has the wrong priorities.

George Yamamoto  
Gazette forum

### Invest in what's actually important

Re: *BREAKING NEWS: Phuket boy, 6, drowns in wastewater pool, July 13*

I'll say it once again: money should be spent on more important things than tunnels and "Welcome to Patong" monuments. Build some pools at the government schools and have compulsory swimming lessons

## Letters to the Editor

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

for all children. It's time money was spent on local people! This happens too often.

My prayers and thoughts are with Mr Yutthana.

Shocked  
Gazette forum

### A trek to the shops

Re: *Gazette online, Nepal tourism opportunities promoted in Phuket, July 12*

Who exactly are all these "wine and dine" so-called cultural shows aimed at?

Adventure tourists have been going to Nepal for trekking holidays for years. I took my mother and nephew there 14 years ago, for a "real" elephant trekking adventure. That after several foot trekking holidays. Wonderful holiday with knowledgeable people.

Who are they trying to attract from Thailand? Most won't walk 50 meters to the nearest shop!

Logic  
Gazette forum

### Support for a better deep sea port

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Deep Sea Port 'not deep enough', July 16*

I personally have used the deep sea port many times over the past five years and it is indeed in need of an upgrade.

That old dilapidated dogleg wharf or pier off the end of the main wharf should be demolished, leaving room for extensions to the main wharf.

The environmental impact it's going to have on the area is

anyone's guess. There is so much rubbish, oil and other pollutants floating around the port already.

Cap'n Jack  
Gazette forum

### Could the mother need help?

Re: *Gazette online, Krabi Police search for mother of murdered newborn, July 12*

I am wondering if it is possible that this is a case of a "back street delivery" gone horribly wrong, bearing in mind the forceps found and the injuries described. If so, the mother would also be in need of medical and mental health assistance too.

RIP lad.

Dan Garrett  
Gazette forum

### From the heart

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket teen strangled in rape and robbery attack, July 11*

Som was very sweet and she made me smile. What happened is so tragic. My thoughts and prayers are with my Thai family. I will miss her.

A sad cousin  
Gazette forum

### Saving a life

Re: *Gazette online, Chinese snorkeler saved in chopper rescue is recovering, July 17*

Thank you for passing along a little good news. The amount of tragedy smeared across news pages in Phuket and around the world is disheartening.

Please continue to try and create balanced view of this lovely little island of ours. I love it dearly and hate to think that it is as bad as it seems sometimes.

Tina Swift  
Patong

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# Sustainable development derives from cooperation

## FIRST PERSON

MY DOCTORAL research is on the sustainable development of Phuket. It focuses on how to apply scientific knowledge and systems-based thinking to environmental management. It doesn't support any political or commercial agenda, and it doesn't say whether becoming a self-administrative province is good or bad for Phuket.

People within Phuket's society fall into three groups: Those who don't know what problems they are facing; those who do know, but don't think they can do anything about them; and those who know and want to do something about them, but lack the means or opportunity to affect change.

We need a mechanism that will engage the people, providing them with tools that will allow them to interact with people who have similar ideas and goals.

But where do we start? Ideally, the catalyst should be those who are affected by the problem. It could be villagers, businessmen, officials, educators or even students who recognize problems and want to participate in the solutions.

Nowadays, we have modern technology to communicate. We can use social media as a tool to pass on news or ideas to the community. I believe in the power of the masses, and believe that if every group works together, the sustainable development process



Dr Chantinee Boonchai, 30, is currently Assistant to the President for Organization and Collaboration Development of Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus. Born in Bangkok, Dr Chantinee was raised in Chonburi until her family moved to Trang. She is presently working towards another doctorate at the University of Queensland.

in Phuket can happen rapidly.

Villagers are an effective source of power, since they live in the community and face the development issues of the island on a daily basis. If we let them participate by sharing their ideas and opinions, we might be able to discover long-term solution. To listen and work together with them, and to give them the information necessary to solve these problems – this is the real meaning of participation.

To solve a problem it's necessary for villagers, government departments, the educational elite and private sectors of the community to brainstorm solutions together, without trying to pin the blame on each other.

The media plays an important role too. If they report what is happening and how big a problem is, people will take it seriously.

However, sustainable development efforts can be a double-edged sword. Implemented wisely, they

can benefit the community, but if we don't have a viable plan, there will be trouble. This is particularly true of projects which have purely economic goals. Often these endeavors have unintentional negative consequences. This happens because community leaders or project planners weren't quite sure about what was truly required for the project or the exact impact it would have on a community. This can be prevented by the community participating in the project planning. With real cooperation, the true problems will become self-evident.

As Phuket is constantly evolving, I'm not sure how to measure the success of sustainable development efforts. However, greater enthusiasm shown by the people participating in the decision making process concerning environmental or social development is one way of telling whether or not we are progressing in a positive direction.

# Slow down on applause for slow loris street bust



Alleged wildlife traffickers Nuttapol Kensing (left) and Suchai Charoenphu (right) pose with slow lorises at a police station. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

I WAS ecstatic when I read about the Patong police taking action on Bangla Road by arresting these two men, who were tempting tourists into taking pictures with the cuddly and adorable slow lorises. [*Gazette online, Three slow lorises rescued in Phuket bust, July 10*].

I am not a hardcore animal rights activist. (I do own a dog, and only occasionally threaten to eat him.) Even without being a diehard, it seems clear to me that when lawmakers actually take the time to protect endangered or threatened species, such as the slow loris, those laws should be vigorously upheld. And to see the men in brown making a stand and doing so was a breath of fresh air on a very pungent road.

However, my admiration snapped like a neck at the end of rope when I saw the comments pouring in about the same men being back on Bangla the next night with the same type of adorable little creature.

Common arguments about the difficulties encountered when pro-

## Island View

By Alex Stone

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

protecting wild and endangered species have a great deal of merit. Yes, it is very hard to catch poachers ambling around the jungle; yes, protection programs are often understaffed and underbudgeted; and yes, some indigenous people have the right to maintain elements of their cultural heritage.

However, when hundreds upon hundreds of tourists unfamiliar with the landscape are, without going out of their way, able to lay their hands on illegally-owned endangered species, it is a disgrace.

It is a disgrace to those offering to take a picture of the tourist with a slow loris, it is a disgrace to the police who wear blinders when trotting down Bangla, and it is a disgrace to the citizens of the country who are unable or unwilling to uphold their own laws.

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

# Until death (or Non-Immigrant 'O' visa) do us part

I would really love to know; why after 20 years of marriage to a Thai citizen, after obtaining the annual extension for my Non-Immigrant O visa and meeting all the requirements, that my wife is interviewed as if she met me the day before yesterday.

I'm talking about of questions like: where and when did you meet him? What language do you speak with him? What are his father's and mother's names... and other irrelevant, harassing questions.

Of course my wife can easily answer all of these questions, but it is still sort of embarrassing to be asked these things after 20 years of living together.

I believe the only important question immigration should ask is: are you still living together?

That's all that matters. We have no issue answering that and providing the paperwork to back up our verbal statement.

I know from several sources that people using external agents to apply for the extensions aren't receiving the same treatment. The



Vows alone aren't enough to prove a marriage. Photo: Duane Brayboy

Thai spouse is not even interviewed; they only have to provide the original marriage certificate.

Why are we not treated equally and given the kind of respect we deserve?

Ivan  
Phuket

**Lt Col Napat Nuse, Head Supervisor of the Phuket Immigration office, replies:**

We have to be very careful during the visa extension process because we have had to deal with several cases where a Thai wife or husband who is separated or divorced from their foreign partner asked or tried to bribe the Immigration officer to certify them as still living together. This is why we have to carefully conduct an interview, regardless of how many years the couple has

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.  
Submit your issue at  
[www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

been married or lived together.

The questions are formulaic, so when an officer interviews the couple they follow the formula step by step.

You have to understand and just cooperate with our process to prevent any problems arising from potential overstay.

Although some couples hire agents for the visa extensions, eventually the Thai partner in the relationship has to contact our office for an interview. An agent can only deal with the application process. Feel free to contact our office Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm at 076-221 905.

# Why is Mission Hospital not responding to my email inquiries?

Why does Mission Hospital bother with a website when nobody bothers to check or reply to emails?

I have sent three emails in the last two weeks and I have not received a single reply.

Swerv  
Phuket

**Mission Hospital Phuket Human Resource Chief Assistant Suchada Phonphadung replies:**

We have administrative officers to deal with emails Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm. Officers check emails and forward them to the relevant department.

Please tell us what department you would like to contact and the subject of your email and we will follow up.

The Gazette would like to note the possibility of replies being automatically filed in a junk-mail folder.



# Beach Games to bring in a billion

OPTIMISTIC about the fourth edition of the Asian Beach Games, set to be hosted in Phuket in 2014, the provincial government has expressed confidence in the future success of the event.

"As they have shown in past events, Phuket people will unite to ensure the Games are successful. We expect the event to bring no less than one billion baht into the local economy," said Phuket Governor Tri Aukaradacha.

Scheduled to be held between November 14-21, 2014, the high-profile international competition will include 17 types of beach and water sports, to be contested at Kata, Karon and Patong beaches.

Gov Tri went on to comment about preparations, affirming that the country's only island province is ever ready as hosts.

Phuket has successfully hosted a number of international sporting events, including most recently the 28<sup>th</sup> National Youth Games. Moreover, the Governor pointed out that there are constantly itineraries and programs for water sports being held year round.

Aside from this, we've held a number of meetings to plan and prepare... as for public relations, we circulated material to participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Beach

Games held in Haiyang, China.

Based on the good feedback we've received, we expect a lot of members to join the competition in Phuket.

The Governor went on to emphasize that Phuket province gives great importance to hospitality.

As for accommodation, Gov Tri pointed out that the island has more than 1,000 hotels with tens of thousands of rooms available.

He is also positive that facilities, space, logistics and security will all be sufficient for the event.

With Kata and Karon stretching a length of 4.5 kilometers, and Patong Beach nearly 14 kilometers, there will be enough

room to organize all 17 categories of sport.

In addition to regulating traffic, the province will make safety and security a main priority. Since Phuket is a world renowned destination, anything that happens here has an instant impact [on reputation]. So, I will ensure that there are sufficient resources for authorities to do their jobs and provide the utmost convenience for participants, he concluded.

Thailand finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in medal count at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Beach Games, held last month in Haiyang, behind hosts, China.

— Public Relations Department



Dominating beach volleyball last month in Haiyang, Thailand leads the all-time Asian Beach Games tally with 37 golds and 101 medals in total.

## Transit investors eye light rail



BIDDING STILL OPEN: V/Gov Sommai (center) recently met with UGL executives, who expressed interest in the island's mass transit.

A THAI-AUSTRALIAN consortium was the latest multi-national delegation to express interest in constructing the Phuket mass-transit, light-rail project, which Cabinet gave provisional approval for at the mobile Cabinet meeting in Phuket in March.

Thai Rail Tech company representative Sirichai Prasertwaree and Neil Heaton, general manager of the Hong Kong branch of United Group Limited (UGL), on July 10 met with Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa at Provincial Hall to discuss the mass-transit project.

Mr Sirichai said "UGL is interested in the mass-transit project, therefore we are here for discussions and get more information concerning the project."

"I was informed by V/Gov Sommai that the project is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport. We have yet to decide what our investment will be," he said.

Mr Heaton added: "A railway from Phuket Airport to Phuket Town is both possible and suitable for Phuket. I think tourists like this kind of transportation. However, perhaps an elevated train is the better option in Phuket Town since roads there can not be expanded."

According to UGL's website, the 2,800 staffed firm is: "Australia's largest and most experienced provider of rolling stock and infrastructure solutions to the passenger, freight and rail systems sectors. . ."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Travelmob makes a move

GLOBAL travelers are not short on options when it comes to trying to find accommodation online. The internet is awash with online booking companies and the idea has been around for a long time, so it would take something a bit different to grab the attention of people who have long been using the services of Agoda, Asiarooms or the like.

Standing out from the usual, travelmob is a bit different: it is an online social stay marketplace that allows the guest to review the host and in a nice twist, allows the host to review the guest. The site is social network friendly as it integrates with Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest, allowing users to share their travelmob experiences.

The company was founded in 2011 by Turochas "T" Faud and Prashant Kirtane with the aim of setting up travelers seeking non-traditional accommodation options with hosts who have a unique property to offer.

Travelmob tries to help its us-



Turochas Faud, left, and Prashant Kirtane.

ers live like a local in a foreign land and as the company grows, more unique features will be introduced promises Prashant Kirtane, Chief Technical Officer and Co-Founder of travelmob.

"This is just the start. We intend to continuously gather feedback from our community and will introduce more localized features in the near future," he said.

So what makes travelmob different from other accommodation booking sites? For one, it doesn't list hotels or motels, but focuses on

villas, boats and apartments.

Its private messaging platform allows guests and hosts to contact each other right up until the booking is made, though no private contact details are exchanged prior to the booking.

Moreover, hosts can list as many spaces as they like for free and it gives guests the comforts of home away from home.

Travelmob officially launched in Thailand July 17. The company is primarily focusing its efforts in Asia Pacific and along with English, localized language support comes in five Asian languages: Thai, Bahasa, Indonesian, Vietnamese and traditional and simplified Chinese.

The company also plans to introduce Russian in the near future. To celebrate the launch of its site in Thailand, travelmob is giving \$50 credit to all its users who make bookings before August 9.

For more information, visit W: [travelmob.com](http://travelmob.com), or visit their Facebook page: W: [facebook.com /travelmob](https://www.facebook.com/travelmob)

### LaGuna

PROPERTY RESALE

**Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket**

<p><b>1 Allamanda 1-Bedroom Suite THB 4.5 M</b></p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 bed 1 bath Condominium</li> <li>• fully furnished • leasehold</li> <li>• lagoon view</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 Laguna Cove Townhomes THB 23 M</b></p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey 3 beds Townhome</li> <li>• lagoon view • private pool</li> <li>• leasehold</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Laguna Homes - Residences I THB 36 M</b></p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 beds 4 baths • fully furnished</li> <li>• golf course view • freehold</li> <li>• plot size 2,216 sqm.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Laguna Village Residence THB 38 M</b></p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 beds 3 baths • lagoon view</li> <li>• freehold • upgraded kitchen</li> <li>• outdoor sauna</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Dusit Thani Pool Villas \$1,649,000</b></p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 beds 2 baths • rooftop pool</li> <li>• ocean frontage</li> <li>• rental program</li> </ul>	<p>For more information on these and other properties, please call: <b>+66 (0) 76 362 333</b> or email: <a href="mailto:resale@lagunaresale.com">resale@lagunaresale.com</a> <a href="http://www.lagunaresale.com">www.lagunaresale.com</a></p>

All properties are included Golf Membership & Laguna Resident's Privilege Card



# Beckoning Belgium's best brews

The global financial and economic crises has stunted if not crippled a number of industries. Despite this, consumer demand for premium import products is increasing steadily. One of Thailand's largest beer importers recently expanded into Phuket. Here, their new regional manager, Olivier Dubois, has a Q&A session with the Gazette, delving into marketing strategies, tactics, targets and tools.

## Phuket Gazette: How long have you been operating in Phuket and Southern Thailand?

Olivier Dubois: In 2009, I was living in Krabi and there I bought a company called Golden Paradise – it was previously owned by a German man. We were importing both German and Belgian beers and one of our main suppliers was Belgian Beverage Asia Co Ltd (BBA). By 2011, BBA was expanding and wanted to open a regional branch in Phuket. They offered me the position as regional manager. Since BBA is the biggest Belgian beer importer in the country, if not the biggest beer importer overall, I saw a golden opportunity. So, I decided to dissolve Golden Paradise and accept the offer to work for BBA. We opened our office in Phuket in November, last year.

## PG: Which areas does the Phuket office cover?

OD: We cover the entire Southern region south of Prachuap Khiri Khan province. About 90% of our focus now is on Phuket, though we do have some clients in Krabi, Koh Samui, Koh Phi Phi and Khao Lak. In the near future, we are planning to expand into other lucrative markets in the South.

## PG: How about your product range?

OD: We have almost 50 products in total. Three of these are ciders, while the rest are premium Belgian beers. We have lagers, pilsners, fruit beers, Trappists, Belgian Abbey, double, triple, quadruple, Champagne beer, wheat beer (Belgian white beer) and vintage, among others. Our product list is not random, and each product was strategically selected based on research and expert consultation in Belgium.

## PG: Who are your main target groups?

OD: We are a bulk supplier and deal exclusively with resort, restaurant and bar owners, but not supermarkets. We have three main target groups. The first one is obvious: Belgian bar and restaurant owners, who already have an awareness and demand for our products. This is not a large group, though, and it did not take long for us to cover this group. The second group is the high-end Thai market. This group has an appreciation for premium, imported products, and the trend is growing gradually. The third group is the hi-end hotels and resorts. We are currently negotiating contracts with some five star hotels such as Centara Group, Marriot, Trisara and

## Market Penetration

Steven Layne

Indigo Pearl. Eventually we aim for this group to make up 60% of our clients.

## PG: Why not supermarkets?

OD: We supply premium products for niche markets, not the mass market. We are not competing with local beers, and we also don't want to create internal competition among our clients. Moreover, part of the quality aspect of Belgian beers is the actual drinking experience, which includes using the proper glass. If someone can buy it in the super market and drink it on the street, it takes away from the intended experience and thus quality as well.

## PG: How's the business going now?

OD: BBA has been a pioneer in importing high quality beverages, the fruit beer or ciders for example became our top selling products only a few months after being launched. Demand for quality products are growing strongly, on both domestic and outbound levels. And therefore, multiplying our company digits year on year. It has gotten to the point where demand is starting to outstrip supply. This means we have to be very selective of our new clients.

