

# Phuket Gazette



**Pedal to the metal**

Hearts and cars were racing at the Toyota Motor Sports Series

**INSIDE TODAY**

July 28 - August 3, 2012 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net) | In partnership with [The Nation](http://TheNation.com)

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■ ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESSES FACE ALCOHOL BAN FOR TWO WEEKENDS IN A ROW

## Election alcohol bans to hit Patong venues

■ Mandatory ban on sale of alcohol to cost nightlife industry 5mn baht a night

By **Atchaa Khamlo**

ENTERTAINMENT businesses in Patong will be subjected to alcohol bans on four nights within nine days at the end of this month in order to comply with election law.

The forced prohibition will cost the industry at least 5 million baht a night, said Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) President Weerawit Kurasombat.

"I know that there will be a big impact on the night entertainment industry, but we understand that elections are also very important," he told the *Gazette*.

Mr Weerawit was grateful that the elections were being held during Phuket's tourism "low season", reducing the effect the bans will have on establishments' overall annual revenue.

"If this happened during the high season, night entertainment venues would suffer twice as much," he said.

However, Mr Weerawit added that so far 2012 was not a good year for the entertainment businesses in Patong.

"This year, we are not doing as well as we did during low season last year, but we are still doing okay. Normally, tourists start to return in large numbers at about the end of November. That is when the tourism industry high season usually starts in Phuket," he said.

Mr Weerawit told the *Gazette* that he had received no updates from the central government on whether the Thai Cabinet would consider making Patong a Special...

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### AUSSIE FALSE RAPE CONVICT STEVIE BAMFORD DEPORTED

STEVIE Rochelle Bamford, the 21-year-old woman convicted of falsely reporting that she was raped in Patong, was deported to her native Australia on Tuesday...

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### First steps taken for Patong Safety Zone

PHUKET police have responded quickly to orders to boost security on the island in the wake of a spate of violent attacks in recent weeks by setting the first "Safety Zone" on the island in Patong.



CCTV on the streets

Stressing how understaffed the Patong Police force are in providing more patrols, Phuket's top policeman has called for the public to join a project that will allow anyone to view live video footage recorded by CCTV cameras throughout the town to assist officers in preventing crime and quickly catching perpetrators.

Full story on Pages 4-5

### Museum rolls into town

"Muse Mobile" museum takes visitors back 2,000 years to the time when Thailand was known as "The Land of Gold" with its free admission exhibition in Saphan Hin.

Full story on Page 7

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## This Week



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# Loan Shark hunters put 11 in crosshairs

TWO suspected loan shark operations in Phuket were shut down by Crime Suppression Division (CSD) Police on July 19, putting eleven suspects behind bars.

"CSD police searched the two houses because we received reports from locals of loan shark operations running rampant. We also recently heard that a man who vouched for a loan was attacked by a group of loan sharks," explained Col Watcharapol Thongluan.

A Rassada council member on July 17 made a public plea to the police to crack down on loan sharking on the island in the wake of his younger brother's claim of being beaten the previous week by a large group of loan sharks after vouching for an ex-employee.

Police took action, obtaining search warrants on three buildings suspected of housing major loan shark operations: two in Muang district, one in Thalung.

At 8:30am, Col Watcharapol Thongluan led CSD police, Chalong Police and police volunteers in a search of rental house 12/9 on Chao Fa East Road, then moved on to house 11/57 in Moo 8 Pa Khlock, Thalung.

"We could only search two houses because there was nobody in the third house," explained Col Watcharapol.

"The house in Chalong was operating as a loan sharking office, with guards securing the area," Col Watcharapol said.



A variety of loan shark paraphernalia was seized, such as account books and loan contracts. [Inset] Rassada council member's brother.

All eight suspects arrested in the Chalong operation, including one woman, were sent to Chalong Police Station for processing.

Police arrested three men at the house in Pa Khlock.

The suspects were sent to Thalung Police Station.

"We seized a lot of evidence today. Eleven suspects were charged with engaging in business investment transactions for illegal loans with inflated interest rates," Col Watcharapol said.

"The groups we arrested today were major loan sharks in Phuket," he added.

Col Watcharapol explained that loan sharking was more serious in Phuket than other provinces in Region 8. He blamed this on the nature of the tourism industry.

"So many operators in Phuket need quick, easy loans," he said.

Loan sharks typically make loans to local vendors at markets, as well as night entertainment workers, he said.

"Many debtors are threatened, attacked and have their property seized. Police have been working on ridding the island of this issue, but it's difficult," he added.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong

## Stevie Bamford deported

From page 1

Patong Police escorted Ms Bamford to Phuket Immigration Headquarters in preparation for her return flight. The officer escorting her said Ms Bamford was scheduled to board a flight home with her boyfriend. Ms Bamford was detained at the Baan Bang Jo Detention Center in Thalung for 15 days after confessing to having falsely reported being raped by tuk-tuk drivers.