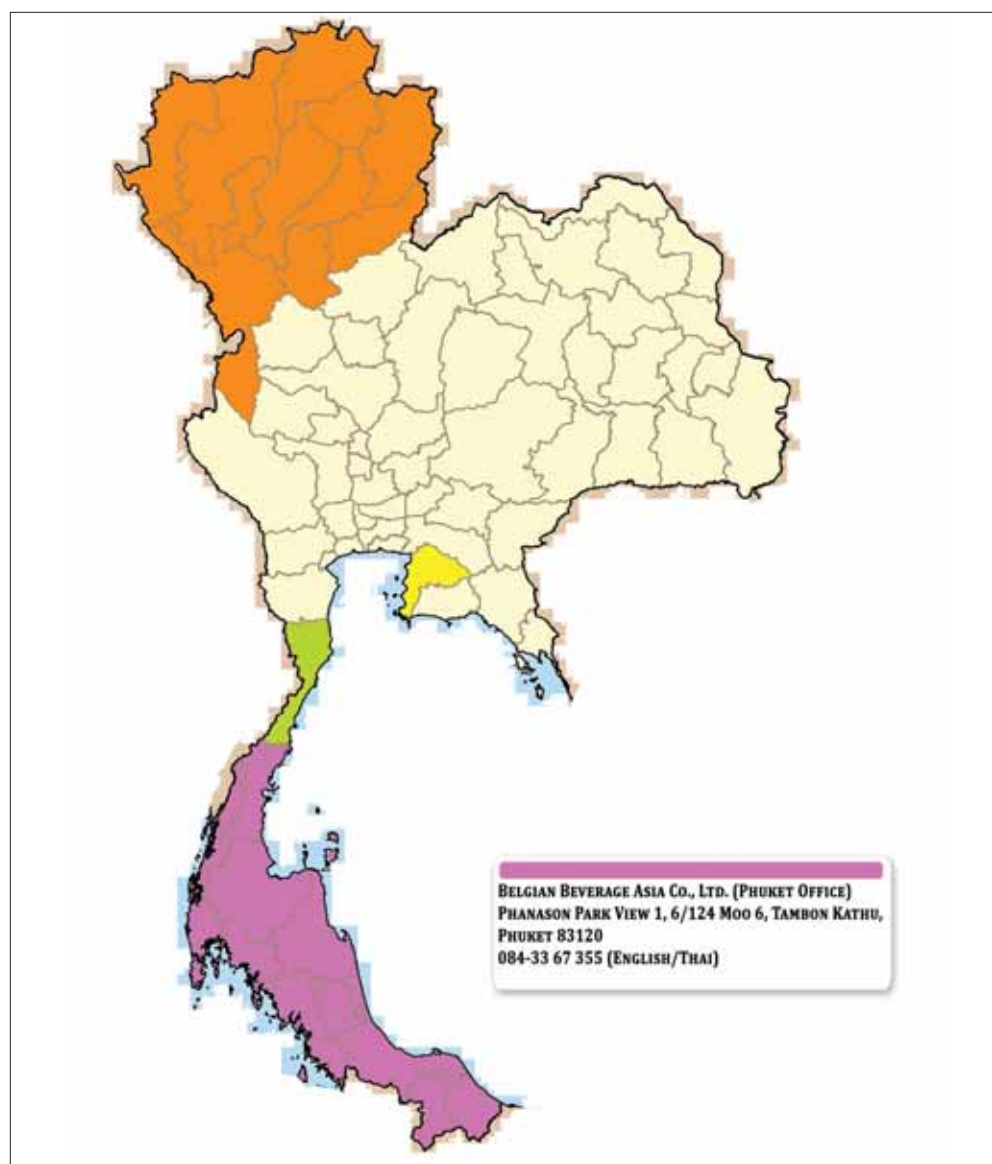
## PG: Can you tell us about your marketing strategy and tactics?

OD: Phuket is an increasingly volatile market, and we always have to be weary of new competition. As for developing our marketing tools, we are currently upgrading our website to include Thai. However, Thailand in general is not so internet savvy. Most locals aren't really keen to use the company website, and we still get more orders via fax, phone, SMS and even Facebook. I still depend on conventional marketing tactics such as 'door-to-door' sales and buzz from word-of-mouth. We do have one special marketing tool – a product in fact. It's called no-label beer and it allows a business to create its own beer brand. In other words, it's a great branding tool that is invaluable as the battle for customers intensifies day by day. This product is a nice way to dissociate ones establishment from its competitors.

For more information and inquiries, visit [W:belbev.asia](http://W:belbev.asia), or call Olivier at T: 084-3367355 or by E: [Phuket@belbev.asia](mailto:Phuket@belbev.asia)



BELGIAN BREW TOUR: Regional Manager Olivier and partner Gif on a recent trip to Belgium.



BBA's new branch in Phuket covers the entire Southern region, south of Prachuap Khiri Khan.

# PTT most fortunate Thai firm

THAILAND'S PTT Plc's Fortune 500 ranking rose sharply from 128th to 95th, thanks to a huge revenue increase from the previous year.

Pailin Chuchottaworn, the company's president and CEO, said that the higher ranking demonstrates PTT's potential in strengthening national energy security and assures local and foreign investors of Thailand's economic strength.

"This ranking clearly reflects the fact that PTT has become a

truly international corporation," he told The Nation.

In 2011, PTT's consolidated revenue expanded 33% from the previous year to US\$ 79.69 billion while the net profit rose 31.9% to US\$ 3.456 billion.

Top of the list is Exxon Mobil, whose shares rose by 20% and profits surged by 35% to \$41.1 billion in 2011 and revenues jumped 28 per cent to \$452.9 billion. Chevron is second on the list, with \$26.895 billion in profits.

– The Nation



Loyal followers of PTT Rayong, the firm's professional football team.

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# Faster and closer, but not for us



## Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

INVESTORS are lined up, and ground is about to be broken on the Asia Pacific Gateway, the fastest, slickest submarine data cable ever constructed. And it's coming to Thailand.

While most underwater data cables in the Pacific end up in the US, this one's different. It starts in Malaysia, travels 10,400 kilometers (more than 6,000 miles) to Japan, and hits almost every major seaside country along the way – Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and Korea.

Oh, and it will also land just down the road from here in Songkhla. But it won't go straight to the US.

Why the weird routing? Right now, almost every backbone connection between Asia and the US goes through Singapore or Japan.

If Singapore or Japan falls off the grid, or there's a lot of contention at the switches in either country, all of Asia suffers.

By putting a very high speed line along the west side of the North Pacific, the investors figure they'll be able to offer lightning fast routing inside Asia, and very quick re-routing if one of the major trans-Pacific lines has problems.

It's also fair to say that the

investors – who have put down a total of US\$ 450 million so far – expect a huge increase in internet traffic inside Asia. Explosive growth.

With the addition of major server farms in Asia – Google, Akamai, Microsoft, Amazon, and many others – and a nearly exponential increase in Asian demand for social networking sites such as Facebook and China's Renren, Sina Weibo and Tencent, there are a whole lot of bits flying. Consider that roughly 250 million people in China use social networking sites regularly.

The number of internet users in Europe and North America has been increasing slowly for the past couple of years. The number of internet users in China, India and Southeast Asia has been going up by hundreds of millions of people per year.

Saturation in Asia is nowhere in sight.

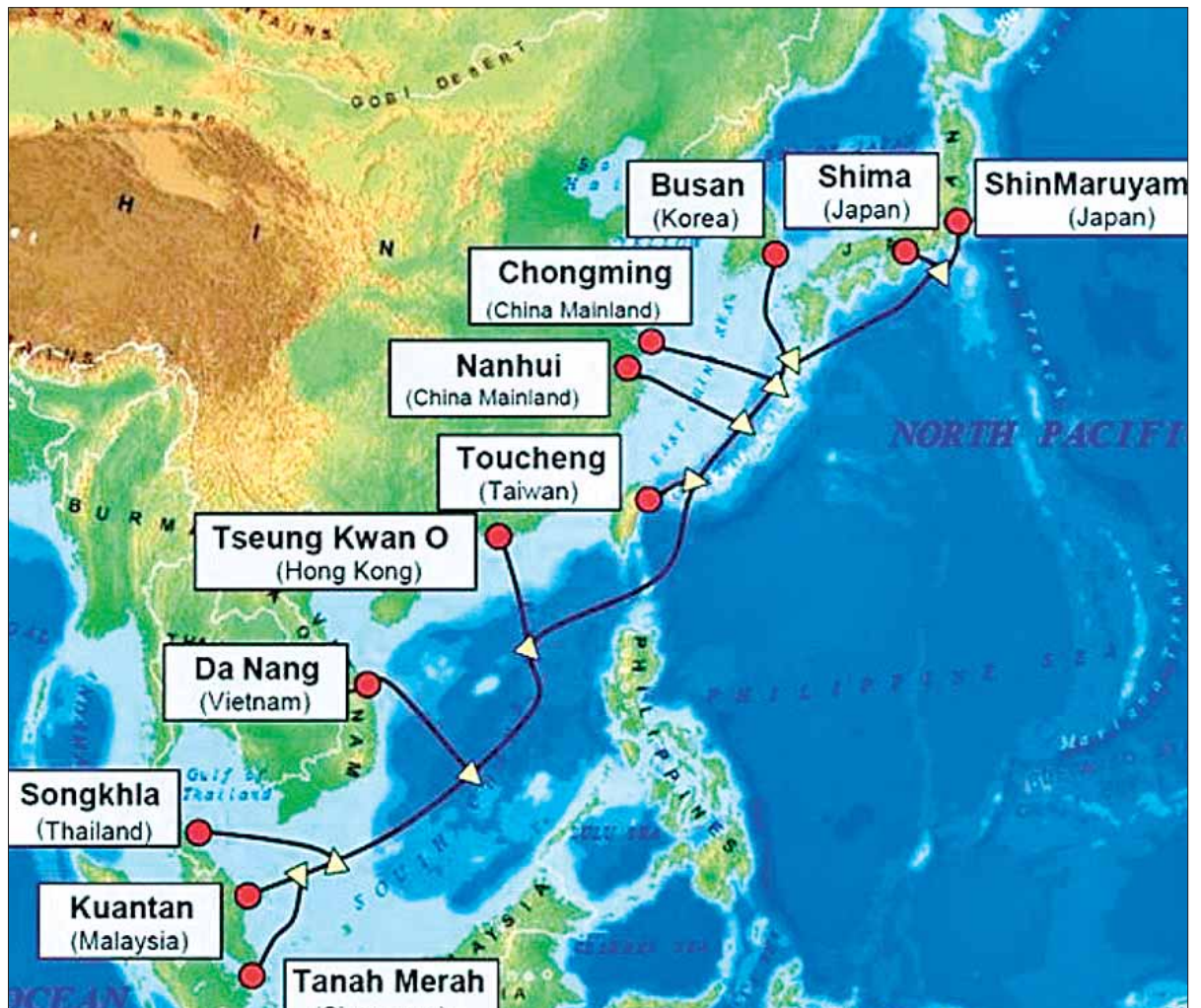
How fast is the line? Total transfer speed is rated at just under 7 terabytes per second, which is one of the fastest cables ever laid. It'd take about 30 seconds to transmit the entire contents of the US Library of Congress over that line –

or all of Wikipedia in one second.

If you used the line to stream music, you'd get about 120,000 hours of music per second.

If the routers and switches are all upgraded, using current technology, the line should be able to hit 100 TBps, almost 15 times faster than its initial configuration.

In a surprise move last week, Facebook announced that it had invested in the Asia Pacific Gateway project. As far as anyone knows, this is the first time Facebook has bought into a backbone.



**A STREAMER'S DREAM:** With speeds of almost 7 terabytes per second, the Asia-Pacific Gateway will allow eight countries along the North Pacific's western border to share funny cat pictures faster than ever before.

That's 1.8 million hours of audio recordings per second.

In a surprise move last week, Facebook announced that it had invested in the Asia Pacific Gateway project. As far as anyone knows, this is the first time Facebook has bought into a backbone cable.

Google's been doing it for years, simultaneously increasing bandwidth for internet users all over the world, ensuring good connections for its own servers, and turning a healthy profit at the same time. But this is a first for Facebook.

Other major investors: China Telecom and China Unicom (two of the biggest phone companies in the world) China Mobile, LG Uplus, NTT Communications, StarHub, Vietnam Post & Telecom. That makes for a bit of

a strained relationship, because Facebook is still banned in China.

The major contractor is Malaysia's Time dotCom, which is the parent company of Global Transit. NEC is supplying most of the material and technology.

The APG has been in the planning stages for a long time; the investors first started talking in May, 2009. The main impediment to getting the agreement together: finding investors... and China. The APG didn't get landing rights in China until last December.

I've looked all over the web, and can't find any reference to Thailand's plans for the Songkhla connection.

Last year, Thailand completed a major connection in Songkhla on the TIS (Thailand-Indonesia-Singapore) underwater fiber cable.

That line runs from Songkhla to Singapore and then Bataam. It has a capacity of 30 gigabits per second, which is just a tiny fraction of the amount of traffic the APG will carry. It's my understanding that the TIS line in Songkhla feeds directly into the major switches in Bangrak. There's no direct link to Phuket, or anywhere in the south.

Songkhla is also in the plans for the Southeast Asia Japan Cable, or SJC, a 10,700 km, 15 terabits per second underwater fiber cable

running through Japan, China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Singapore. Google is a major investor in the SJC. Construction on the cable started in April 2011, and it's planned to be onstream in the second half of 2013. (15 terabits is about one-quarter as fast as the APG's 7 terabytes per second.)

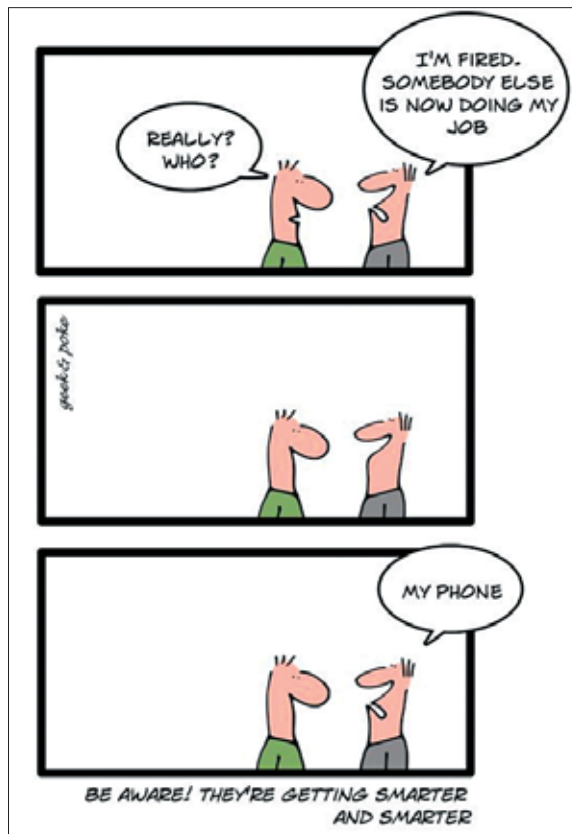
I think it's unlikely that we'll get a direct link to the Songkhla APG or SJC drop points from Phuket.

We'll no doubt have to contend with (and get throttled by) the internet service providers' facilities in Bangrak. Even so, the additional bandwidth means that Thailand's not going to run out of data pipes soon.

Current plans put the AGP online in the third quarter of 2014. The people behind the cable have a good track record, so it's likely that we'll have significantly more international capacity by the middle of 2013, and a whole lot more at the end of 2014 – as long as our Internet Service Providers are willing to pay for access.

*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.*



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❖ Translations



# The alternative gold rush

## Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

WITH all the economic strife the world has seen over the past 12 months, I feel as if I've turned into a portrayer of doom. So, I'm taking the doom gloves off and jumping on the feel good train, which seems to have hit the European markets this last couple of weeks.

I'm not saying that the problems have gone, far from it, but at least wheels have been put in motion that should stabilize the financial markets in the short term.

The Eurozone's agreement to further prop up the banking system has given us a small respite from all too familiar financial ruin stories.

However, one thing has come to my attention. Even through all this economic turmoil there are still a few decent bets out there that could potentially turn out a satisfactory profit.

The meteoric rise of the price of Gold over the last few years has been nothing short of astounding – however a correction does seem to be underway. Even though the price of Gold has risen sharply, one area that hasn't had the same turbo charged boost is the Gold mining companies. This now is beginning to look like a very attractive area for investment.

The graph on the right shows an example of how a selection of Gold mining companies have further lagged behind the physical gold price, and thus, this in itself provides an opportunity for

significant rises.

Gold mining stocks have taken a real hammering recently and there are clearly some valid reasons why you should be cautious about gold companies. Many of the major mining companies made a stupid decision a few years ago to hedge their reserves, by selling gold futures (contracts to deliver a certain amount of gold in the future). This locked them out of rising prices.

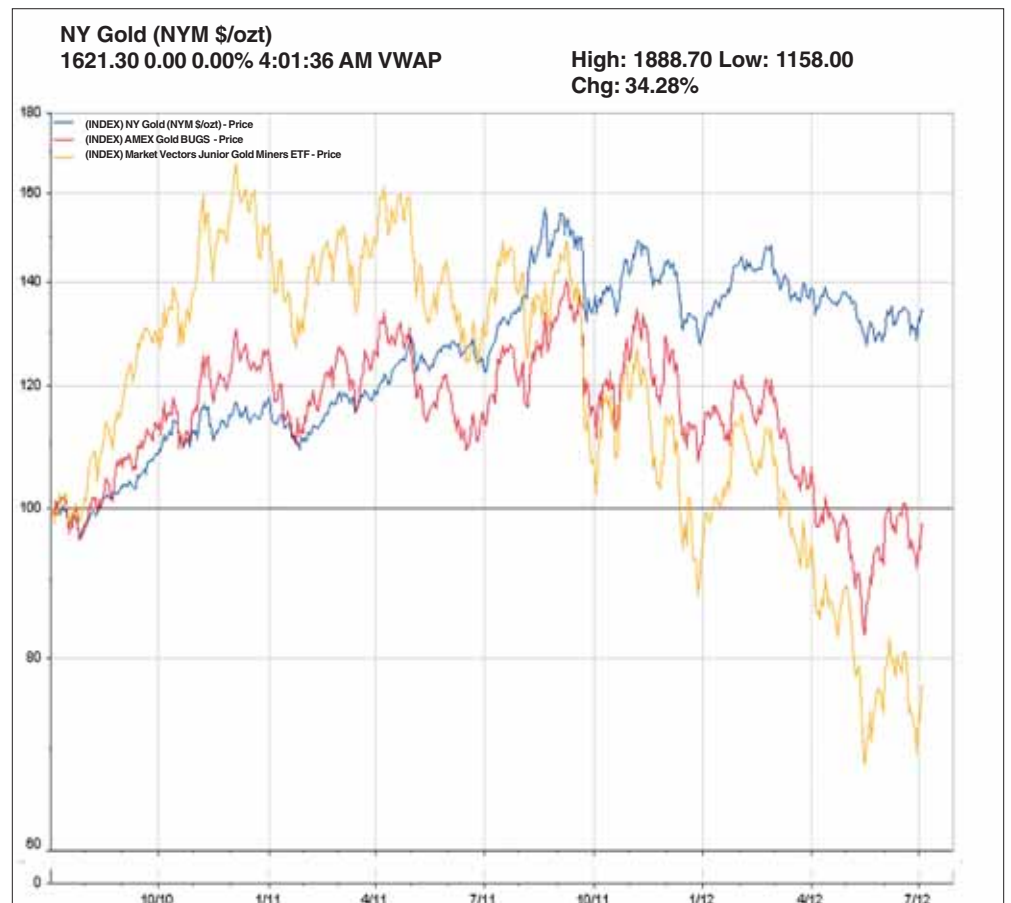
Also, Asian demand for gold, one of the key drivers of the soaring price, could be hit if China makes it harder to buy gold, or India imposes a rumoured tax on jewellery.