Phuket Provincial Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon confirmed to the *Gazette* that Ms Bamford was released from the Bang Jo Detention Center on July 18, as scheduled, and driven to freedom by a member of the Patong Police.



DEARLY DEPORTED: Stevie Rochelle Bamford at Phuket Immigration.

## Counterfeit UK banknotes passed along

THE owner of a currency exchange booth in Kata fell victim to a pair of unidentified foreigners that systematically passed off a series of counterfeit British £20 banknotes.

Kanyarat Tiwesakul, 48, who owns the exchange booth and the massage parlor and spa next door, said that twelve counterfeit £20 notes were exchanged by the couple on July 17 and 18 for 11,436 baht.

"A member of my staff told me that a woman came to the booth at about 5pm on July 17 and ex-



Exchange booth owner Kanyarat Tiwesakul. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

changed the British banknotes. Later that day, a man came and also exchanged some UK currency.

Altogether we took eight notes that day," Ms Kanyarat explained.

The next morning the couple allegedly appeared together at the booth and exchanged five more banknotes.

"Only the top banknote was real," said Ms Kanyarat. "The others were fake."

Ms Kanyarat said that her shop was not fitted with CCTV equipment and it was very unlikely that the CCTV system at the hotel across the road had any footage of the front of her shop.

— Atchaa Khamlo



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CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET



# Booze ban to hit Patong – twice

From page 1

Administrative Zone. Such a move, which has even been publicly supported by Pheu Thai Government Spokesman Prompong Nopparit, could provide a way for authorities to relax the rules in key tourist areas.

Mr Prompong voiced his support for the “Special Admin Zone” initiative while literally standing on Soi Bangla in January in front of a crowd of polite protesters from Patong’s nightlife industry. The protesters were calling for extended trading hours within Patong’s designated Entertainment Zone”.

Mr Weerawit told the *Gazette* on Wednesday that he had yet to hear any updates on that request, too.

The sale of alcohol will be banned across Phuket on August 26 and again in Patong on September 2 as voters go to the polls for local elections.

The August 26 island-wide alcohol ban will come into effect as residents vote in the upcoming Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) council election.

The ban, in accordance with the Election Act, will be enforced from 6pm on



The island-wide alcohol ban in August will be followed by a ban in Patong on September 2.

Saturday, August 25, and continue through to midnight on Sunday, August 26.

“The Phuket Election Commission [PEC] agreed to hold the OrBorJor council elec-

tion on August 26, from 8am to 3pm,” PEC Director Kittipong Thiengkunakrit told the *Gazette*.

Candidates can register at Phuket Com-

munity Hall from July 31 to August 4, he said.

“It took a while to set the constituency boundaries for this election because of changes in the population [distribution] on Phuket. We had to reset the boundaries for each voting district,” Mr Kittipong explained.

“The OrBorJor council election comprises 24 seats to be contested, 15 for Muang District, six for Thalang District and three for Kathu,” he added.

One week later, residents in Patong will go to the polls to vote in the upcoming Patong Municipality mayoral election.

Phunsak Naksena, Chief Administrative Officer at Patong Municipality, told the *Gazette*, “Patong Municipality has set the election date for September 2.”

Candidates can register from August 6 to 10, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The polling stations will be open from 8am to 3pm on election day.

In accordance with the Election Act, the sale of alcohol will be prohibited within the boundaries of Patong Municipality from 6pm on Saturday, September 1, to midnight Sunday, September 2.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin

## Brit, 47, drowns at Patong Beach

AN ENGLISH tourist who ignored warnings not to swim in strong surf at Patong Beach on Tuesday became the latest monsoon-season drowning victim on the island.

Patong Police received a report of the incident at 8:15am.

Pol Sub Lt Thawatchai Srimai told the *Gazette* that by the time he and his superiors arrived at the scene, it was too late; lifeguards had already pulled the victim’s lifeless body from the water.

He was later identified as UK citizen Peter Cook, age 47.

Sakhon Chaithong, chief lifeguard at Patong Beach, told the *Gazette* that there was no lifeguard on the beach at the time the incident occurred.

The lifeguard arrived on duty at 9am, two hours after a beach vendor tried to warn Mr Cook about the rough seas, said Mr Sakhon.

“The beach vendor said he used a stick to help pull the daughter back to the beach, but could not help the



Warning flag near where Mr Cook drowned. Photo: Chaiyot Y

man,” Mr Sakhon explained.

An initial examination gave the cause of death as “respiratory impairment from immersion in water”.

It was the third drowning death at Patong Beach since the onset of the monsoon season in May.

– Orawin Narabal

## No HFMD outbreak in Phuket

DESPITE deadly outbreaks of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in the region [see page 9], the situation in Phuket is under control, public health officials say.

Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Sak Tanchaikul said on July 25 that more than 10,000 cases of the disease have been reported in Thailand from the beginning of the year to July 22.

PPHO statistics for the same period revealed 246 reported cases in the province, he said.

“The PPHO is focusing its efforts on preventative measures. We met with representatives of kindergarten and primary schools and instructed them to conduct weekly



Students in Phuket Town wash up as instructed by their teachers. Photo: Kritsada Muanhawong

or twice-weekly cleaning of classrooms and equipment and to monitor closely any students who displays symptoms,” he said.

Symptoms may include fever and vomiting as well as a rash that develops on the body parts that the condition is named for.

To be on the safe side, the PPHO is urging educators to call the parents of children who have even a slight fever. Such students should be cared for at home and not returned to school until they are feeling well, he said.

– Orawin Narabal

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# Another push for Patong special admin zone status

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE continuing push to designate Phuket's top tourism town of Patong as a "Special Administrative Zone" received much positive support at a public meeting on July 20.

The meeting, held to gather feedback from local residents, was headed by Pridi Chotechuang, Deputy Secretary General of the Political Development Council and fellow PDC member Jinda Boonjun.

The PDC is an independent "think tank" within King Prajadhipok's Institute that conducts academic and field studies to assist in the formulation of government policy.

Also at the event was Preechavude "Prab" Keesin, who heads the Patong branch of the PDC. Mr Prab is also son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and head of the Patong Taxi Federation.

"We held the seminar to give Patong residents the opportunity to share and exchange their opinions about Patong possibly being designated a Special Administrative Zone," said Mr Prab.

"Patong faces so many problems because it lacks necessary funding for development projects," he explained.

At previous seminars on the topic, Mr Prab found that the majority of Patong residents believed the change would help Patong's development.

"Patong really should be designated a special administrative zone like Pattaya, since both are major



As a 'Special Administrative Zone' Patong authorities would have increased funding – and be able to set business operating hours. Photo: Gazette file

tourism cities. This would provide the necessary funds for infrastructure and development in Patong," said Mr Prab.

"Patong would become a modern city and have its own budget to spend on developmental projects, which would directly benefit the city," he added.

The meeting followed a seminar in March held to explain the concept to the public and describe what becoming a Special Administrative Zone would mean.

# Heading

By Atchaa Khamlo

IN THE wake of several high-profile violent crimes that have rocked Phuket over the past few months, Phuket Police are moving ahead with their plan to set up "safety zones" in key tourist areas, starting with Patong.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul delivered the news to more than 800 people from different walks of life in Patong, all gathered at the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa on July 21. Among those present were representatives from taxi groups, hotel businesses, jet-ski operators and beach umbrella operators.

Joining Maj Gen Chonasit in announcing the plan were Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and the superintendents from every police station in Phuket.

"We are setting up a safety zone in Patong first, and then in Kata-Karon," Gen Chonasit said, describing safety zones as "zero crime areas".

The general also laid out his six-point plan in the fight against street crime: "To ensure tourists are confident they are safe in Phuket, we will 1) set safety zones; 2) be stricter in law enforcement; 3) have more police checkpoints; 4) have more police patrols; 5) use new technology; and 6) work with local people to prevent crimes from happening," he explained.

The Patong Safety Zone will be bordered by north-south roads Thaweewong Road (the beach road) and Phang Muang Sai Kor Road and east-west roads Phra Barami Road and Prachanukhro Road.

A total of 100 officers from the Patong Police, Tourist Police, Marine Police and Patong Municipality will patrol the streets and man checkpoints set up throughout the Safety Zone, Gen Chonasit said.

Twelve officers will patrol six small zones each shift, meaning that at any time of the day officers will be able to respond to any incident in their patrol area within minutes, he added.

Separate teams of officers will also patrol the three main roads into Patong: from Patong Temple to the Chinese Shrine atop Patong Hill; from the Laem Petch Circle to the Thavorn Beach Villa & Spa in Kalim; and another patrolling Sirirat Road, leading to Karon,

further south.

Checkpoints will be set up in front of Wat Suwankiriwong (Patong Temple), Kalim Junction (Laem Petch Circle) and at the four-way intersection at Sirirat Road.

"Police will also regularly patrol areas where troublemakers, such as youth gangs and known drug offenders, are known to hang out," Gen Chonasit said.

## SPOT CHECKS

Anyone stopped by officers on patrol are likely to be subjected to a spot check made possible by two mobile ID card reading devices provided by the Phuket Provincial Office.

"The police will know instantly whether or not the people they are checking are wanted on outstanding arrest warrants," said the general.

There are more than 3,000 arrest warrants still outstanding for crimes committed in Phuket, he



The new CCTV cameras and sign. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

explained.

"Most of them are for robberies, but some are for drug crimes and some are for more serious crimes," he said.