All this aside however, it would seem that since April, gold mining stocks, like other mining industry stocks, have underperformed the underlying metal.

In our view, this kind of under-performance is only partly explained by stock-specific issues and by a general trend towards higher industry costs. Despite rising industry costs, we have seen expanding margins in the gold industry, leading to significant improvements in return on equity for gold miners for the first time in many years.

There is an expected rebound in gold mining equities, as the gap between equities and the underlying metal has widened to unsustainable levels. Gold mining stocks are showing very attractive valuation fundamentals, with the market apparently ignoring current gold prices.

These attractive valuation fundamentals could herald an excellent buying opportunity in general. A potential near term re-rating of up to 20%, particularly for the



**ALL THAT GLISTERS:** This graph illustrates how a selection of gold mining companies have lagged behind the price of physical gold, representing a significant potential for investment.

larger gold players.

This is one area I'll certainly be keeping a close eye on, and in my view could potentially be a wise choice in helping a flagging portfolio get back on track.

For any information relating to Gold mining stocks please contact [Alyman@montpeliergroup.com](mailto:Alyman@montpeliergroup.com) Anthony Lyman is a Senior Financial Consultant with the Montpelier Group.

# APEC launches 2012 photography contest



2011 finalist: Solar energy panels in the Philippines. Photo Reynaldo C Mondez



2011 winner entitled "World-Wide". Photo Romeo B Doneza of the Philippines

THE Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat has extended an invitation to the region's photographers to submit pictures that best capture the organization's priorities.

The photos should be inspired by four themes:

- 1.) trade and investment liberalization, and regional economic integration;
- 2.) strengthening food security
- 3.) establishing reliable supply chains
- 4.) intensive cooperation to foster innovative growth.

These themes reflect the policy priorities that APEC has set for 2012.

"The photographic interpretation of APEC's work at the grassroots helps inform our decisions as we move towards a more integrated region," said Ambassador Muhammad Noor, Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat.

"Based on the outstanding photos we reviewed last year, I am confident that in 2012 we will see even more compelling visual representations of APEC's priority work areas."

The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers in APEC's 21 economies. Contestants can submit up to four entries during the submission period, which ends on August 1, 2012. Submitted photos must be the photographer's original work.

Those who wish to enter the

contest must submit the application and their photos to [contest@apec.org](mailto:contest@apec.org).

Three winning photos will be chosen by a panel of international judges including Eric Baradat, AFP Photo Editor-in-Chief (Worldwide); Vladimir Baranov, RIA Novosti's Head of Visual Information Department; Palani Mohan, Reportage by Getty Images Photographer; Ambassador Gennady Ovechko, Russian APEC Senior Official and Ambassador Muhammad Noor, the APEC Secretariat's Executive Director.

Over US\$ 5,000 will be awarded to the winners. Winning shots will be selected based on the quality of the photograph, composition, overall impact and artistic merit – as well as how well they exemplify APEC's 2012 priorities.

APEC Facebook fans will also have a chance to vote for their favorite photo under the Popular Choice category.

The public voting period begins on August 8, when the top ten photos will be displayed at [W:facebook.com/APECnews](http://W:facebook.com/APECnews). Public voting ends on August 22. The photo with the most votes on the APEC Facebook page will win US\$ 1,000.

The winners will be announced at the start of APEC Economic Leaders' Week on September 2, 2012 in Vladivostok, Russia.

For more information and submission details, please refer to the APEC 2012 Photo Contest website: ([apec.org/photocontest](http://apec.org/photocontest)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/APECnews](http://facebook.com/APECnews)).

– Phuket Gazette

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# Doctor's orders: Eat dark chocolate

**Chocolate makes you happy and you may feel even happier to know that a bar of dark chocolate can actually help prevent cardiovascular diseases.**

By Dr Sanya Thiengburanatham

SCIENTISTS have known for a long time about the protective effects of this "magic food" on atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries). I call it "magic food" because the full official name of the main component in dark chocolate is *Theobroma Cocoa* or "Food of God" – from the Greek words *theo* (God) and *broma* (drink).

Supposedly, cocoa has been considered for a long time beneficial for its effects on improving heart function, protecting coronary artery

disease, reducing insulin resistance, lowering blood pressure, and much more. The theory behind the serendipity of dark chocolate is its bioactive flavonoid substances – particularly their subclass, the flavanol compounds.

This food has a long history. The cocoa drink is one of the common beverages among a particular tribe in Panama. The Kuna Indians, islanders near the Panama Canal, habitually drink more than 4 to 5 cups of "unprocessed" cocoa every day. Surprisingly, most of the Kuna Indians have never had hypertension or cardiovascular disease. However, when some of them migrated to Panama

City, there were higher incidences of hypertension. This indicates that the normal blood pressure in this specific population should not be the result of their strong genetics *per se*, but the relevant lifestyles and environments instead. This fact underscores the importance of the "unprocessed" natural cocoa as a health food.

The above finding triggered some researchers to delve more into what is behind the chocolate serendipity. A lot of evidence points to a group of substances called flavanols.

In fact, the cardiovascular protective effect of a dark chocolate bar depends on how many flavanol compounds are within that bar. This means that just the darkness of chocolate should not automatically imply it has cardio protective properties.

Without enough flavanol content, eating the seemingly dark chocolate is futile for your health. Also, it is possible that cocoa may lose many of its flavanols during the manufacturing process before becoming commercial chocolate bars – the ones which contain sugar and milk in addition to just cocoa. Actually, it is the difference between the processed and unprocessed natural cocoa that



**BLACK MAGIC:** A mere percentage of high cocoa content, say more than 50 per cent, has nothing to do with the actual amount of flavanols at all. Photo: John Loo

renders the commercial chocolate less beneficial to cardiovascular health.

But what are these "magic" flavanol compounds?

Flavanols are a subset of a larger family of substances called flavonoids, which can be found in many "healthy-heart" beverages

such as tea and red wine. It is these flavanol compounds that give chocolate a bitter taste – which is why most manufacturers try to process natural cocoa into a sweet confection that virtually destroys these compounds.

Flavanol rich compounds exert their effects via the mechanism involving nitric oxide production. Nitric oxide (NO) has long been known for its strong anti-atherosclerotic activity on the vascular wall. One of the main actions of

NO is to prevent platelet aggregation and vascular endothelial dysfunction – the precondition for atherosclerotic development.

Therefore, in theory, dark chocolate, which is high in flavanol compounds, should mitigate atherosclerotic cardiovascular risks by reducing oxidative stress in the cardiovascular system.

Actual clinical benefits of flavonoids are mundane and have been published for more than two decades. In 2008 cardiovascular research, found protective effects of cocoa on cardiovascular disease through antioxidant mechanisms and inhibitory action

against thrombin on the vascular wall. One study showed dark chocolate improves coronary vascular functions, increases the diameter of coronary arteries and reduces platelet aggregation via its antioxidant properties.

Abnormal platelet function is a hallmark of atherosclerotic disease

A mere percentage of high cocoa content, say more than 50 per cent, has nothing to do with the actual amount of flavanols at all. One should not rely only on the cocoa percentage in the chocolate for its cardiovascular preventive effects. We need to stress more the percentage of the

actual compounds – the flavanols. In particular, the Kuna Indians living in Panama City who consume commercial chocolate have a normal incidence of hypertension similar to other populations around the globe; in stark contrast to those who continue to consume natural cocoa with its extraordinarily high flavanols.

Unfortunately, most commercial chocolate products do not reveal the actual flavanol contents on their packages.

Most up-to-date studies do not

specify anything about the exact flavanol content in their clinical trials.

Lack of well-controlled clinical and experimental data undermine the justification of consuming dark chocolate as a standard public health policy.

More in-depth and strictly controlled studies are needed to better define the potential of this divine food.

Dr.Sanya Thiengburanatham is an experienced academic and Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgeon. Currently, he works at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. He can be contacted at [sanya\\_theing@yahoo.com](mailto:sanya_theing@yahoo.com).



**FIXING BROKEN HEARTS:** Dr Sanya himself enjoys dark chocolate and good wine in moderation. Photo: Marc Mulloy



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## A black and silver camcorder is shown from a three-quarter front view. It features a large lens on the left and a viewfinder on the right. Two circular logos with the letters 'KTV' in blue and red are visible: one on the lens barrel and one on the side of the camcorder's body. The device has various buttons and controls on the front and side.

**90.5 FM**

# Phuket Gazette

The Gazette is everywhere. Are you in it?





# From Yala to 'la la la'

Phuket-based diva, and recent Thailand's Got Talent sensation tells her story to the *Phuket Gazette*.

WARUNEE 'Gig' Suwannurak is no ordinary singer. Her powerful delivery of Pink's (rendition of) *What's Up* in the first round of Thailand's Got Talent competition received a rapturous applause from the spellbound audience.

One of the three judges proclaimed: "This woman will go on to win."

Within hours of the show, word spread like wildfire about the talent of this unassuming 32-year-old woman from the South who had little education.

The TGT organizers clearly wanted to play on Warunee's humble background to capture the audience's imagination. And the ploy worked. The subsequent short clip of her performance posted by fans on YouTube warranted as many as two million views within one week.

Her overnight success didn't last very long. In the weeks that followed, the blogosphere began to dig up her past – tabloid style.

They quickly found out that she had a *farang* boyfriend and that she had been abroad, (as a picture of her frolicking in the Danish snow showed) and began to question if she was the poor girl they made her out to be.

"I kept myself in for a few days because I couldn't face the world," she says, and proceeds to tell her side of the story.

Born and raised in Yala, Warunee left school at the age of 12 and spent a large part of her teenage years working as a cleaner; her parents couldn't afford to pay school fees for all their five children.

Having always been a keen singer, Warunee found her voice at the age of 18 when she joined a small band that performed in hotels and bars along the border town of Betong in Narathiwat province.

Though understanding little English, she did try her hand at singing English songs by

mimicking the sounds made by other singers, at first with disastrous results.

"I was so embarrassed I promised myself to learn English," she recalls.

A failed marriage and one daughter later, Warunee came to Phuket with another band in 2008. The income from singing in hotels and bars, she recalls, was sporadic at best.

But Phuket may have proved to be her blessing. Things were looking up when she met her Danish partner Soeren, and her new life came complete with a nice house with a pool and zippy little car.

"My life changed after meeting Soeren. I couldn't ask for a better partner. He is very supportive of my singing.

The accusations that I am well-to-do were not exactly true. I may live a better lifestyle now but I don't own all these material comforts. What's more, my father still works as a construction worker."

So she continues to sing in bars and nightclubs around the island and goes to adult education classes all the while nursing a desire to become a professional singer.

Her first real break came in April, when she passed the first round audition for 2012 Thailand's Got Talent. She is now among 36 finalists who will battle it out for the semifinal later this month.

This time, she will sing Adele's famous *Rolling in the Deep*. She is working very hard to get the pronunciation right and also trying to learn the meaning of the lyrics.

"I will need all the votes from the people of Phuket. I am nervous but deep down I so want to win. My dream is to become a respectable, professional singer. If I win I still want to buy that house for my parents." The semifinal will be aired live on July 29.

– Nanthapa Pengkasem



CHASING THE DREAM: Warunee performs on stage with her Phuket band.



FOREVER YOUNG: Warunee, 32, joined her first band at 18, following a difficult childhood.



## FARANG FOOD PARADISE

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Gig's life changed for the better after meeting her partner and going abroad.



# Raise up your glasses (and your expectations)

By Marc Mulloy

RECENTLY, the owner of the Wine Lovers wine shop in Chalong asked me to assist at a wine tasting with a different twist. Instead of comparing the merits of the wines, we were to compare the various merits of the wine glasses themselves – a “glass” tasting.

Now, I am aware of the almost mystical properties that some glassware is purported to have and how it is designed to bring out the best in certain grape varieties, but I must admit to being a little skeptical.

To prove the theory at this event we performed what could be best described as a scientific experiment, complete with wine glasses in place of beakers and fine wines instead of chemical solutions. Remember kids, don't try this at home.

On the table in front of us were a clear plastic cup and five numbered wine glasses, each a different shape and size, and . Four of the glasses contained wine – two reds, two whites.

We were first instructed to taste a rather good Riesling from glass number two – no problems there and happy to

**LUXURY**  
living

oblige. We were then to pour the same contents into the empty “joker” glass (number one) and repeat the tasting. The difference

was outstanding. The wine's bouquet had disappeared and the taste had completely changed – yet the wine itself was the same one. Eureka! We had just discovered the secret of grape varietal glasses made by the Riedel company in Austria.

The Riedel family business has been making glasses for over 250 years, with 11 generations keeping it going from strength to strength.

More than 50 years ago Professor Claus Riedel first recognized that the bouquet, taste, balance and finish of wines were somehow affected by the shape of the glass from which they were consumed and thus began his pioneering work to create glasses that match and complement specific wines and spirits.

In the late 1950s, Riedel

started to produce glasses which, at that time, were a design revolution, made according to the Bauhaus principle of form following function.

As our experiment continued we discovered that the Riedel glasses gave each wine variety more depth and a better balance than when served in the standard ‘joker’ glass or the dreaded plastic cup.

Riedel's VP of sales and marketing (Asia), Frantz Dumey, then told us to pour the different wines into different Riedel glasses that were not specific to the wine we were tasting – in this case the Pinot Noir into the Chardonnay glass.

Again the wine's taste was completely altered, thus proving again that Riedel glasses did indeed improve the wine's taste. The wine displayed completely different characteristics when served in mismatched glasses.

Frantz Dumey explained why the glasses were different from each other: “Each varietal has a different DNA, so if the wine is acidic, like a Pinot Noir from Burgundy, then you would not want the wine to flow to the acidic sensors of your palate – you'd want it on the sweet part to get more balance. Likewise, if you had a Cabernet Sauvignon, which is more tannic, you would not want the wine to flow over the tongue in the same way. A wine's bouquet, taste, balance and finish are all affected by the shape of the glass it is consumed from. Also ‘size matters’, and the volume of air present affects the taste as well.”

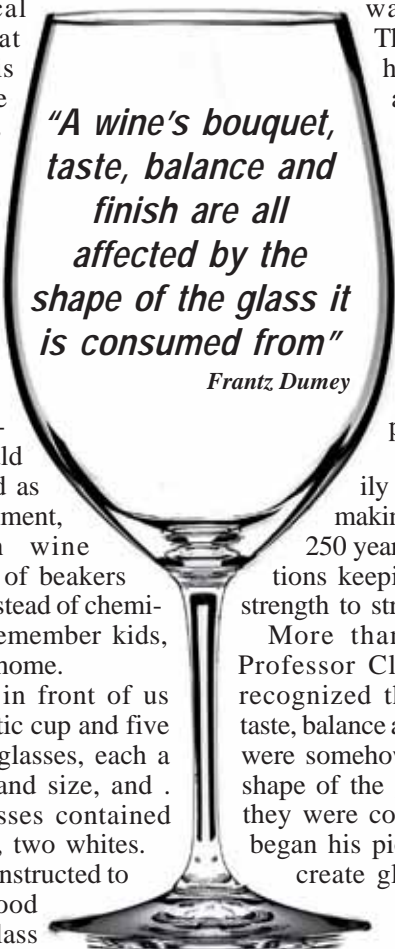
When asked how one could recognize a Riedel glass from another brand he pointed to the small engraving at the base of each glass. A distinctive Riedel signature is now featured on the base of all hand-made products made in Austria. The machine-blown version has a the Riedel name engraved with a modern typography.

No longer a skeptic I now own a set of these glasses which are only available at selected department stores and shops (Central Festival and Wine Lovers in Phuket).

With the price of a good bottle of wine being what it is here, it made sense to me to invest in the very equipment that will do it justice. Oh, and by the way, forget what I wrote earlier. This is an experiment you really should try at home.

*“A wine's bouquet, taste, balance and finish are all affected by the shape of the glass it is consumed from”*

Frantz Dumey



SIZE MATTERS: Italthai sales executive, Bejawan Srisawat, holds up an oversized wine glass (not made by Riedel) at a recent event. Photos: Marc Mulloy



CRYSTAL CLEAR: Riedel's VP of sales and marketing (Asia), Frantz Dumey proves that Riedel wine glasses improve the taste of wines.



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More information on Riedel glasses can be found at W: riedel.com.



# The other way around

## A Phuket resident's holiday in mother Russia



THE 'IN' CROWD: Impersonators of Joseph Stalin and Vladimir Lenin, two iconic communist leaders, sit together and pose for passing tourists. Photos Alastair Carthew

By Alastair Carthew

MY wife and I flew to Russia to see British rockers Queen live in concert and to visit Moscow and St Petersburg, with a 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary trip thrown in.

St Petersburg, the world's northernmost major city, is a beautiful, historic city with only 35 rain free days a year. Situated in Russia's far north-west, temperatures range between [7-15C] in June, the start of Russia's brief summer. The St Petersburg summer lasts only about three months before the autumn Arctic winds breeze in. The temperature in Moscow was better [27C], but can reach -40C in winter. However, Russia does have marvellously long summer twilights, something sadly missing from Phuket because of its geographical location.