"We also expect more machines to be provided to the police in the future," he added.

## COMMUNITY

Gen Chonasit rated cooperation with local people and business owners as the most important factor in making the project a success.

He explained that police manpower in Phuket was limited, with one policeman per 7,000 people on the island.



With one policeman to every 7,000 residents, security is really everyone's business. Photo: Gazette file

"It's really hard work so police need cooperation from local people," said one officer.

Police plan to regularly visit communities and discuss problems with local people to try to solve the problems specific to each community.

"I will make Phuket Police serve the people as best they can," Gen Chonasit said.

## THE EYES HAVE IT

A critical contribution to the security effort will be using the public as a collective resource to monitor footage captured by CCTV cameras installed throughout Patong.

"The CCTV monitoring room is still being set up, but we hope

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# into the 'Safety Zone'



Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattavrangkul (left) checks the live streaming video from the CCTV cameras on an iPhone while local businessman Preechavude 'Prab' Keesin looks on. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

to have the system up and running by the end of this month," Patong Police Superintendent Jirapat Phochanaphan told the *Gazette*.

Once the system is in operation, anyone will be able to log in and view live CCTV footage through their computers, iPads, tablets and even mobile phones.

"People will need to contact Patong Police Station first to set up a log-in account and password, but after that they will be able to monitor the CCTV footage via their phones from anywhere," Gen Chonasit explained.

"We want people to help us prevent crime. It would help us a lot, with many people watching CCTV cameras instead of only two police officers watching the monitors.

"We will ask organizations – both private and government – to help fund the costs of installing CCTV cameras in appropriate places. Business operators such as hotels can help us by installing good-quality CCTV cameras in

front of their hotels so we can monitor the roads," he added.

Local Patong businessman Preechavude "Prab" Keesin, who is the son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and head of the largest taxi driver association in Patong, said he asked operators of entertainment venues along Phang Muang Sai Kor Road to install a total of 20 CCTV cameras to set up a network that will cost 400,000 baht in total.

By sharing the cost, the bar owners could afford to set up the system. "Some local business owners helped by donating a few thousand baht each or paying for the installation, which helped reduce the cost for the bar owners," he said.

Using his mobile phone, Mr Prab showed Gen Chonasit live images from the CCTV cameras already installed and working.

Mr Prab explained that all 20 cameras had been installed two weeks earlier, with 12 already streaming live video and the other eight expected to be up and

running within a week.

## THE PAYOFF

Gen Chonasit explained plainly that ensuring the personal safety of tourists was a top priority for the government.

"The government plans to boost the number of tourists coming to Thailand with the goal of earning 2 trillion baht in tourism in the year 2015 alone. Phuket made 111 billion baht last year, so Phuket is expected to earn 222bn baht in 2015.

"However, the most important part of this is local people cooperating to provide security to tourists who really need it during their travels," he said.

"The Safety Zones will be in place until 2015. After then, we will follow up and evaluate how effective they have been."

In closing the meeting, Gen Chonasit and Patong Police Superintendent Col Jirapat each donated 100,000 baht to the project.

## Harsher penalties are the solution: Poll

HARSHER sentencing for convicted criminals is the best deterrent to violent crime in Phuket, according to the results of a *Phuket Gazette* online readers poll.

The poll was launched following a particularly heinous crime that rocked the island last month: the slaying of Australian travel agent Michelle Smith in Kata.

Given these crimes and the subsequent focus on security issues on the island, the *Gazette* asked readers on June 23:

*Given recent reports of violent crime on the island, which of the following do you think would be the best way to improve tourist*

Of the six options, most respondents overall chose "harsher sentences for convicted criminals", at 44.7%. This was followed by:

- Increased CCTV surveillance: 15.5%
- More police checkpoints: 13.4%
- Neighborhood watches, backed by hotels and resorts: 10.5%
- Better lighting on popular walking streets: 7.9%
- Initiate the Internal Security Act: 7.9%

safety in Phuket?

Half of the respondents who identified themselves as local foreign residents chose harsher

sentencing, making it a clear favorite to any other solution for that demographic. In a similar show of strength for harsher sentencing were tourists, with 42%.

This compared with just 11% of Thai respondents, who saw more police checkpoints (30%) and better lighting on walking streets like Bangla Road (29%) as the preferred options.

While Phuket Police and officialdom continue to push for ever-greater CCTV coverage of "risk areas", only about 15% of readers in all three groups saw this as the most effective approach.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## 17 murders in the first half of 2012

CRIME statistics for the first half of 2012 revealed a 70% year-on-year increase in heinous crimes committed in Phuket in the first half of 2012.

Heinous crimes comprise five subcategories: premeditated murder, mugging, gang mugging, kidnapping and arson.

The rise was led by an increase in reports of premeditated murder, of which 17 were reported in the first half of 2012. This number is compared to the 10 incidents over the same period in 2011, an increase of 70%.