Phuket's "summer" season reaches temperatures of 28-30C and judging by how busy our flight back was, many Russians still come here in their summer, our "winter".

The stunning Summer Palace, or "The Hermitage" in St Petersburg, is a beautiful former imperial home of the Czars dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century; a living museum brimming with Renoirs, Goyas, Picassos, gilded ceilings and echoes of Russia's rich, violent and tragic history. It is a wonder of the world.

The Summer Palace and the Kremlin in Moscow are absolute 'must visits'. Phuket's Bangla Road by comparison is a miss. Phuket has a number of wats and the Big Buddha, but for culture vultures Russia wins hands down. Not that all Russians come here for the cultural experience – beaches, babes and body rubs are more like it.

The Russians would appreciate Phuket's more relaxed [although not always successful, as locals know] approach to security. We stayed in a ritzy area in Moscow and felt pretty safe. But pick pocketing is rife in the major cities. Security guards are everywhere, usually middle aged men smoking and looking totally bored. Thai security guards in comparison don't look so bored but may be asleep.

An over zealous security guard politely ordered us to stop taking a perfectly innocent photograph of a site close to a restaurant. Russians are a particularly suspicious lot compared to the more open minded Thais. A suspected hang-over from the not lamented Communist days.

So, the burning question is do Russians act the same way in their home country as they do as tourists on Phuket? Not much. Smiling, it seems, unlike the Thais, is not a major past time in Russia. Also, some Russian tourists here unfortunately have reputations as vodka swigging room wreckers. In Russia we saw some vodka swigging in the streets, but no more drinking in public than any other big city. It is more the Russian brusque manner, impatience to get things done and the harshness of the language that, if you like, impacts the sensibilities.

But, like most people who are asked for help by a lost looking tourist, Russians are helpful, if abrupt. Their directions technique is a little like the Thais, a finger pointing vaguely to a direction on the compass and then you are on your own. Certainly signage in Thailand is better than in Russia. Try the Moscow underground and see if you emerge three days later! No English, all in indecipherable Russian. Even the local media were urging the addition of English names.

Living conditions between Russians and Thais on Phuket are very different too. The vast majority of Russians live in drab, multi-storied slabs of apartment

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A cartoon illustration of a man with a mustache, wearing a red shirt, sitting and reading a newspaper titled "Phuket Gazette". He is holding a sandwich in his other hand. The background is a simple yellow and red design.


The Gum Department Store, once famous for its empty shelves during Communist times is now a glittering array of up-market shops.



blocks. Very Stalinist era, some of them. The traditional open windowed, cool Phuket houses surrounded by lush tropical vegetation must look awfully inviting to your average Muscovite or Petersburger (yes, that's what they're called).

So what type of Russian can afford to come here? We observed an abundance of conspicuous wealth – if the array of very expensive cars was an indication. There is a vibrant middle class born out of the oil and gas boom of recent years. Even prices at a local “hot” restaurant matched the top class five-star hotel prices on Phuket. These, you would think, are the staple Russian tourists to Phuket. In fact, while the upper middle class may stay at Phuket's five-

star hotels, many Russians on the Thai Airways plane coming home indicated a far broader section of Russian society. Not all Russian tourists are wealthy.

How is Phuket promoted to the Russians? The only evidence of Phuket tourism we saw throughout our stay was a beautiful beach scene on a poster on the wall of one of Moscow's trendiest and most expensive restaurants advertising Anantara Hotels. Outside the restaurant, Harley Davidsons, Maseratis, and Mercedes were parked as the beautiful people took Sunday lunch. Excellent targeted marketing by Anantara. I am sure the Tourism Authority of Thailand is doing other things, but this was publicity for an up-market Phuket resort chain at its best.



**LADA LOVE:** Ladas were mass produced in Russia and Eastern Europe during the last two decades of the Soviet era.

# Let me see your hands

By Chris Hudon

BEING that this is one of the most powerful guns in the world and it would blow your head clean off, you've gotta ask yourself one question, “Do I feel lucky?”

“Well do ya...punk?”

This dialogue runs through my mind, over and over again as a flurry of flying paintballs go whizzing past my head.

We had gone for a day of paintball fun at the Phuket Shooting Range in Chalong and came away with the very real sensation of having been in a war zone.

Now, this wasn't exactly real war correspondence *per se*, but it was about as close as I think I'd like to get in the near future.

We were given red “referee” jer-

seys by the staff, in order to be identified as ‘non-combatants’, while shooting photographs during the battles. The red shirts didn't set us apart from the chaos.

We followed a group of five players, two tourists, who were on leave from a school in Cheltenham, England, and three locals. They played several games of “free for all” (whichever team kills all of the other team wins) three to one side and two to the other.

Before the action started referees sprayed us down with mosquito repellent for safety, given the recent cases of Dengue fever.

But, no amount of mosquito repellent can stop a paintball and

thus none of us were truly safe.

“It was great fun mate,” said Barama Thephabuttra, 17, a Chalong native.

“I just wish I had gotten Chang more,” says Duncan Jaques as the boys joke around between rounds. Duncan is a 17-year-old Englishman on holiday from school with Barama and their friends from school in Cheltenham.

If you haven't seen paintball played up close, most of the time people are just hiding behind a barrel, hanging on for dear life and shooting sporadically in between. Slowly a head peaks up from behind the fence and...“bang”.

Chang learned a valuable lesson early on that he shouldn't run out into the open. The only quote we got from him was, “I'm shot, I'm shot...stop shooting me already (expletive)!”

The cost of play is around 900 baht for 50 paintballs and 590 baht for each additional set of 50 paintballs. The downside to me seemed the amount of ammunition you get.

The few times I played back home in America it was more on the order of 250 paintballs per session. Other than that, the guides were pretty knowledgeable and the lower amount of ammunition requires players to aim more accurately and conserve.

If you are going to play paintball it's best with a larger group according to the operators – around 6-12 people. Also, know that paintballs DO hurt when they hit you. At the shooting range they provide you with a mesh covering over your mid-section but you will no doubt come away with a few welts.

All in all it's a great way to spend Sunday off with your friends. What's better than shooting at your mate – knowing it can't hurt him that bad?



**REACH FOR THE SKY:** Chang calls out his surrender after a failed attempt to run from one hiding place to another. Photos Chris Hudon; Isaac Simonelli



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# Present at the creation

CAROLE King is a 70-year-old grandmother with four adult children from two of her four husbands.

At age 48, she took up with a 27-year-old actor and kept him for six years before swapping him for another younger man for another seven.

She did this because she could. She is Carole King.

For the 25 million people who bought her classic 1971 album *Tapestry* she will always be the 29-year-old hippie chick on the record cover, posed with her cat on the sunlit windowsill of her home in Laurel Canyon, the LA haven for musicians in the 1960s.

But her roots as a pop music composer went back to Brooklyn in the 1950s. She was one of those impossibly bright Jewish kids hooked on radio disc jockey Alan Freed and his Saturday rock shows at the old Paramount Theater.

She knew Paul Simon and Neil Sedaka when they were kids. She was still in high school when she began pounding out hit songs on a Tin Pan Alley piano with husband-to-be Gerry Goffin.

When her husband cracked up, she uprooted herself to Los Angeles as a single mom where, under the tutelage of James

Her prose is distressingly formal and flaccid. She dishes no dirt. Her take on meeting with John Lennon and Paul McCarthy and Bob Dylan is that of a gushing fan.

## Books

By James Eckardt

Taylor, she began singing in front of an audience. *Tapestry* won four Grammys, including Album of the Year.

Now we have Carole King's memoir, *A Natural Woman* (Grand Central Publishing, New York, 2012, 488pp). She began writing it in 2000. The results – short chapters like songs clumsily hooked together and jumping from subject to subject – are mixed.

Her prose is distressingly formal and flaccid. She dishes no dirt. Her take on meeting with John Lennon and Paul McCarthy and Bob Dylan is that of a gushing fan.

Where she does come into her own is describing the joys of a musician's life: the magic of a band of "cats" fusing together in the studio and on the concert stage. She describes the first time she and James Taylor jammed together on piano and guitar:

"Magical...? Transformative...? Timeless...? Adjectives fall short. It was as if I were playing an extension of myself. Every time I thought of a chord

or note that I wanted James to play or sing at that moment, he was already there. Our musical vocabulary was the same, and we found that we had an impeccable vocal blend. Piano, guitar, chords, notes and vocal harmonies rolled around each other like puppies playing in a pile of newly cut grass."

Then, in 1977, she retreated to the wilds of Idaho with Rick Evers, her abusive third husband who would eventually die of a cocaine overdose.

She spent three winters in a snowed-in cabin. In the end, music brought her back to New York City and she went back on tour.

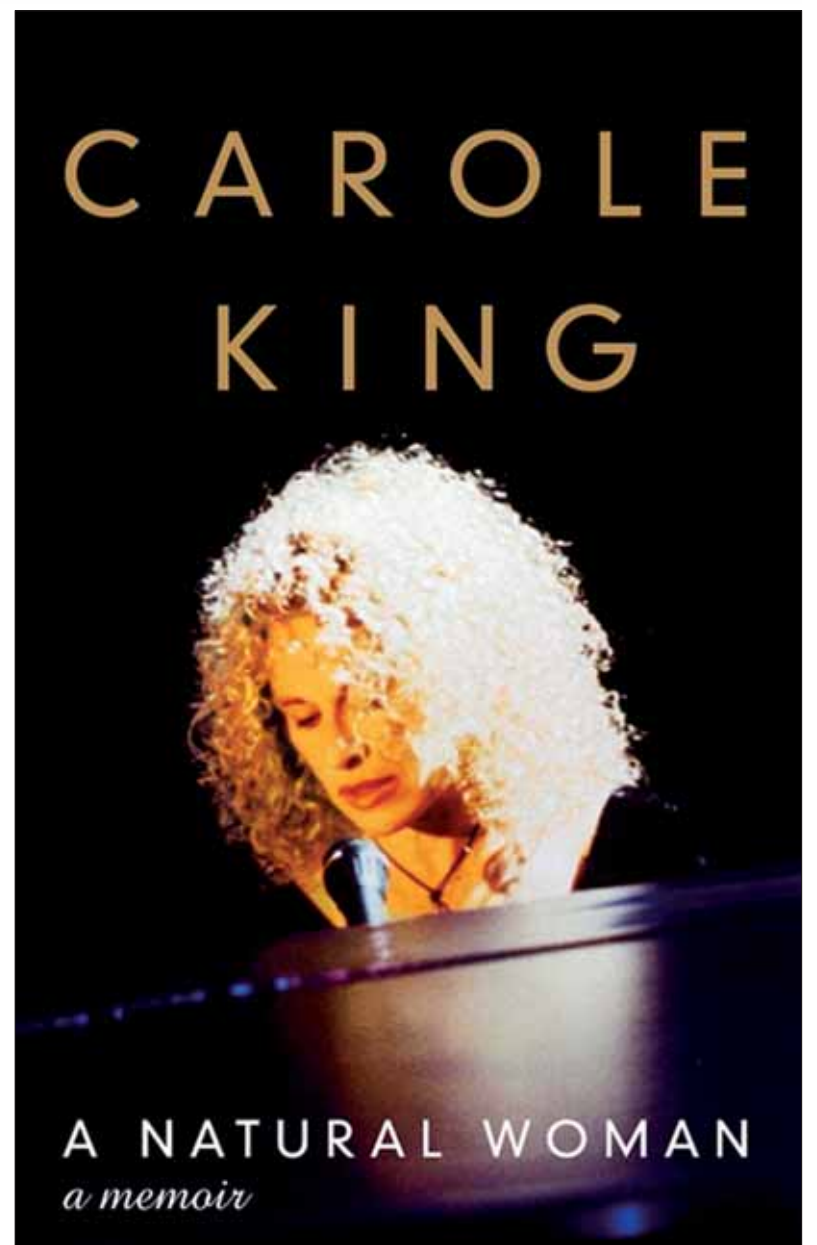
"I climbed up on the piano to propel the band as they increased the intensity of the Big Rock Ending, then I gave them a cutoff by jumping off the piano. That was so much fun it should have been illegal."

But the dull patches in this saga come to overwhelm the whole.

Do we really need a whole chapter about her tiresome Indian swami? Do we need a chapter devoted to her favorite charities? Or another to her protracted lawsuit to keep the road on her Idaho ranch private?

Health food, yoga, home schooling, a goat for milk – the hippie chick ethos is complete. There's nothing wrong with this except it makes for deadly boring reading.

In the concert scene that concludes her memoir, she reminds



WILL YOU STILL READ ME TOMORROW?: Carole King's autobiography dwells on little, covers too much and includes a goat.

herself that the audience's applause isn't only for her.

"They're clapping for significant events in their own lives that have little to do with me – falling in love, marching for peace, dancing at friends' weddings, serving in Vietnam or the Peace Corps, losing a parent, conceiving a child, going through a difficult divorce – passages for

which my songs happened to be the soundtrack. I'm surprised to see so many audience members in their thirties and forties, but it's my contemporaries who are most enthusiastic in celebration of our shared history and individual survival."

That pretty much says it all. Carole King is a voice limited to a soon-to-be-bygone generation.

## DVDs to keep the kids happy

**Neverland - The Complete Series (PG)**

THIS two-part feature-length story precludes the tale of Peter Pan. It tells how a London street urchin became the Boy Who Never Grew Up and how Captain Hook became his arch enemy in the magical world of fairies and Indians.

*Starring: Rhys Ifans, Anna Friel, Charles Dance, Bob Hoskins, with Charlie Rowe as Peter and Keira Knightley as the voice of Tinker Bell.*



**Jubilee Paddington In London (U)**

RELEASED for the royal jubilee celebrations in the UK, these 12 adventures feature the accident-prone bear from Peru who is found at Paddington train station by the Brown family.

His curiosity and love of marmalade sandwiches soon get him into all sorts of trouble, much to the consternation of Mr Brown. Narrated by Michael Hordern.

**The Muppets (U)**

THE Muppets must reunite to save their old studio.

With the help of new friends Walter, Gary (Segel) and Mary (Adams), Kermit gets the band back together for one more show to stop a ruthless oil baron (Cooper) from tearing the studio down so he can drill for oil. *Starring: Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Chris Cooper Kermit, Miss Piggy, Animal, Gonzo and the rest of the gang.*



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# Premchit Prateap Na Thalang

PREMCHIT Prateap Na Thalang hails from a historic and illustrious Phuket family that counts the two famed heroines – Thao Thep Kasatri and Thao Sri Sunton, who led a small group of men to save Thalang from the invading Burmese army in 1785 – as their own. When the first *farang* working for the British East India Company set foot on Phuket, it was these very same people who traded precious wood, spices, aromatic oils and herbs with them.

Over time, Premchit's ancestors accumulated expertise and knowledge of the nutritional and medicinal properties of indigenous plants, and passed this heritage down to their descendants.

Premchit, 46, the attractive woman behind Na Thalang Secret Restaurant, talks passionately about her love and appreciation for exotic rainforest plants and her ancestral cuisine. Growing up in Phang Nga, Premchit says she often accompanied her father – a knowledgeable traditional herbalist – on foraging trips into the nearby rainforest as early as age five.

"I am not quite sure why my father picked me over the other ten siblings. It was a kind of grudge to begin with, but then the outings started to grow on me, turning into adventures during which I learned forest survival skills such as where to find potable water and how to

## THAI gallery By Nanthapa Pengkasem

distinguish edible plants from poisonous ones."

Coming back from the rainforest, her mother would in turn teach Premchit how to prepare and transform the forest bounty into ambrosia and elixir, all the while instilling in the young girl the virtues and properties of aromatic, edible and medicinal flora.

Those valuable lessons in the ancient techniques of alchemy and suffusing plants so that dishes derived from them nourish the body and feed the mind, stayed firmly planted in Premchit's psyche. She longed to share this very special cuisine with others.

After finishing her degree in English and seven years working as a branch manager for an international food company in Bangkok, during which time she was sent for training in Chicago, Premchit and her Australian husband came upon a very special enterprise.

"I was always pestering Norman about my wish to open a restaurant, but he remained unconvinced. Then eventually he came up with the idea of a mobile secret restaurant. This concept is being practiced in many big cities around the world

where chefs serve special dinners at different venues that are usually not in actual restaurants. Everything is kept secret to add the element of surprise – the menu, guest list and the venue," explains Premchit.

The couple organized a dozen Na Thalang Secret Dinners in Bangkok to great success, and since the family moved to Phuket earlier this year, they have been hosting Na Thalang Secret Dinners island-wide.

At present, diners have a chance to try out Premchit's ancestral southern Siamese cuisine at Aleenta, Sala and Trisara resorts, and at exclusive dinners in private residences.

Dishes served at Na Thalang Secret Dinners are designed by Premchit to reflect the southern flavors enjoyed by her forebears going as far back as 200 years. The menu is different each time but one similarity remains: the use of wild and fresh ingredients from the local rainforest and the sea, cooked according to Premchit's secret ancestral recipes. The sumptuous six-course dinner menu usually includes canapés, old-fashioned and tonifying aperitifs, entrées and dessert, all paired with a suitable choice of wine.

"Prepare to be transported back in time and experience unique cuisine fused with wild aromas and distinct flavors. This is genuine southern Siamese food as you have never tasted before," promises Premchit.



### 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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**WELCOME TO THE FUTURE:** The Future Condo on Chao Fa Road East recently held its Grand Opening.



**THREE CHEERS:** Anantara Phuket Villas' resident Wine Guru, Chalong Songkroh has won Thailand's Best Sommelier Competition 2012. From left are Andrew Turner, GM Anantara Phuket Villas, Chalong Songkroh and Jintana Mahattanapak, director of human resources.



**DELICIOUS:** A Rosemount wine dinner held at the Renaissance Hotel included (from left) Plalida Khamson, GM Jason Nuell and Sirisawan Hemtanont.



**APART FROM ART:** Robin Gillow (left) with daughter Mia (center) and fellow artist Libby Harrison at Oceans Apart opening at Villa Royale Gallery



**JUMPING FOR JOY:** The Sharp family recently organized a fun-filled charity sports outing and lunch for 18 orphans from Home & Life foundation at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC).



**CLEAN BREAK:** Andara Resort and Villas GM Daniel Meury and his staff collected 50 bags of trash from Kamala beach.





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## Fifth Multihull Regatta Party



**WINNING SMILES:** The final day and overall series winners were presented with prizes at the closing party hosted by Serenity Resort & Residences in Rawai, Phuket. See page 48 for more information.



**FAMILY AFFAIR:** The crew of the Da Vinci receive their kudos. Photos Marc Mulloy and Tony Pope



**DONE DEAL:** Serenity Resort GM Urs Aebiand and event organizer Grenville Fordham.

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**8<sup>th</sup>** The Junior Dublin Literary Awards  
for Thailand 2011/2012

Theme:

# "My Biggest Decision"

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- This contest is open to all Thai students aged 14-18 years
- All entries must be in English
- Essays must be written by the student and should not be edited by others
- The submission must be 800-1,200 words long
- Submissions will be accepted from July 15, 2012 until August 31, 2012
- The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 21 in Phuket and the authors will be asked to read their submission

## PRIZES

- 1 The Winning Author in each region will earn 10,000 baht and there are two Merit Awards per region of 5,000 baht each.
- 2 The Overall National Winner will receive 50,000 baht in cash.



*\*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry*

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

DublinAwards@PhuketGazette.Net

### OR MAIL TO:

The Phuket Gazette

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd., T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### July 18-22, 10:30am to 12:30am: Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek

Now in its ninth year, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek comprises four days of world-class yacht racing and four nights of beachside parties at the luxurious Cape Panwa Hotel – all captured for international TV broadcast to 140 million households. The regatta is run over six classes, including cruising and charter yachts. It's competitive, high-octane racing for the serious boats and fun courses around the islands for the less serious racers. The evening parties are legendary. According to one competitor, "It just gets better and better. It's my favorite. We're very lucky to have such a regatta at our doorstep." This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV

### July 21, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs!

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs 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 ourselves and in the bakery we bake all our own 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 info, please visit W: [twochefs.com](http://twochefs.com).

**July 23-27, 6 to 9pm: BBQ Lovers @ DiVine Restaurant**  
Sizzling BBQ with organic salad bar, pasta, side dishes and Monsoon Valley Wine. The cost is 550 baht per person for food only. It is 700 baht per person with one glass of Monsoon Valley Wine. BBQ with free flow of Monsoon Valley Wine is 900 baht per person. Prices subject to 10 per cent service charge and 7 per cent applicable government tax. For reservations, please contact DiVine restaurant.

### July 26, 6pm to 12am: Martini Manicure Ladies Night @ RE KA TA

Free express manicure for ladies. Free martini for ladies on arrival, and 50 per cent off drink list for everyone all night long. From 6pm to midnight – DJ tunes till late.

### July 26, 7 to 10:30pm: New Zealand Wine Dinner @ Mom Tri's Kitchen

Enjoy award winning New Zealand wines from Pegasus Bay, New Zealand. Mom Tri's Chef Darren Wiper and wine director Georges Ciret have created and expertly paired a 4-course dinner. The main course is: pork two ways – crisp braised belly on herb mash, tenderloin bacon and caramelized apple roulade with red cabbage and chanterelle, served with Pegasus Bay Pinot noir 2008. Price per guest is 1,800 baht (plus tax and service). Spaces are limited.

### Aug 2, 2012: Asarnha Bucha Day – Public Holiday

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. In Thailand this day is celebrated as a public holiday and many places will not serve alcohol.

### August 3, 7 to 11pm: Curry Fridays Phuket

We present Phuket Curry Fridays on every first and third Friday. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet every Friday. "Chicken Tikka Masala", very hot "Mutton Vindaloo", succulent Kebabs, Goan fish curry and much more... all served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett!

### August 4, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs!

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs 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 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.

### August 12: HM The Queen's Birthday

HM The Queen's Birthday is also marked as 'Mother's Day' in Thailand.

### August 13: HM The Queen's

26-29  
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**For more information see pg. 29**

### Birthday Substitution Day

This day is a public holiday in lieu of HM The Queen's birthday.

### August 16, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

The Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch will be held at Angsana in Laguna. All are welcome but prior registration is essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact [info@phuketiwc.com](mailto:info@phuketiwc.com).

### August 17-19, 9am to 12pm: Social Media Workshop for beginners

Want to learn how to use Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest to market your company, product or service? Join social media maven

Able Wanamakok in this workshop that is designed to help you with every question, problem or opportunity you may see with marketing on the social networks. We will cover the basics in a 3-day course at 3-4 hours per session. A fee is applied. To book your seat, email us at [info@awpr-phuket.com](mailto:info@awpr-phuket.com) today! Booking ends on August 16.

### August 18, 12 to 3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center. Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home-made delights. With a very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. For more info, please visit W: [twochefs.com](http://twochefs.com).

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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 - July 25, 1-3pm

Sandwich Shoppe Patong - Aug 1, 1-3pm

Contact at 076-282403, [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com) or visit [KhunWoody.com](http://KhunWoody.com)


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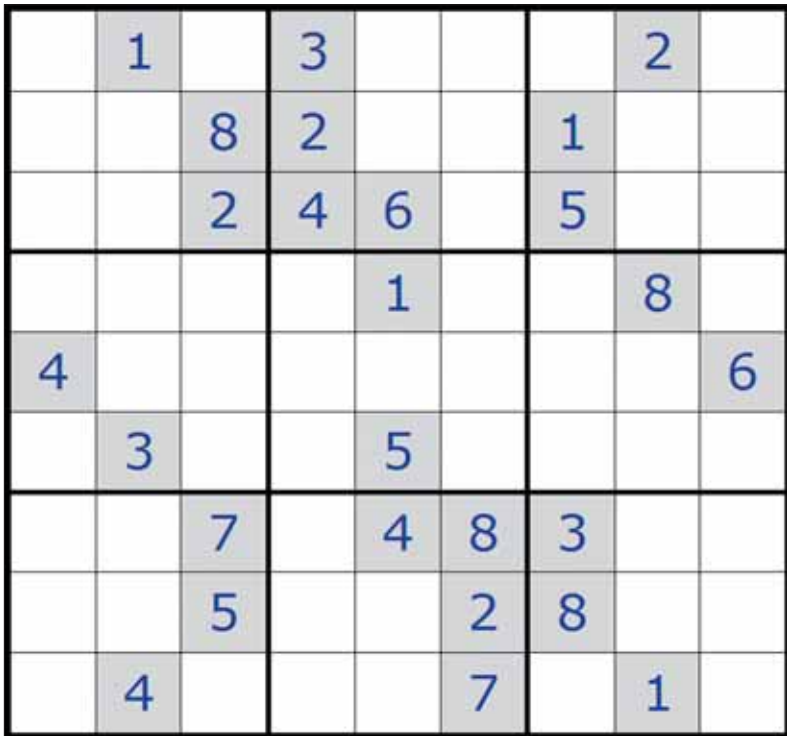
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**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

## COFFEE break

### Across:

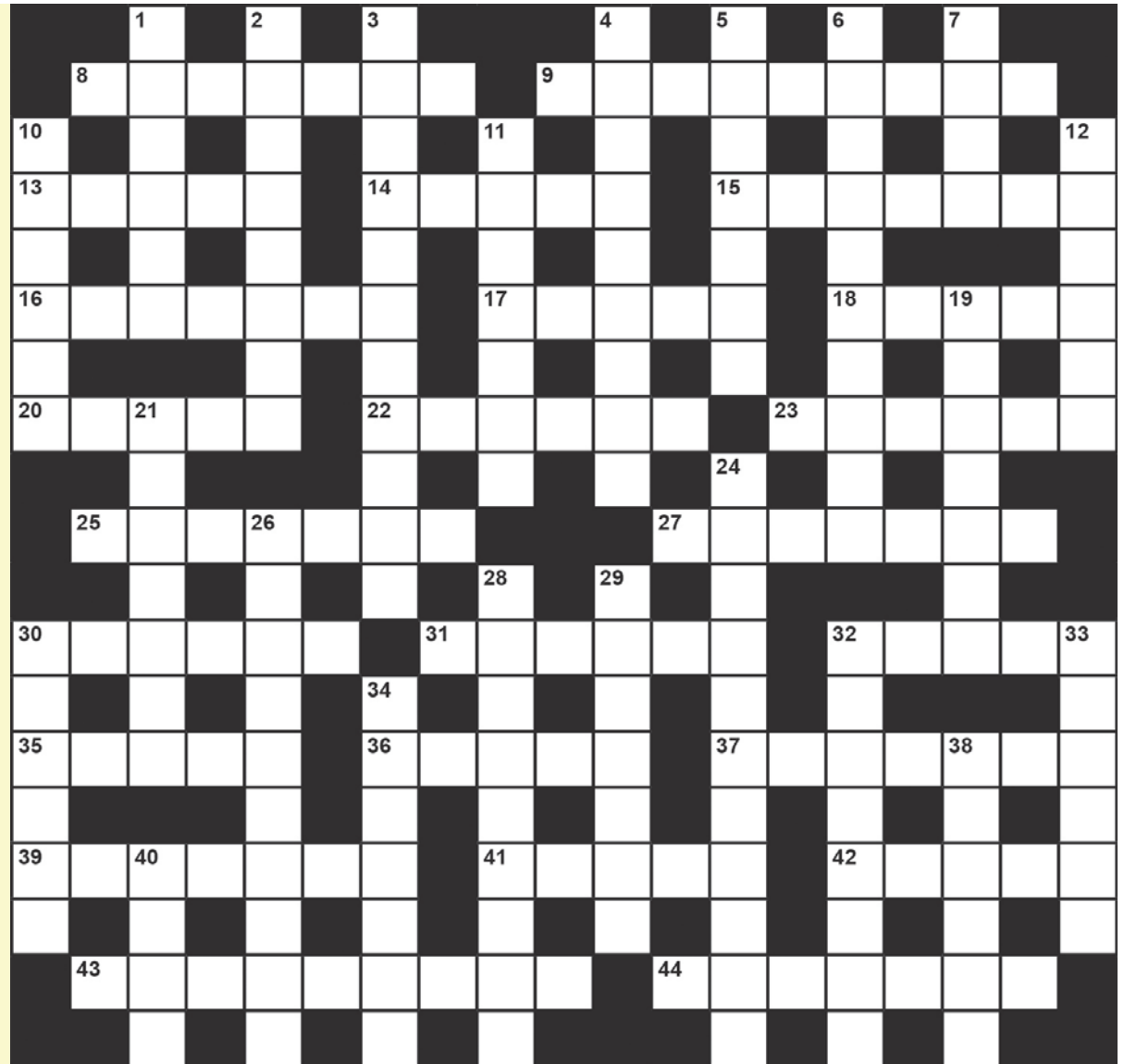
8. Unavoidable for sure (7)  
9. A Bali song performed in a Phuket entertainment district (3,6)  
13. Rested on the bottom, an arch-fiend (5)  
14. Plant about river bend (5)  
15. Rain led storm into island facing Atlantic (7)  
16. Round one litre crushed palm for old light (3,4)  
17. Flat in Nepal destroyed (5)  
18. Return it, the old contribution in kind (5)  
20. Rated unusual step (5)  
22. Unimpaired in diplomacy (6)  
23. Troubled, re-seen as unper-turbed (6)  
25. Desires to change lives (7)

27. Remark unfortunately not mine (7)

30. Shy fit could be evasive (6)  
31. Witch I cast out of Phuket area (6)  
32. Following in book at greater depth (5)  
35. Important person found on the ski-slope! (5)  
36. Tangled reed hides one duck (5)  
37. No night can come to naught (7)  
39. Possibly later editor changed (7)  
41. Not one tenor for the musical composition (5)  
42. Do air freely for the wireless (5)  
43. But in foul concoction more than ample (9)  
44. Pass on the Spanish military rank (7)

### Down:

1. Around the Northeast, till strange edible seed (6)  
2. Normal to maintain position on a road (8)  
3. Ardent followers hiding in



- forces to follow orders (11)  
4. Accents on changing girl's name (9)  
5. Made from gold, I be bound (7)  
6. In the event, mints new money put into shares (10)  
7. Leaf insect? (4)  
10. Rest uneasy about company guard (6)  
11. Without being affected by, pet dies anyhow (7)  
12. These days at this point stick

- firmly (6)  
19. Cultivate loftier clover, for example (7)  
21. Flattening out at the end of the day (7)  
24. Sited new race in place where sent (11)  
26. Bigoted! No, I let freely declaim wildly (10)  
28. Upsetting ending (7,2)  
29. Be quiet, a call is being allotted (7)  
30. South Australian complaint to

- Pacific islander (6)  
32. Immerse to personally clean space for the ablutions chamber (8)  
33. Move back and forth, go North in truck (6)  
34. Dirt Len moved from climbing plant support (7)  
38. In action, is that so? (6)  
40. Person used to circle left (4)

*This cryptic crossword was compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 43*

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



An awkward situation in the world of work is forecast to blow over early next week. Communication channels will open up during the last week of July, giving Leos ample opportunity to make important contacts. Those celebrating a birthday in the days ahead can look forward to a year filled with more romantic contentment. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday. Love with another fire sign is well starred this weekend.

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



Answers are blowing in the wind this week. The stars indicate that problems can be solved as long as you remain receptive to suggestions. Virgoans could find that estranged friends or family are prepared to build bridges – this weekend is an auspicious time to lay disagreements to rest. In the area of finances, there are hints that an investment possibility will no longer be worth consideration. Hot days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

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



In the world of work, another air sign is predicted to see the light. There are signs that your situation will be more secure at the end of July than it was

at the beginning. Where romance is concerned, your confidence shines this weekend. Those who have been aiming to impress an earth sign should see progress. If you are already spoken for, the stars advise finding a creative way to remind your partner why they are special.

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



More effort will be required from those born under the sign of Scorpio who want to make a lasting impression in the world of work. A fire sign is keen to get noticed before you are, and will do whatever it takes to make this happen. Your romantic interest in another water sign wanes when they let you down again, but a surprise encounter at the end of the month will compensate.

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



Sagittarians should guard against showing rebellion this week. The stars suggest that figures of authority will not respond well to being challenged. Keeping cool is the only approach to untangling a bureaucratic mess – Tuesday is the most auspicious day to find resolution. Your love life continues to flourish; another fire sign responds well to your charms this weekend. Lucky days for money matters are Tuesday and Wednesday.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

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



Unfinished business in the world of work could catch up with Capricorns by the end of July. Another earth sign is poised to help you tie up loose ends, but a water sign would like to turn the situation to their advantage. Personal relationships are well-starred and the stars suggest that new friendships are waiting to be made. Expect to be introduced to people who share your interests this weekend.

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



Emotions are forecast to run high at work this week. The stars advise that getting a second opinion before making commitments could prevent finding yourself in hot water. Family matters are well-starred; an earth sign relative appreciates you taking time out to help them this weekend. Romance with a water sign is looming on the horizon, but love-lorn Aquarians will need to be patient for a while longer.

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



You should have opportunity to show that there are more tools in your box this week. The month of July is forecast to end on a successful note, with emphasis on your work skills being better appreciated. Those in the market for a new job may be spoilt for choice. Where a potential relationship with another water sign is concerned, Pisceans are likely to learn they aren't the only fish in the sea.

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



Rumors should be taken with several pinches of salt this week. Those born under the sign of Aries who react on the spur of the moment will regret such actions. Personal finances fall under the spotlight towards the end of this month and the stars suggest that you might need to put pressure on another fire sign who owes you money. Best days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday.

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



Taking a breather on the sidelines allows Taureans to see what needs to be done next and realize that they are in control of their lives. Healing forces are

working on your behalf and the last week of July is an auspicious time to face up to issues you have conveniently been ignoring. In the realm of romance, another earth sign wants to get up, close and personal.

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



Geminis are reminded that they don't always have to be in charge. There are signs that your health will benefit from some time spent in the back seat. An earth sign colleague is ready to demonstrate their capabilities and this will leave you free to think of ways to make work more fulfilling. In the realm of romance, a meeting of the minds with another air sign brightens up your weekend.

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



Adjustments will need to be made in the world of work. The stars hint that an air sign could show that your trust has been misplaced, but a fire sign can be someone to rely on. Where romance is concerned, Cancerians who have been trying to make a fresh start with another water sign may be inclined to give up. Your luck with finances improves towards the end of July.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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# Constructive assistance

GOOD news for the island's builders, designers and property owners – the annual Architect & Engineering Exhibition returns to Phuket later this month.

Organizers have announced that the 2012 edition will be bigger and better than past events.

This year the exhibition will be held on the second floor of Royal Phuket City Hotel.

Opening July 26-29, from 11am to 8pm each day, the event will feature a number of exhibitions and booths showcasing products from more than 100 manufacturers and importers.

As tourist numbers wane into the low season, the exhibition comes at the perfect time for asset owners and managers looking to develop or renovate their properties before the high season starts again in November.

Indeed, the Andaman region continues to see growth not only in the hotel and tourism sector, but also luxury housing projects, yacht marinas and shopping centers.

To help assist these businesses with their building needs, the exhibition will comprise a wide range of products, featuring everything

from construction tools and materials to architectural design and decor items.

Additionally, personal kitchen applications will be exhibited.

People who have a particularly large or specialized custom project, sound systems for conventions, conferences, night clubs and entertainment venues, as well as cutting-edge products for home spas, swimming pools and gymnasiums will also be exhibited.

One of the objectives of the three-day event is to educate home owners and developers so they can independently design a multi-million dollar smart home – complete with IPTv, 3G internet, IP phone, mobile phone and CCTV.

In addition to booths, there will also be a number of seminars and forums given about 3G and other hi-speed telecommunications, product presentation and a special forum about the real estate business.

Phuket Architecture & Engineering Exhibition 2012 hopes to attract owners and managers of real estate projects, developers, architects, engineers, designers, contractors

The Architect & Engineering Exhibition is back in Phuket



**TOOL TIME:** An assortment of tools hang in a private workshop. Photo Andreas Kambanis

and anybody who has an interest in the products and events on offer.

Visitors to the event tend to come from Ranong, Phang Nga,

Krabi and Phuket.

The *Phuket Gazette* is a sponsor of the Architect & Engineering Exhibition 2012.

For more information visit W: [aashow.com](http://aashow.com). E: [info@pic-phuket.com](mailto:info@pic-phuket.com). T: 076-355-693. F: 076-355-780

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# The men who cried wolf

SOMETIMES I lie awake in the early morning and reflect upon life. The older I get, it seems, the harder it is to find the zone – that magic spot where the night is whisked away like a welcome mat being pulled out from under your feet, and there you stand at dawn.