There were 14 arrests in the 17 reported cases this year.

Most of the other heinous crimes reported were group muggings, of which there were two arrests in four reported

cases. There was also one reported arson attack.

Crimes against the body, sexual assaults, dropped 8.6%, despite the rise in the murder rate.

Sixty-nine general assault cases were reported in the first half on 2012, down 2.9%.

There were 14 also cases of rape or sexual assault, down 22.2%.

Reports of attempted murder were down 80%, with 11 arrests in 15 reported cases.

Crimes against property are up by 19.8%, led by a 25.5% increase in general theft cases. A total of 270 such thefts were reported, resulting in 162 arrests.

Motorbike theft also rose by 12.5% year-on-year, with 24 arrests in 54 reported cases in the first half of 2012.

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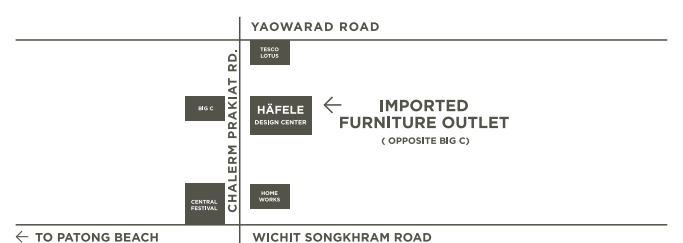
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# ‘Pink Panther’ sets goals

## Re-elected OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising outlines some term objectives

**PHUKET** Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising was re-elected to a second term in early April, after resigning his position to force an early election for the presidency.

*Phuket Gazette* chief reporter Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai recently met up with President Paiboon to discuss a wide range of issues in the run-up to the election for *OrBorJor* council seats on September 2.

**Phuket Gazette:** As *OrBorJor* President, are you happy with the new *Phuket Bus Terminal 2*? Does the *OrBorJor* have any plans to take over operation of the terminal?

**Paiboon:** We are not going to take over the operation of the bus terminal. The Phuket Land Transport Office managed everything on their own from the outset. They bought the land, they constructed the terminal building, and they managed the traffic in that area by themselves, without discussing [their plans] with anyone. So whatever problems they encounter they will have to solve them on their own, before handing it over to us. We are not going to solve problems they created.

However, we have offered them some help by providing a new Po Thong (pink bus) route to shuttle passengers between Bus Terminal 2 and Bus Terminal 1. These buses operate daily from 7am to 8pm.

**Is the official English-language name of the new *OrBorJor* hospital “Phuket Provincial Hospital”?**

**Could you update us on progress of the facility in building up a client base?**

Yes, “Phuket Provincial Hospital” is the official English name of the *OrBorJor* Hospital. Many for-

eigners have a hard time pronouncing “*OrBorJor*” Hospital. Also, the full name “Phuket Provincial Administration Organization Hospital” is too long to remember. Therefore, I think the best name for foreigners to use for the hospital is “Phuket Provincial Hospital”.

We have a lot more patients coming in for treatment every day; we now treat 400 to 500 patients daily. With this increase in patients, we are providing more specialists in different medical fields to best meet our patients’ needs.

We currently have 129 beds for in-patients. By next year, we will add another 20 beds to support the increase in patient numbers. Our hospital is designed to accommodate up to 200 in-patient beds. We also have a lot more patients enrolled in the government’s Social Security program joining, as well as groups of patients who have private coverage by major insurance companies.

**Some people have expressed concern that the *OrBorJor* will cut down virgin forest on Toh Sae Hill in order to improve views from the new recreational sites the *OrBorJor* has built there. What is the plan?**

We want to create more recreational areas for people, giving the



OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising and Governor Tri Augkaradacha (left) stroll through a colorful aquatic-themed display at the Phuket Colorful Countdown event held at Sanamchai to ring in 2012. Photo: Gazette file

public more options. We want people in all parts of Phuket to have more places to exercise or have a picnic. Since the objective is to make places people will enjoy, I can say that I won’t destroy the natural beauty. I will try to develop each area for recreation, with as little impact on the environment as possible.

**Most of the people who walk up Toh Sae Hill like it quiet, the way it is now. Is there a plan to restrict traffic after the work is complete: it could be a traffic mess if a lot of people start going up there... will tour vans, buses, and so on be allowed?**

Even though we are developing Toh Sae Hill as a brand-new recreation spot, I don’t want to

overdevelop it. We won’t widen the road, but we will pave the existing surface to make it smoother. I don’t want big buses or vans to be able to go up there, since we are trying to keep the hill as pristine as possible.

We will also create a jogging track on the road up the hill, so that people who love exercising can use the track [without worrying about vehicles].

**What is the status of the projects to create recreational facilities at the Bang Neaw Dum and Bang Wad reservoirs?**

These projects are in the design phase, which includes the environmental impact study process. I believe we can push them forward soon.