Of course the big sleep will come soon enough, so frankly speaking, I'm grateful just to wake up alive on most days.

These days, those anxious nighttime hours are often spent dwelling on the state of things in Phuket and even the entire landscape of Thailand.

I'm not sure where the tipping point was, as in the early years all my time and energy was spent chasing women and fast times. I miss the simplicity of that agenda, as it was all about living in the present.

Unfortunately, running a business and having responsibility means looking towards the future. For more years than I can recall I've remained a seasoned optimist about the island, albeit at times slipping onto the bar stool of dark humor and what some would call cynicism.

Though critics often write to me about the latter, they are often European and perhaps are not familiar with a Coen Brothers mentality. The English appreciate dark humor, so I'm not sure about what's gone wrong on the continent. Let's leave that for another time.

Lately the headlines are blaring out about yet another land



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

scandal up in Nai Thon Beach, over the soon-to-open, upscale, Pullman Arcadia Resort. Photo opportunities abound of men in uniform as news helicopters fly in the sky and there's the click, click, click of media.

What is it about the sensationalism and ultimately the doomsday of land problems that make headlines here? For me the entire deluge of stories simply made me yawn, but again I'm a tainted cynic at heart.

Over the years the prophecy of the grim reaper's imminent stranglehold over large-scale revocation of land titles, throwing foreign property owners to the wolves, and in general just stirring up the pot of uncertainty, has not followed a straight line but more like a dance session. Going from a tango up to galloping across the floor in a flash of excitement.

About a decade ago, when I worked at Laguna Phuket, both the local newspapers and the Bangkok press raged on about illegal land titles at the destination estate. The last time I checked, the multiple hotel and real estate structures are still standing.

While islanders and close followers of all things Thai understand the drill, what is missed is the damage these political grandstanding events do to quality investments in Phuket



GROUND CONTROL: Recent inspections on Nai Thon beach highlighted land title problems.

by overseas and institutional investors.

Often my nights are filled with horror, as I look at a future where the island is driven to an urban cluster of concrete structures, endless rows of shop-houses, shoebox condos and same-same three star hotels.

While we tout ourselves as a world-class destination, have we pulled off the expressway for a quick snooze?

A few weeks ago, I attended a real estate conference in Jakarta where the mood was positive and sentiment strong, as was attendance from a wide variety of investors. What's so different these days between Indonesia and Thailand?

It's always good to understand the Thai perspective and

during a meeting in Bangkok with a former national political advisor and leading businessperson I probed into exactly what the state of the nation is at present.

In a pragmatic way, the gentleman responded that the country's political landscape was making a dramatic transformation from the old to the new. He said this would take time and thought that the next 3-4 years would still be pegged as a work in progress.

Not exactly what I wanted to hear, but it gave insight into the way of doing business here. It's a long-term proposal; stay calm, don't over react and in reality you are a passenger rather than the captain of your own destiny.

Business in Thailand somehow

manages to find its way forward, perhaps akin to a blind man in a closet, realizing there is no door out, but just figuring out what's inside the enclosed space.

We can apply our own values, rage against the machine and raise our voices about what is desperately needed to be done to solidly increase business and infrastructure issues in Phuket. But the reality is, the island remains a small part of something larger and perhaps even more arcane.

A work in progress? Perhaps or perhaps not. I'm not sure my nights are going to be filled with sleep anytime soon.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through W: C9hotelworks.com.

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## Office market poised to take off with AEC

### In brief...

DEMAND for office space in Thailand has increased by an average of 10 per cent annually.

The surge was cited to an increase in foreign investors looking to do business in Thailand and other Asian countries, as well as the country's economic growth.

The Asian Economic Community (AEC) is expected to start in 2015 and Thailand is in a strong position to become the base for offices of foreign interests expanding in the region.

Companies will choose Thailand as their base to do business in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar because of the superior infrastructure available to them in Thailand compared to other countries, claims Alisawasa Pattanathabutr, Managing Director of CB Richard Ellis.

Collier International Thailand and Jones Lang LaSalle also both

think Thailand is an appealing market for those looking to obtain office space and conduct business within the AEC.

The relatively low rental rates in the Kingdom have allowed occupiers to upgrade, as well as expand into space in the most desirable locations.

However, opportunities to do so will become increasingly scarce in the coming years.

Office space is not the only market improving in Thailand. The condominium market is starting to pick up after suffering stunted growth due to the financial crisis of the West in 2008.

Demand for luxury condominiums priced over 120,000 baht per square metre is recovering, with domestic buyers accounting for 87 per cent of buyers this year.

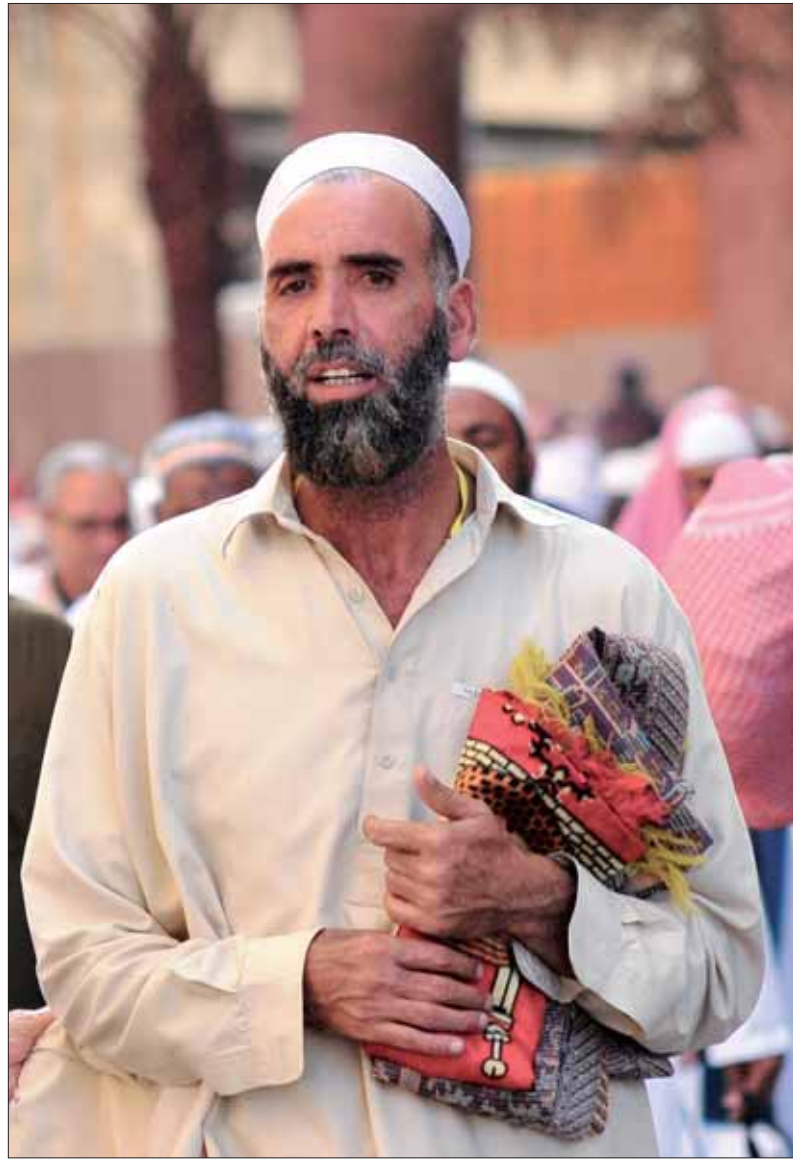
This recovery is seen in Bangkok and resort destinations such as Pattaya, Phuket and Hua Hin.

— The Nation



LOOKING UP: Photo: Michel Mikiane





**PILGRIM:** A Muslim man carries his prayer mat during the pilgrimage of the Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam. Photo Al Jazeera English

# From Middle East to Far East

The number of Middle Eastern tourists visiting Phuket reaches a record high

NATTHA Kahapana, director of property advisor Knight Frank Phuket, says that wealthy Middle Eastern citizens generally escape the blistering summers of their countries by embarking on tours of Europe's premier destinations but that trend is changing.

In recent years their company has seen growth of Middle Eastern leisure travelers in Thailand, vacationing in Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket. This year, their numbers have surged to a record high.

In Phuket, they are enjoying all that the island has to offer, and readily shopping for family-sized pool villas. Several luxury residential projects have rolled out the red carpet for them.

To fulfill the lifestyles of such

clients, infrastructure, facilities and amenities are carefully planned for many projects, including the huge 70-rai (11-hectare) complex in Nai Thon.

Phuket investors that have kept projects on hold since 2008 are now starting to revive and re-launch them to capture the demand of both new and existing clients. The market appears to have gained new life.

Besides Middle Eastern buyers, investors from South Africa have flocked to Phuket to buy into residential projects.

Various hotel projects have also changed hands. For example, a subsidiary of Singaporean firm LC Development recently acquired the former Evason Phuket and Bon Island Resort. Also, the

Mövenpick Resort Karon Beach was sold by Kingdom Hotel Investments to Malaysia's TAGlobal for US\$ 90.2 million (2.87 billion baht).

In November, French hotel chain Accor Group will open a hotel on Nai Thon Beach. Named the Pullman (not the same as the Pullman Phuket Arcadia Nai Thon Beach), the property boasts 277 rooms and a ballroom that can accommodate up to 250 people, an attractive feature for meetings and conventions. Also, the Nikki Beach Hotel and Spa will be launched in Layan, near the bustling Laguna area.

Developers tend to choose the North of the Island as land is cheaper.

— *The Nation*

## Phanason looks to expand



**Phanason two-storey Grand Ville detached house.**

BANGKOK property developers, Phanason Group, have recently launched Phanason Grand Ville, a housing development in Bang Jo. The project has five different types of detached housing and three versions of semi-detached housing.

The interior of the houses range in size from 60 square meters to 132 sqm and gardens range from 144 sqm to 216 sqm.

Phanason Grand Ville comprises 115 rai (45 acres) of land. The developers currently have 13 projects on Phuket including 'Green Places' in Phuket Town, the 'Park Condominium' in Patong and the 'Residence' next to Makro.

Reservation costs start at a

surprisingly low 5,000 baht for houses costing 1.8 million baht. Grand Ville is conveniently located with nearby restaurants, entertainment venues, leisure facilities and shopping destinations in Thalang.

Phanason are trying to expand their market to entice foreigners from Russia, Britain, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and China to invest in the Grande Ville project.

Grand Ville is aimed at the market of retired Thais, and foreigners looking for a quiet place to call home.

Phanason use the phrase "a quality home" to describe their projects and they have over 20 developments nationwide.



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# Taking the Pisonia



THE *Phuket Gazette* is certainly living up to its status as an international newspaper. Bernard King from Auckland in New Zealand, no less, wonders if I can send him some *pisonia* seeds.

He writes: "I am a disciple of growing tropical plants in a cool country. I have managed to grow a small mango tree that is bearing fruits. I saw your *Gazette* article about the lettuce tree. I have tried for a long time to find some seeds... and hope you can help me."

There are difficulties but not, I hope, insurmountable ones. One is that while *pisonia* (also known as the lettuce or moonlight tree) is widely distributed, it grows principally in tropical regions of the world. The species (*grandis*) is particularly common on most of the island groups in the Indian and South Pacific Oceans, even thriving on coral keys and atolls. In the right environment, it can reach eighty feet.

That familiarity with the sea and with salt-laden winds, bred into its genes over eons, probably explains why the cultivar *alba* does well in Phuket, particularly in the Rawai and Nai Harn areas.

The second problem concerns the seeds. In the case of *grandis*, they are fertile alright, produced inside elongated fruits that come in various sizes. The hairs on the fruits are sticky – hence the name of "bird-lime tree" – and some-



**BUTTERFLY FRIENDLY:** Flowers of *Duranta Repens*, also known as the pigeon berry, can attract colorful critters. Photo: Suzan Marie.

times trap insects and small animals. They even stick to the feathers of birds, and seeds are often dispersed in this way.

But sadly they are a bit of a gamble: they must be planted when fresh; otherwise they will not germinate reliably. Moreover, although *alba* is the cultivar with the most dramatic leaves, it has fewer flowers and does not always produce seeding fruits.

Bernard has the answer to the first issue; he tells me he possesses a greenhouse where he assures me, *pisonia* will produce its characteristic yellowish green foliage. Yes, we are still on the topic of yellow shrubs and *pisonia alba*, along with newer varieties of *duranta repens* or pigeon berry, which have the showiest golden leaves of any of the plants mentioned in these columns. But the leaves of *pisonia* are much larger, up to a foot across and have a delicate, almost translucent appearance.



**LEAFY:** *Pisonia Alba*. Photo:JM Garg.



**SPIKY:** *Dracaena reflexa*. Photo:mauroguanandi.

As for the second problem, I shall have to track down a flowering tree in the area, check to see if it has any fruits, and beg a few. Then the seeds will have to be sent, post-haste, to the Antipodes.

Speaking personally, I have had little success with the lettuce tree. It needs some acidity in the soil and good drainage. I tried it in partial shade where it seemed unhappy.

Bear in mind, too, that although it is a relative of the extremely tough and spiny bougainvillea, the grey branches are brittle and the leaves will be at their golden best only in full sun.

Other foliage plants tend to be intermittently yellow. *Dracaena fragrans*, one of the most popular and hardy of Asian plants, comes in many colors but one, *reflexa*, has brilliant yellow margins to its leaves. It does especially well in pots and can manage for long periods with little or no watering. Sun is no problem.

Both *schefflera* and *dieffenbachia* hybrids, under-storey plants that prefer shady conditions, sometimes sport bold yellow stripes or blotches, and there are forms of *codiaeum* (croton) which produce golden foliage. *Codiaeum ovatifolium*, for example, has both yellow and dark green leaves; the narrow leaved "Yellow Johannes Coppinger," popular here as a container plant, has brilliant golden leaves edged with green.

*If you have a question or a garden you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: [dipaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:dipaccampbell@gmail.com).*

## Tip of the week Tree tip



**Tamarind tree.** Photo:Nick Hubbard

WHEN planning your garden, consider how tall your trees will become. Big fruiting trees such as tamarind, mango, and *sataw* will quickly outgrow the average plot. So you are better off with trees of a manageable size.

Remember too, that the majority of tropical trees are evergreen, equipped with tough and often attractive glossy leaves that can withstand the heat of the day. They provide deeper pockets of shade for under-storey shrubs, better cover and insulation for the walls of your house.

In temperate climates, most trees are deciduous: they start with a burst of new spring foliage (and often blossom), and then remain in leaf until late in the season when the leaves fall, revealing bare limbs.

In the tropics, fewer trees are seasonally deciduous. They tend to shed some leaves in dry conditions to minimize moisture loss, so they seldom look skeletal.



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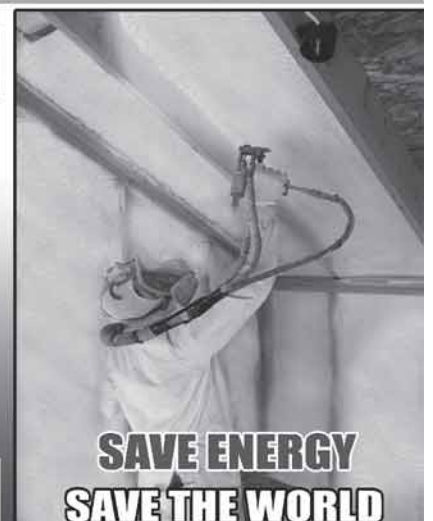
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### SURIN BEACH CONDO

400m from beach. 2 & 3 bedrooms with pool access. Min. 6 months rental. Tel: 081-835 0158 (English). Email for details: jgstryker@gmail.com

### PATONG 1 TO 3 BEDROOM APTS

WiFi, maid, big pool, security, cable TV. Close to town. From 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

For rent, near Palai beach, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

### PATONG NICE STUDIO FOR RENT

30sqm, 300m to beach, aircon, cable TV, kitchen, fridge, furnished. Price: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-757 3240.

### QUIET AREA HOUSE



1 aircon bedroom, near Ao Makham Bay, free WiFi, 3km from town, 1km to Panwa Beach. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311 (English & Thai).

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

### PALM BREEZE RESORT PENTHOUSE

At Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com www.premierpropertiesphuket.com

### RAWAI POOL VILLAS

For rent in quiet area. Long term and short term. 3 or 4-bed villas. Villas for sale at 7.2 million baht with 60% finance option. Super deals on rentals in June, July, August. Tel: 087-893 8747.

### SEA VIEW HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, prime location for long holidays & hostel business. Tel: 081-595 7986, 089-871 6599 (English & Thai). Email: phudit1979@hotmail.com

### LONG-TERM RENT

1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden, Chalong area 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### HOUSE FOR RENT



Near BIS, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 4 aircons, european kitchen, car park, redecorated, free wi-fi. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. To view more house's photo at griffinpromedia.com/villa. Tel: 086-940 4267. Email: johnggriffinphoto52@yahoo.co.uk

### 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

### KATA HOUSE ONE BEDROOM

Fully-furnished, terrace, bathroom, kitchen, aircon, internet and cable TV. Price for long term rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### PLUS CONDO KATHU

For rent. 1 bedroom, 30sqm, aircon, kitchen, washing machine, gym, WiFi. Tel: 086-947 1273.

### HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

3 bedrooms, fully furnished with aircons in quiet area at Patak Villa near Chalong pier. Long term rent or sale. Contact Kijtipong. Tel: 081-677 8638 (English & Thai). Email: emedward@hotmail.com

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

## Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80 sq. meter ground floor units



PLAZA DEL MAR  
Entrance to Laguna Phuket

Please contact Khun Nong for more details

m : 087 266 8400 e : plazadelmar@gmail.com

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 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

### LUXURY 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT

For rent, 65sqm, located in central Patong. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

### 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

### NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



Single house (74sq.wah) with lovely garden for long term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hrs security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.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.