**Are there any other projects you want to introduce to our readers?**

I would like to introduce our new “Indoor Sports Complex” project. We are going to renovate the existing building at Saphan Hin to be an indoor sports complex. Once it is completed, Phuket people will have a complete new indoor sports facility to use as a place to exercise.

**Our News Editor asked if it would be okay to give you the nickname “The Pink Panther” for fun; are you okay with that?**

No problem. You can call me “The Pink Panther”.

See story below for OrBorJor policy on solid waste disposal issues.

## Rubbish truck fleet gets flat

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) will not fund a new fleet of garbage trucks for the province, its president said on July 20.

The issue of old garbage trucks leaking swill on the roads of Phuket Town and surrounding areas was raised by Prachoom Suriya, chief of Phuket City Municipality’s Environmental Division in a meeting at the new incineration plant at Saphan Hin on July 10.

A Phuket Municipality officer

said that 13 garbage trucks, including four privately-owned vehicles, are in use for collecting trash in the municipality.

Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak suggested Phuket City Municipality set a plan to replace its fleet of garbage trucks over fixed periods of time, such as every five or 10 years.

He also said he would ask the *OrBorJor* to provide funding for new trucks.

“I think it will be okay for the *OrBorJor*, as one garbage truck

costs about 3 million baht. The *OrBorJor* could provide 30 million baht a year for new garbage trucks to [haul trash] to the incinerator as the organization has a budget of more than 900 million baht a year,” he said.

*OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising said he had yet to receive any such request – and if he did he would flatly reject it.

“The *OrBorJor* can provide advice and suggestions, but funding is not our responsibility,” he explained.



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## Police bank B100,00 PTA reward



PTA Vice President Mr Bhuritt said the quick arrest of Mrs Smith's killer eased media pressure.

THE Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) earlier this week awarded 100,000 baht to provincial and regional police for bringing the killers of Australian travel agent Michelle Smith to justice.

The handover was made at a small ceremony at the PTA office on the bypass road in Rassada on July 17.

PTA Vice President Bhuritt Maswongsa stressed that although the stabbing was an isolated incident, it nevertheless raised serious concerns about the safety of Phuket as a tourist destination.

"It was due to the excellent cooperation among the Phuket Provincial Police and Police Region 8 investigation departments that the suspects were arrested within five days," Mr Bhuritt said.

More than 400,000 Australian tourists visited Phuket in 2011, the vast majority enjoying their stays without incident, he said.

PTA President Somboon Jirayus admitted that intense media coverage of the killing and subsequent investigation in Australia had "put a great deal of pressure" on the Phuket tourism industry and that of Thailand as a whole.

"However, the quick arrests in the incident reduced the pressure a lot. We have received many emails from Australian travel agents asking us to thank the police," he said.

— Chutharat Plerin

## Chalong drug checkpoint rounds up 27 youths

POLICE and district officials rounded up 27 suspected drug users over the evening of July 17 at a checkpoint set up on Soi Nakok in Chalong subdistrict.

Soi Nakok, adjacent to the TOT compound on Chao Fa West Road, is home to the housing estate where drugged-up burglar Kittikhun Wonghajak strangled 17-year-old Sunisa "Nong Som" Saiyoy on July 10.

Suwat Buppapo, chief of the Muang District Security Unit, said that the aim of the checkpoint was to stop and identify drug users "so that they may be given the opportunity to attend a future drug rehabilitation camp".

Official checked urine samples provided by

160 people stopped at the checkpoint. Of the samples taken, 27 turned tell-tale purple, indicating a preliminary positive result for methamphetamine.

Most of those testing positive were teenagers.

Chief Suwat said he wished to make the Nakok area "a drug-free zone".

"I have received many reports indicating this area has many drug abuse problems."

As at similar checkpoints that have been set up around the island as part of the initiative, those testing positive for traces of illegal substances are given a choice: attend the drug rehabilitation program or face charges and possible imprisonment.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



The drug checkpoint was part of a nationwide crackdown on drugs.

## 333 beachgoers rescued in wake of lifeguards return

By Chutharat Plerin

OFFICIALLY back on the beaches from May 28, after another contract signing saga, Phuket lifeguards saved 333 people in the following 31 days, according to an announcement made by Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) President Paiboon Upatising on July 18.

"Despite the work of the lifeguards, four people have drowned this year. They drowned because they either ignored the red warning flags or went swimming at night," President Paiboon said.

"I'd like to ask all people and organizations connected with tourism to warn tourists of the potential dangers [on the coastline]. I'd also like for local government officials and beach vendors to coordinate better with lifeguards when it comes to warning tourists."

Under the conditions of the new contract, Phuket Lifeguard Service Co Ltd is able to employ 106 staff, both lifeguards and management, at 33 stations on 13 beaches on the island.