### 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://panwa.green.weebly.com

### KATA HILL SINGLE HOUSE

2-storey, fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 2 aircons, 3BB internet, TV and car park. Price: 19,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### LUXURY CONDO FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, poolside condo, fully furnished, available now. Tel: 084-523 1714 (English). Email: bern@global.net.au

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## Building Products & Services

[www.rusthai-property.ru](http://www.rusthai-property.ru)

**See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)**



**U SUNSURI PHUKET RESORT** is set on a dramatic hillside with spectacular views of the lake, billowing trees and the ocean. Our luxury resort located in a secluded area of Nai Harn Beach, Phuket offers spacious and luxurious accommodation with modern facilities for young couples, honeymooners and families with children. Meeting and event venues are designed to serve both business and wedding purposes.

Uncomplicated • Inspiring • You

We offer: ■ Attractive starting salary ■ Attractive monthly service charge  
■ Attractive benefits ■ Opportunities for career growth

We are now looking for Department Head and Assistant Department Head Positions:

• Financial Controller	• Chief Accountant	• Human Resources Manager
• Training Manager	• Front Office Manager	• Assistant Front Office Manager
• Reservation Manager	• Executive Chef	• Food & Beverage Manager
• Sous Chef	• Chief Engineer	• Assistant Food & Beverage Manager
• Duty Engineer	• Director of Sales	• Executive Housekeeper
• IT Supervisor	• Security Manager	• Administrative Assistant
• Spa Manager	• Assistant Housekeeping Manager	

**U SUNSURI PHUKET** 11/5 Moo 1, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130  
Send your resume with recent photo to: [hr@uhotelsresorts.com](mailto:hr@uhotelsresorts.com)  
[www.usunsuriphuket.com](http://www.usunsuriphuket.com)

**HORIZON GROUP**

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND IN KARON AND HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES.

**FRONT OFFICE**

- Front Office Manager
- Duty Manager
- Guest Relation Officer
- Assistant Front Office Mgr.

**HOUSEKEEPING**

- Assistant Housekeeper

**MAIN KITCHEN**

- Executive Sous Chef
- Sous Chef

**ACCOUNTING**

- Chief Accountant
- Storekeeper

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Assistant Human Resources

**ENGINEERING**

- Assistant Engineer

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

- Restaurant Supervisor
- Night Room Service
- Hostess
- Waiter
- Waitress

**RESERVATION**

- Reservation Officer

**WELFARE:** SALARY, BONUS, SERVICE CHARGE, LIFE INSURANCE  
STAFF APARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION, UNIFORM, MEALS, SOCIAL SECURITY, BIRTHDAY PARTY, STAFF PARTY, STAFF PICNIC ETC.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to E-mail: [apply@horizonbeach.com](mailto:apply@horizonbeach.com)  
Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

### VARIOUS SALES & MARKETING

Sales and marketing roles. Native English speakers or other nationals with fluent English-speaking skills. A proven track record in sales is a must. Send CV & recent photo to email: [careers@pp-intl.com](mailto:careers@pp-intl.com)

### NANNY / HELPER WANTED

Full time Nanny/helper wanted for Thai/English family in Kathu. Tel: 086-274 1493 (English), 084-193 5124 (Thai). Email: [clairelester1807@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clairelester1807@yahoo.co.uk)

### THAI PA NEEDED

LMI requires a personal assistant: excellent people skills, good English, IT skills; able to perform multiple tasks, well organised, punctual. Interested candidates email resume to [info@lotusmedicalinternational.com](mailto:info@lotusmedicalinternational.com)

### SALES, MARKETING PERSONS

An LED light company based in Chalong is recruiting energetic sales people. Thai national, fluent in English. Salary + commissions. Tel: 081-139 4774 (English). Email: [boost@aboranet.com](mailto:boost@aboranet.com)

### EXPERIENCED SENIOR MANAGER

Experienced Senior Australian Hospital Manager looking for full time work. Currently completing MBA with a focus on the Asian market. Extensive knowledge and skills in all departments of hospitality.

- Food and Beverage
- Accommodation
- Housekeeping
- HR
- Administration
- Security
- Maintenance
- Marketing

Exceptional computer skills with designing and implementing operational manuals and training programs. Have Thai work permit and own car. Delicate, passionate and hardworking woman. Tel: 090-701 2183

### BANGTAO TROPICAL RESIDENCE

Sales and Marketing. Male/Female. Experience in event sales in luxury hotel & hospitality. Fractional ownership or real estate. Tel: 076-318 400. Email: [hotel@bangtaotropicalresidence.com](mailto:hotel@bangtaotropicalresidence.com)

**LAGUNA PHUKET** [www.lagunaphuket.com](http://www.lagunaphuket.com)

**Are you ready for a great career with Phuket's largest hotel, resort and property group?**

Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Company Limited is a respected and responsible developer whose interests combine hotels and real estate, with an emphasis on quality and environmental protection.

To meet the Group's exciting expansion plans, we are currently seeking qualified candidates to sell Banyan Tree Residences and Laguna Property in these positions:

- Property Sales Manager (Russian)
- Sales Executive (Thai & Foreigner)

**THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH OF THESE POSITIONS:**

- At least 3 years real estate sales experience in selling luxury branded residential properties with an international sales team
- Candidates for the Sales Manager position should have at least 2 years experience at managerial level
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS Office

**The successful candidate will be offered attractive working conditions, together with an excellent remuneration and benefits package.**

If you think you are a high-calibre candidate with the right attitude, please submit your CV with photograph and expected salary to:

**Human Resources Department, Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co Ltd**  
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1510 Fax: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1505  
Email: [career@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:career@lagunaphuket.com)

*Please be informed that only short-listed candidates will be notified.*

### PROJECT MANAGER / SALES

Male 25-30yrs, Civil Engineer or related field. Proficient in English & AutoCAD. Willing to learn about products, travel & sales. 2 years minimum experience preferred. 20,000 baht + benefits and sales commissions. Send CV. Tel: 076-304 307, 081-823 9448 (English). Fax: 076-304 306.

### MARKETING MANAGER, PROPERTY

We are now looking for an experienced marketing manager to join our successful real estate agency. Tel: 076-341 045, 081-459 0152 (English). Email: [andres@phuket-condos-homes.com](mailto:andres@phuket-condos-homes.com)

### BARTENDER REQUIRED

Full-time position. Good salary and great fun. Accommodation if needed. Thai national only. Please call Russell: 089-587 9112. Email: [sunsetbarphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:sunsetbarphuket@yahoo.com)

### PIZZA MAKER OR/ AND COOK (2)

Full time 10-15,000 baht. Tel: 076-314 345, 080-147 2468 (English & Thai). Email: [manager@phuketadventuregolf.com](mailto:manager@phuketadventuregolf.com)  
[fb:phuketadventureminigolf](mailto:fb:phuketadventureminigolf)

### ACCOUNTING (1)

Tax compliance, WHT, VAT, Financial statement, Rev. & Exp. (Excel), Update receivables, WHT (1,3,53), SSO, Payroll. Tel: 076-314 345, 080-147 2468 (English & Thai). Email: [manager@phuketadventureminigolf.com](mailto:manager@phuketadventureminigolf.com)

### SECRETARY WANTED

Basic accounting. Speak English. Tel: 089-652 5664.

### ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER

Salary 20,000 baht + excellent commission & benefits. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Please email your CV to [ying@phuketpooltables.com](mailto:ying@phuketpooltables.com)

### SHOWROOM ASSISTANT / PA

Require University Graduate for administration and sales duties, and to serve as Personal Assistant to the Owner. Must have a valid driving license and be skilled in Microsoft Word and Excel. Good English, spoken and written, is also required. Female, aged 20-30. Tel: 080-886 9385 (English), 080-347 1698. Email: [grace@blume-living.com](mailto:grace@blume-living.com)

### REAL ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR

Thai only. Fluent written and spoken English. Driving licence. Good salary + bonus. Hours: Mon to Fri, 11am to 6pm. Tel: 086-266 7032. Send letter and CV to [rebecca@phuketocceanvillas.com](mailto:rebecca@phuketocceanvillas.com)

### ASSISTANT - CAR HIRE

Thai male to help run a car hire company. Driving License and English skills are required. Tel: 087-555 8155. Send resume with recent photo to [info@phuketdrive.com](mailto:info@phuketdrive.com)

### THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shifting schedule, can speak English, customer service. Good salary with bonus. Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

### SALES AGENT (2)

Good communication & negotiation skills in English. Main tasks - Agency contracts (Hotel & Tour). 15-20,000 baht. Only Thai. Tel: 076-314 345, 080-147 2468 (English & Thai). Email: [manager@phuketadventuregolf.com](mailto:manager@phuketadventuregolf.com)

### SNORKELING INSTRUCTOR

Snorkeling Instructor/Tour Leader required for a boat charter company. Enthusiastic, outgoing person with Padi license. Tel: 076-289 044, 081-787 7702.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

We are seeking for graphic designers to provide solutions to communicate client messages with high visual impact. We do advertising, magazines, displays, corporate communications and corporate identity. High salary and incentives for the right persons. Tel: 087-264 9695. Email: [eb@ebnetwork.it](mailto:eb@ebnetwork.it)

### ITALIAN RESTAURANT MANAGER

Italian restaurant in Rawai is looking for Italian Restaurant Manager, age between 30 - 40 years old, expertise in the field, personality, problem solving and experience in personnel management in Thailand. Excellent knowledge of English and Microsoft Office. Knowledge of other languages is an advantage. Benefits: salary and profit sharing. Tel: 084-922 1602 (ITA).

### SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: [info@imedgeconcepts.com](mailto:info@imedgeconcepts.com)

**Looking for a job?**  
**Looking for a better candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net/)**



## British International School, Phuket

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

### • Chef

#### Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in food related degree and/or culinary training and/or related experiences to ensure quality dishes are served
- Two or more years in food industry or business with management skills and food safety
- Modify and create new menus as needed, Thai food & European food
- English competency
- Computer literate
- Leadership in food related training
- Team player with service mind

### • IT Coordinator

#### Qualifications

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's Degree
- Computer skills including using Microsoft Word and Excel
- Ability to communicate in and write in English
- Good organization skills and the ability to multitask

#### Key Tasks

- Coordinate daily work schedules for technicians
- Coordinate IT related tasks with other departments
- Contact person for students, staff and parents on IT related issues, particularly computer maintenance
- Secretarial work for the IT department

### • Science Technician

#### Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Science
- A background in chemistry and experience in preparing solutions
- Fluent in English
- Be hardworking, willing, enthusiastic, flexible and motivated to develop own skills
- Experience working in a Science Technician role is desirable

### • Teacher's Assistant

#### Qualifications

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care / teaching preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Loves to take care of children

Benefits: group insurance, provident fund, meal etc.



**British International School, Phuket (BIS)**

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

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

E-mail: [patcharakornr@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:patcharakornr@bisphuket.ac.th) or [sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th)

### DTW - WEB EDITOR

Part time/full time position available in Dive The World. Applicant must have:

- Excellent English.
- Good writing ability.
- Ability to learn some simple html.
- Good organization. More advanced html skills (web page creation) and diving knowledge are a bonus. Email: [bernardfox1234@gmail.com](mailto:bernardfox1234@gmail.com)

### IT OR AV ENGINEERS

Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: [info@techworx-project.com](mailto:info@techworx-project.com)

### EZYSTAYS CO LTD

Ezystays (Travel Club), located in Patong, is looking to recruit a Thai Admin Assistant for its busy sales office. Candidates must have a good command of the English language and be able to work efficiently with Word and XL, and basic knowledge of accounts. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. All applicants must apply with a cover letter and CV in English with photo. We offer an excellent working environment and a 5-day work week. Tel: 076-341 421. Email: [clientliaison@ezystays.com](mailto:clientliaison@ezystays.com)

### Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.



### Text & Layout Editor

#### Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Work with text-editing program
- Art or imagination in design
- Teamwork and cooperating with related departments

#### Qualifications:

- Male/female, Thai national only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh)
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

#### Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at:

**VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)**

42 Moo3, Palai2, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130

Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605

Email: [info@vsdma.com](mailto:info@vsdma.com)

## The PARADISE KOH YAO

Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

### 'Island hideaway near Phuket'

the paradise koh yao, a contemporary 70 room boutique resort is located on koh yao noi island, a 60 minute boat trip from phuket

our eco-chic environment is complemented by our 'conscious living' ethos of barefoot luxury philosophy – NOW complimented with the yoga and wellbeing center

we are looking for superb leaders to join our dynamic team

### GENERAL MANAGER

covering all aspects of the operations, finance, local marketing - responsibility on bottom line results. based at the resort on koh yao with regular visits to the phuket office

- 3-5 years experience in 5 or 4 star resort/hotel in similar assignment
- front line person, strong customer relation skills
- leader personality, motivator
- results / marketing oriented
- previous assignment in thailand / asia an advantage
- foreign or thai national 35 - 50 years of age

### HOST CHEF

covering all aspects of the f&b operations, including kitchen and restaurant

- 3-5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- leader personality, motivator / outstanding guest relation skills
- implementation of innovative food / restaurant concepts
- previous assignment in thailand / asia an advantage
- multi language skills incl. basic german / thai an advantage
- foreign or thai national

comprehensive remuneration/incentive package – we are looking for the best team leaders - contact:

[joeraess@theparadise.biz](mailto:joeraess@theparadise.biz)

[www.TheParadise.biz](http://www.TheParadise.biz) or [facebook/theparadise.biz](https://www.facebook.com/theparadise.biz)

### 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)

### 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)

## WEB MANAGER

Web controller / manager required for busy yachting company

- The successful candidate will demonstrate previous success with managing, evolving and developing websites for branding and retail purposes as well as an ability to use social media to support the businesses marketing efforts

Please send a cv to Dararat Varasai  
E-mail : [info@boatlagoonyachting.co.th](mailto:info@boatlagoonyachting.co.th)  
Tel : 081 958 3488

### SALES MANAGER REQUIRED

Thai national. Must have a good command of spoken and written English. Proven sales experience and own car. We provide full training, generous basic salary and unlimited commission potential and bonuses. Car expenses and fuel paid. Working 5½ days with generous holidays. Please send CV to [don@rainwater-solutions.com](mailto:don@rainwater-solutions.com)

### TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

For popular speedboat charter and events company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-383125. Email: [info@coralseekers.com](mailto:info@coralseekers.com)

### OAKMEADOW INT'L SCHOOL

We are looking for a qualified Thai female teacher. Tel: 076-521 550, 084-847 0732(English). Email: [info@oakmeadowphuket.com](mailto:info@oakmeadowphuket.com)

### TELEMARKETING STAFF WANTED

Thai staff only, good salary and bonus. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: [cc@bayshoreprojects.com](mailto:cc@bayshoreprojects.com)

### SHOWROOM REPRESENTATIVE

Showroom in Panwa. Ability to Speak English, Artistic background a plus. Have transportation. Tel: 081-927 4954. Email: [nacmmail@aol.com](mailto:nacmmail@aol.com)

## HORIZON GROUP

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND IN KARON AND HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES.

<b>FRONT OFFICE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front Office Manager 1 Position</li> <li>• Assistant Front Office Manager 1 Position</li> </ul> <b>ENGINEERING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistant Chief Engineering 1 Position</li> </ul>	<b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurant Supervisor 1 Position</li> </ul> <b>MAIN KITCHEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steward Supervisor 1 Position</li> </ul>
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**WELFARE:** SALARY, BONUS, SERVICE CHARGE, LIFE INSURANCE, STAFF APARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION, UNIFORM, MEALS, SOCIAL SECURITY, BIRTHDAY PARTY, STAFF PARTY, STAFF PICNIC ETC.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to E-mail: [apply@horizonbeach.com](mailto:apply@horizonbeach.com)  
Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

## HORIZON GROUP

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND ONE IN KARON AND HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

<b>FRONT OFFICE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Guest Relation Manager 1 Position</li> <li>■ Guest Relation Officer 1 Position</li> <li>■ Duty Manager 1 Position</li> <li>■ Night Manager 1 Position</li> </ul> <b>ACCOUNTING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Purchasing Officer 1 Position</li> </ul> <b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assistant HR Manager 1 Position</li> </ul>	<b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ FB Manager 1 Position</li> <li>■ Restaurant Supervisor 1 Position</li> </ul> <b>HOUSEKEEPING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assistant Housekeeper 1 Position</li> </ul>
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**Welfare:** salary, service charge, life insurance, staff apartment, transportation, uniform, meals, social security, birthday party, staff party, staff picnic etc.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to email: [hr@horizonbeach.com](mailto:hr@horizonbeach.com),  
Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555



## 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.

## EXTENSION LADDER WANTED

Used 20 to 24 foot (6 to 7 meter) ladder wanted to either rent or purchase. Tel: 081-797 2110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

## Audio/Video Equipment

## SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

Amp + 5 powerful speakers, crisp treble & solid bass. Paid 15,000 baht, sell 7,500 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.web@gmail.com

## GERMAN STEREO SYSTEM

Soken AMP & 5 speaker surround sound, solid bass. Cost 16,000 sell 8,000 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.web@gmail.com

## Bulletins

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours  
Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon & Cape Panwa

081-895 4763  
081-956 4031  
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

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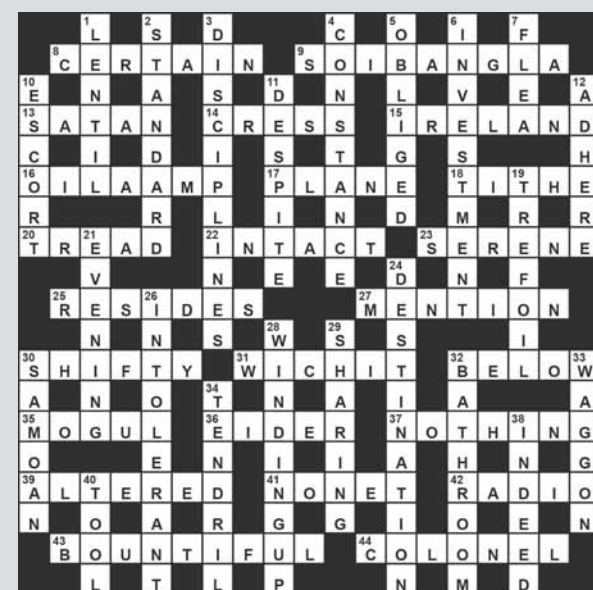
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# A rough Open

THE British Open is the oldest of the four majors in professional golf and is the only one played outside the USA.

This year it is hosted at Royal Lytham & St Annes and the infamous course has already received some criticism.

Tiger Woods deemed certain areas of the rough "unplayable", and Darren Clarke also gave a damning assessment of the course.

The English weather could play a significant part as record rainfall has turned the rough into no man's land.

"I've never seen the rough this high or thick and dense," said 14-time major winner Tiger Woods.

Golfers who avoid the rough may see their shot nestle in one of the 206 bunkers on the par 70 course. Luckily for some, the car park where Seve Ballesteros managed to chip in from on his way to a birdie, after a wayward tee

shot on 16 in 1979, is no longer there.

Defending champion Darren Clarke will be looking to repeat the shock of his victory at Royal St George's last year.

Many on the tour have tipped Lee Westwood as a potential winner due

out for sentimental reasons. The Englishman has never won a major though has been a runner-up twice and had two third place finishes to his name. He climbed to the dizzying heights of world number one for the first time last year. A more mature Westwood plans to play his normal game and see what happens.

"I know my game is good enough to win when I play well, play with everything together. So that's what I try to do," he said.

Tiger Woods has played at Royal Lytham twice before. Once in 1996 and again in 2001.

Woods has not won a major tournament since 2008. The demise of the once great golfer has benefited other golfers and the sport in general.

The game has become a lot more competitive with 15 players having won the 16 grand



Bubba watches his shot from the 18<sup>th</sup> during practice. Photo: AFP



FAVORITE: Lee Westwood practises a chip from one of the 206 bunkers at Royal Lytham & St Annes, the venue for this year's Open. Photo: AFP

slam tournaments contested since Woods last lifted a trophy.

He will be hoping this weekend he can keep his head when all about are losing theirs.

Groupings for the first two rounds are:

Tiger Woods, Justin Rose and Sergio Garcia have been grouped together for the first two rounds.

World number one Luke Donald will tee off with Phil Mickelson and Geoff Ogilvy.

Rory McIlroy will start with

Louis Oosthuizen and Keegan Bradley.

Darren Clarke will be joined by Ernie Els and American Zach Johnson.

Lee Westwood is alongside Masters champion Bubba Watson and Japan's Yoshinori Fujimoto.

The Open returns to Royal Lytham for the first time since David Duval won in 2001.

The four-day tournament finishes Sunday.

– *Phuket Gazette*



## Ronaldo raves

PORTUGUESE captain Cristiano Ronaldo described the Andaman Sea as the most beautiful place he had ever visited and said he would love to come back.

The footballer was interviewed on Channel 3's morning news programme. The Real Madrid star and his Russian girlfriend, model Irina Shayk, have spent most of the past two weeks holidaying in Phang Nga province, where he went out on a fishing expedition and also visited Koh Phi Phi, near Phuket, and the "James Bond island".

"For me it's the most beautiful place I've ever been. It's wonderful. We went to Phi Phi Island, the James Bond Island where the movie *The Man With the Golden Gun* was shot. The water was warm. I enjoyed it a

lot. Of course I want to come back here," said the 27-year-old, who posted a picture of himself fishing on his Facebook page.

"I'm an angler. I saw many types of fish over the four days. I fished and could feel their bites on the hook," Ronaldo said, clapping his hand enthusiastically, adding that he took back his catch to eat for lunch and dinner.

Before he arrived in Bangkok on Monday to sign a deal with Toyota, Ronaldo and Shayk visited a rubber plantation and posted a picture on their Twitter account.

"I took a helicopter and many people were there. So I asked them to take pictures because I think the panorama of the pictures is amazing. I enjoyed a lot. It's like a family," he added.



Irina Shayk. Photo: Cruks



Ronaldo presents a junior Thai player with a Portuguese nation team shirt. Photo: The Nation

After appearing in the TV programme, Ronaldo shot a commercial for the Toyota Hilux Vigo Champ in the afternoon before leaving Thailand by private jet.

– *The Nation*

## F1 brief

HOCKENHEIMRING was last visited by the F1 circus visits in July 2010 when Ferrari took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in controversial terms.

Felipe Massa was ordered to let a 'faster' Fernando Alonso overtake him. The victory moved Alonso into lead of the driver standings, though eventually he came second behind Sebastian Vettel by four points in the championship. Ferrari were hit with a \$100,000 by violating Article 39.1 of the rule book, which forbids

the use of team orders.

Lewis Hamilton will be looking for victory in his 100<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix to erase the disappointment of Silverstone.

Hamilton, currently 37 points behind leader Alonso, admits he is concerned about the lack of competitiveness his McLaren, and believes if the performance of the car does not improve significantly his title chances will be over.

Hockenheimring is the home GP for drivers: Nico Hulkenberg, Nico Rosberg, Michael Schumacher, Timo Glock and Sebastian Vettel.

The GP could prove to be a lucky race for another German, car

manufacturer Mercedes. The car giant has links with the McLaren team, and have their own team. This weekend marks 111 years of Mercedes involvement in motorsport.

The number 111 has been a lucky omen for Mercedes this year. Rosberg's victory at the Chinese GP was his 111<sup>th</sup> race and also the 111<sup>th</sup> win for Mercedes.

Red Bull are starting to claw their way back into title contention after a poor start to the season and will probably be the main challengers to Alonso. Two time world champion Vettel is yet to win a race on home soil.

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# Coach Joksic, team captain bid farewell

At the height of a losing run, a former national squad defender fills the vacancy for head coach, as the Islanders prepare for the second half of the 2012 season

## Football: Thai Yamaha One

SERBIAN national Milos Joksic has resigned his post as Phuket FC Head Coach, with a former Thai national team defender and coach expected to fill the vacancy immediately.

Milos' decision was followed by the Islander's most senior player and team captain Suphat "James" Anthong announcing his decision to also leave the squad.

In a message on his Facebook wall, James told fans that after this Sunday's home match against Songkhla FC, he would be returning to his home town where he would play for Division 1 league leaders, Ratchaburi Mitraphol FC.

The latest developments come at the height of a week marked by three back to back losses.

Following their defeat to Krabi at home last week, the Islanders immediately hit the road to play their Toyota League Cup second round match against Division 2 side Samutprakarn United.

In that midweek match, Phuket were narrowly defeated 4-3 in penalty shoot-out following a 1-1 score line after 120 minutes of play.

Following such a disappointing result, a battered Phuket squad traveled to the heart of the Kingdom's natural gas industry to take on PTT Rayong.

Going into the match placed 6<sup>th</sup> of the 18-team league, PTT Rayong "Fire Power" were hungry for victory following a squandered firefist 5-3 a week earlier with Ratchaburi Mitraphol "Dragons".



PTT Rayong's lovely cheerleaders

Tired from travel, Phuket were also without key midfielder Marcios Santos, who had to serve a one match suspension for accumulating four yellow cards.

And while it is said that money can not buy everything, it certainly can buy one a strong football team, and Thailand's only Fortune 500 company's team demonstrated this to the dismay of Phuket on Saturday.

In front of a crowd of 2,139 exuberant, red and blue shirted fans, PTT Rayong's Thanongsak Promdad opened and closed the goal fest with goals in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 94<sup>th</sup> minutes, bringing his season tally to six.

Also exploiting Phuket's vulnerable defenses was PTT's leading scorer Naret Kabkriekaw on 26 minutes, scoring his 8<sup>th</sup> of the season.

Also joining in the feeding frenzy were Adisak Srikumpang, scoring on 33 minutes, his fifth, as well as Cameroonian import Ebako Merlindimitri and Methee Thaweekulkarn, each scoring their second of the season.

With the stream of bad news emerges some good news and hope for Phuket.

Their new coach, Narong Ajarnyut, a local business man said to be involved in various sports-commerce operations, will be put to the test immediately with three tough matches in his first week.

This Sunday, July 22, Phuket's Surakul Stadium will be the site of another epic Southern Thailand regional rivalry match, with the Islanders, looming in 14<sup>th</sup> place, to host 7<sup>th</sup> placed Songkhla FC.

Phuket will then travel to Songkhla to play their away-leg against the Bulls on Wednesday, July 25, and with little time to recover, are scheduled to host PTT Rayong



Under Coach Milos Joksic, Phuket won three, drew six and lost seven league matches.



FIRE POWER: PTT Rayong scored six unanswered goals on Saturday. Photos: Nok Sanarm

at Surakul Stadium on Saturday, July 28.

Regardless of whether the Islanders can earn any points this week, Phuket fans are looking forward to the second leg of the 2012 season.

At least six new "high quality" players are expected to join the Islander's camp.

Of these include seasoned, speedy and tactful striker Roland "Pato" Vargas-Aguilera.

In Thailand, Roland, a Bolivian national, has played for premier side Chiang Rai United and most recently PTT Rayong.

The striker has also played in the US's Major League Soccer for New England Revolution and the Columbus Crew.

In his one try-out match in Phuket, the 3-3 draw against Premier league side Wuachon United, Roland set up a goal and scored a goal, catching the attention of Phuket fans.

- Steven Layne



SO LONG CAPTAIN: Suphat 'James' Anthong

## 2012 Thai futsal season start postponed

FANS of indoor, five-a-side football will have to wait until at least next month to cheer on the island's upcoming pro squad, Phuket United, in their debut season in the Thailand Futsal League (TFL).

TFL organizers last week announced an indefinite postponement for the start of the 2012 season, initially announced to be this month, citing insufficient sponsorship for competition organization.

Grammy, the popular record and media label, had initially stepped forward to sponsor this year's season, but withdrew after failing to reach an agreement about (undisclosed) terms with the TFL.

"Until we have sponsors, we can

not confirm competition dates or schedules," Sirachai Wuthitham, President of the Thailand National Futsal was quoted as saying in a report by Siam Sports.

Phuket United earned their berth in the TFL after winning the CAT Regional Championship and CAT Champions League title last year.

Crowned MVP of that tournament was Phuket United Brazilian striker Rogerio Moreira. Though having renewed his contract with Phuket, Moreira told the *Gazette* that he has still not received any confirmation from the "Big Boss" about when the season will start: "I love Phuket. I am back in Brazil now and I really want to come back to play

for Phuket this season, but I must work to take care of my family.

Meanwhile, Thailand's national squad players are also growing anxious as they look ahead to the FIFA Futsal World Cup. To be hosted from November 1-18 at venues in Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima, the sports' top tournament will bring together 24 of the world's best teams.

Qualifying as hosts, Thailand, ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the world, has never advanced past group stages in its previous three World Cup appearances in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Though brand new, Phuket's new indoor futsal stadium in Sapan Hin did not meet FIFA's require-



CHAMPIONS: From left, Phuket United's Kittipong Sonsuwan, Taweesak Cheeplek, Kanok NPz and Rogerio Moreira celebrate their victory.

ment of 5,000 spectator capacity. The as of yet unnamed facility in

Phuket has a capacity of 4,000.

- Steven Layne



# Stoked on a bit of star power

Quiksilver adds five-time world champion Stephanie Gilmore to Phuket's 2012 lineup

By Atchaa Khamlo; Chris Hudon

MONSOON season is back and you know what that means – the Quiksilver Thailand Surf Competition will soon return to Phuket. This year features an all new, star-studded lineup.

More than 300 surfers from all over the world are expected to participate in the event, which will be held from September 12-15 at Patong Beach.

The competition is organized by QS Retail (Thailand) Limited.

Commenting on the level of talent this year, local surf guru Mike Schnider, of long-standing Kata Beach surf-staple, Nautilus Dive & Surf said: "There are some people coming from other countries this year and competition could get a lot tougher than before."

A few of the countries represented at the event will include Australia, the USA, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, the Maldives and of course, Thailand.

One favorite to stand atop the leaders board is Phuket's own Anissa Flynn, 14, who currently leads the Asian Surfing Championship (ASC) women's tour.

Flynn may face real competition this year in the form of five-time ASP World Tour champion Stephanie "Happy" Gilmore, 23, who has announced her entry into the event.

"This is an Asian thing," says Michael Flynn, Anissa Flynn's father and manager, "So, if Stephanie Gilmore wins this competition and Anni comes in second that'll still put her atop the Asian tour in points."

"Just going into a final with Stephanie is a win," he added.

After a recent meeting with Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha at Provincial Hall, Surached

Mungthong, General Manager of QS Retail said, "This year is going to be very special. Stephanie Gilmore, the Australian pro-surfer will compete in the event and is also going to be in our fashion show."

The competition will have five divisions including mens shortboard, womens shortboard, open-long board, masters (for over 35-years-old) and grommet division (not over 16-years-old).

The Quiksilver tournament is the largest surf competition in Thailand – now in its fourth year.

The mens division may be over before it gets started if some of last year's Quiksilver-sponsored Balinese surfers return. Their presence meant locals in the men's division had little chance.

The longboard and grommet divisions are where locals stand the most chance of victory. Khun "Golf", a local sponsored by Tony of Nautilus Surf & Dive, nearly won the longboard division last year, coming in 2<sup>nd</sup>. He'll be competing again this year.

As for the groms, Anissa Flynn looks hard to beat, but she may be challenged by some skillful boys, since that division is unisex.

Gilmore's experience as a big wave rider will undoubtedly play to her advantage if waves end up in the 2-4 meter range – as they've been lately. Local surfers are hoping for smaller waves in order to hang on against foreign competitors who have more experience riding larger surf.

"You never know what will happen, being unlucky can happen to anyone," says Schnider with a chuckle, "Last year there was a woman pro surfer sponsored by Ripcurl who was eliminated early on just because she didn't get any good waves."

There will also be performances by the Quiksilver Team Riders, a



**HAPPY GILMORE:** Stephanie Gilmore has just won her second consecutive Roxy Pro Biarritz and her fifth ASP women's world title as of July 16, this year. Photo: Surfing Glass

fashion show of Quiksilver & Roxy clothing, and a concert by an as yet unnamed "famous band".

"We've arranged for outdoor extreme sports performances by BMX riders, sketch-board experts and 'B-boys', who will dance throughout the three-day event between competition heats," adds Surached.

The competition is aimed at encouraging tourism in Phuket during the low season and publicizing the surf season, which runs from June through September.

There will also be another groms only tournament (young surfers), to be held at Kata beach around September 8-9, which is sponsored by Ripcurl.



From left: General Manager of QS Retail, Surached Mungthong, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha and Surfing Thailand President Chanin Aiyarak.

## Sport briefs...

**TRIATHLON:** The Boat Lagoon mini marathon, held last Sunday, attracted 491 runners.

The 11.5 km run was won by Jaray Jearanai, 31, with a time of 42:30 minutes. Jaray has been training with five time European Ironman Champion Juergen Zack for the past two years, and is Thanyapura Sports and Leisure club triathlete.

Jaray has competed in triathlon events all over the world, including the Ironman World Championships popularly known as Kona. The Kona Ironman is held in Hawaii and is a 140.6 mile journey.

The mini marathon was organized by Phuket Andaman Pearl.

**WORLD SPORTS:** Manchester United is the world's most valuable sports team, according to Forbes Magazine.

The club topped the list with a value of US\$ 2.23 billion. Real Madrid came second with a value of US\$1.88bn. All 32 NFL teams made the list, led by the Dallas Cowboys in third place, worth \$1.85bn. Major League Baseball has seven teams on the list, led by the Yankees in joint-third.

The LA Lakers and New York Knicks were the only two NBA teams and Ferrari and McLaren were the only Formula one teams to make the list.

A large percentage of teams' earnings come from TV deals and a number of sponsorship deals.

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# Five years on: The Multihull Regatta

By Chris Hudon

COMMODORE Peter Dyer and Capt Mike Fallows stand on the bow of the Ocean Blue awash in the noonday sun, laughing, and reminiscing about an old, shared friend, they refer to simply as "Rocky".

Rocky was a professional boxer from back in the good ol' days. He is irrelevant to this story, except to say convey the atmosphere of a tight-knit sailing community, such as the one in Phuket.

Now, any day sailing is a good day. Even more so when there's a regatta, and still more when that Regatta finds itself blessed with agreeable weather, fine company and stiff competition.

This was the case recently during the 5<sup>th</sup> annual three-day Multihull Regatta, staged from Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

We set sail from Chalong pier at 10:30 am for the 11am start. The press sailed aboard the "Ocean Blue", a powered twin catamaran less than a year old, owned by Capt Mike Fallows – a relative newcomer to Phuket waters.

The regatta hosted two competing classes, the Firefly 850 Sport, in which five boats competed, and Multihull, in which four competed.

Yachts in attendance included local staples such as Da Vinci, Miss Saigon and Niña who were challenged by several international contenders.

Of the foreign competitors (boats not based in Phuket) there was Twin Sharks from England, Frog from Shanghai and Dyer Straits (foreign only because of the Australian crew imported specifically for the event).

Commenting on his boat Dyer Straits, which came in second behind Hanz Rahmann's Voodoo in the Firefly 850 Sport division, event organizer Peter Dyer said: "I think maybe they had too much brain-power on the boat."

"Perhaps they overcomplicated it a bit. It seems to me that they've been in some unusual places during the competition."

Mr Dyer refers to the somewhat unorthodox tactics of his crew, such as jibing close to Koh Lan whilst other competitors remained on steady course around the island.

However, it must be said that second isn't so bad, and if the crew comes together they will have a real shot at Cape Panwa Phuket Raceweek 2012, from July 18-22.

Also in that division, Moto Inzi, Frog and Twin Sharks took third, fourth and fifth respectively.

In the Multihull division Da Vinci clinched the top spot, maintaining its dominance over all three days. Miss Saigon came in second, followed by Niña and Sweet Chariot respectively.

In terms of sailing in Phuket, the Multihull Regatta marks the week before Phuket Raceweek – one of the largest sailing com-



THAT VOODOO THAT YOU DO: Da Vinci and Voodoo, each the winner of their division, race side-by-side in the shadow of the Big Buddha. Photo Chris Hudon

petitions in Asia, and gives boats a chance to work out the bugs before the big show.

Event attendance saw a steep decline this year, from more than twenty boats last year to nine this year.

"We've struggled with two things this year," says Mr Dyer, "There has been so much rainfall lately that at least five boats were unable to participate because they were in for repairs."

"The second thing has been economics. Many people have gone back to work this year. It's not something limited to this regatta, I think we'll see it next week [during Raceweek] as well," he added.

Many of the boats that sailed in the Multihull competition will also compete in Cape Panwa Phuket Raceweek 2012.

This event was sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

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