"We have three lifeguards in each station working from 9am to



Lifeguards were officially back to work on May 28. Photo: OrBorJor PR

7pm watching for swimmers in trouble," said Phuket Lifeguard Service Co Ltd manager Wirote Sawaengphol.

This year, lifeguards have increased the number of red flags that can be flown three-fold.

Red flags, meaning "No Swim-

ming", are placed to inform potential victims that dangerous currents, submerged rocks and other threats lurk offshore. A yellow flag indicates the area is not supervised by lifeguards, so one should swim with caution. Flags which are yellow and red planted

in the sand tell swimmers that lifeguards are on duty in the area between the yellow-red flags.

"In both monsoon season and high season, we can't guarantee swimmers' safety," said Mr Wirote.

"Having lifeguards on duty is really the last ditch effort to saving someone's life. We're trying to solve the problem at the wrong end. The best way to warn tourists [and prevent drownings] is through the tour agencies and hotels; they have a closer relationship with the tourists," he said.

Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut "Nut" Chuayuan told the Gazette on July 17 that they were now working on the new warning signs to be installed on Phuket beaches.

The signs will carry warnings in 11 languages: Thai, English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, German, French, Russian, Arabic, Italian and Hindi.

"As soon as we get the wording checked by native speakers of each language the signs will be ready for use. We intend to place the signs next to the red warning flags," he said.

## 'Mobile Siam' museum in town

SAPHAN Hin in Phuket Town is known to attract all manner of interesting vehicles, but this week marked a first for the park as it hosts the "Muse Mobile", a mobile museum project created by The National Discovery Museum Institute (NDMI).

The free admission event started Thursday and runs to October 31 at Saphan Hin.

The exhibit takes its guests back about 2,000 years, to a time when Thailand was called Suvarnabhumi "The Land of Gold", explained Suppakorn Poonyarith, acting head of the NDMI's Network and Knowledge Development Department.

"The content for the Muse Mobile was drawn from some of the exhibitions currently on display at Museum of Siam in



Mr Suppakorn, NDMI Acting Head of Museums Network and Knowledge Development Department

Bangkok," he said.

In addition to four exhibits, Mr Suppakorn explained there would be interactive activities for guests to learn more about Suvarnabhumi and the ancient forebears of many present-day Thais.

— Chutharat Plerin

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**HONDA**



# Water: Dam it, store it

By Chutharat Plerin

THE lack of necessary water storage facilities at hotels and resorts was highlighted as a major contributor to the annual water woes of Phuket during a meeting at the Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment on Monday.

"New hotels are going up, but local administration seems to forget the more buildings, the more water is needed," said Nutthakrit Polpetch, a specialist with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment office in Phuket.

Mr Nutthakrit noted that supply shortage had little to do with a lack of water in Phuket, which enjoys over 3,000mm or rainfall annually.

"What I am presently trying to work out with local authorities is how to implement a central policy requiring new hotels to construct their own water storage facilities before they are given a license to operate. If this were so, then residents wouldn't face a water shortage in the dry season," said Mr Nutthakrit



Phuket's water shortages stem from a lack of storage facilities, not a lack of rainfall, says water specialist Nutthakrit Polpetch of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Phuket Office . Photo: Orawin Narabal

Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, who chaired the meeting, explained that Israeli Ambassador to Thailand Itzhak Shoham offered help during his June 19 visit to Phuket.

"We discussed Phuket's water shortage issues and he provided me with some information about desalination, turning sea water into

fresh water," V/Gov Sommai said.

Mr Nutthakrit also pointed out that reclaiming wastewater could be part of the solution, especially if experts from Prince of Songkla University (PSU) were to help.

"If PSU's research into water management technology leads to a low-cost wastewater management system it would be very

useful," he said.

Pun Thongchumnum, Assistant Dean of PSU's Research and Development Department, said that he and his team were ready to provide support in terms of research and know-how.

"If Phuket needs us for anything, we have the equipment and researchers – we are ready."

## In brief...

### Lese majeste case against Thai Kiwi

THE Rak Phuket Club rallied against improper gestures made by a Thai expat in Bangkok last week by filing a letter of complaint to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Deputy Prime Minister Chalermsak Yubamrung on July 19.

The club has asked for action against the Thai expat, Thitinant Kaewchantranont.

Mrs Thitinant, 63, resides in New Zealand. However, she was in Bangkok on July 13, at which time she allegedly made improper gestures towards an image of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Original reports of the incident alleged that Mrs Thitinant was mentally unstable. However, her ability to post pictures and other personal information on Facebook is being used to cast doubt on such claims.

### Aussie expat found hanged

POLICE on July 23 responded to a report of a suspected suicide at a luxury home in Pa Khlok.

Police were notified of the death by the wife of the victim, 38-year-old Australian Daniel Cruwys.

The late Mr Cruwys was found hanged by the neck from a nylon rope tied to a ceiling fixture in the home's CCTV monitoring room.

A note written to the wife of the deceased indicated that they had a daughter together.

A review of CCTV images showed Mr Cruwys entering the home at about 5pm the previous day and fashioning the noose he used to hang himself.

### Ex-cop dies in Phuket hotel

A FORMER police officer from Ranong was found dead in his Phuket Town hotel room on July 18. Police say there were no signs of a struggle and believe the officer died of natural causes.

The late Lt Col Chokchai Charucharee had recently retired from service at Suk Samran Police Station, where he was a deputy superintendent.

## Reversal of Patong one-way traffic circuit stalled

THE plan to reverse the direction of one-way traffic flow in Patong, expected to take effect in June, has been delayed as work to complete a new roundabout at the north end of the beach road has fallen behind schedule.

The 4.2-million-baht Laem Petch Circle project was delayed due to the need to remove utility poles in the area. It is now scheduled for completion by August 12, said Phunsak Naksena, Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) at Patong Municipality.

However, it will still be several months after the circle has been completed before the flow of traffic will be reversed. Under the current regimen that went into effect in mid-January 2007, southbound traffic is routed along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road, while northbound traffic travels along Thaweewong Road, better known to many as "the beach road".

Completing the loop, Prachanukhro Road at the south end of



Soi Ruamjai will be turned into a two-way road as part of the traffic-reversal project.

the beach was made one-way toward the beach, while Phra Barami Road remained two-way.

"After Laem Petch Circle is finished, we will put up traffic signs and have arrows painted on the road, which will take an additional two or three months. Once that is finished, we will do a test run, reversing the traffic flow for about a month, probably in November,"

explained Maj Saravut Chuprasit, chief of Patong Police Traffic Division.

As a part of the plan, Ruamjai Road, which connects Thaweewong Road and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road, in the southern part of the town, will become a two-way road on August 10, explained Maj Saravut.

After talks with police, *Palad*



The Laem Petch Circle is taking longer than expected to finish. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

Phunsak expressed some worries about this aspect of reversing the traffic flow, especially considering the narrow width of Ruamjai Road and public parking issues.

"Cars need to be parked on only one side of the road on days with even-numbered dates, and on the other side on odd-numbered dates," said *Palad* Phunsak.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*

## Fishermen debate new crab trap regulations

LACK of compliance with a regulation on crab trap design established in late June was a hot topic of debate at a meeting of the Traditional Fishing Preservation Group on July 18.

The group recently filed a complaint with Provincial Hall over lack of compliance with the new regulation, which mandates that the netting of crab traps must allow adequate space for juvenile crabs to escape.

In the end, the group resolved to ensure that the word is spread among all small-scale and coastal fishermen that they must comply with the new rule.

Recently, fisherman working off the Krabi coast were caught using crab traps that did not meet the new regulation. Officers seized the traps and fined seven fishermen 2,500 baht each.

"They usually work at night as they know there are fewer patrols," said Chief Charoen Aomanee of the Krabi Management Center, Andaman Sea Fisheries.

– *Orawin Narabal*



New regulations have changed the netting for crab traps to ensure that juvenile crabs are able to escape. Photo: Gazette files

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# Myanmar president makes historic visit

THEIN SEIN, the president of Myanmar, made an historic first official visit to Thailand earlier this month, holding talks with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on boosting economic ties between the two neighbors.

The two leaders signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), including one on developing the Dawei Special Economic Zone on Myanmar's west coast.

The three-day trip by the Myanmar leader had been postponed twice. A scheduled visit in May is believed to have been cancelled because opposition leader – and democracy icon – Aung San Suu Kyi was also visiting Thailand.

The talks come as Thein Sein's reforms transform the international community's relationship with Myanmar, for many years a pariah state under military rule.

In November 2010, the country held national elections and implemented a new parliamentary system, though critics say the Myanmar constitution still reserves too much power for the military.

Those reforms have led to an easing of sanctions by the West and a flood of investment, with fierce competition to capitalize on the country's potential.

Thai companies are among those aiming to benefit from the new developments.

Chief among those is developer ItalThai, which is planning to develop a large deep sea port and industrial complex at Dawei.

ItalThai's plans for the US\$8.6



Myanmar president Thein Sein and PM Yingluck signed three MoUs during Mr Thein's visit. Photo: The Nation

billion Dawei project would include a link to Laem Chabang, port around 80 kilometers from Bangkok, which would join Myanmar's western and Thailand's eastern seaboards.

At the press conference after the signing of the Dawei MoU, Mrs Yingluck said Thailand was committed to the project, with both countries seeing mutual benefits of linking the two ports.

In the second MoU, Thailand offered Myanmar assistance in four key areas: human capital; Myanmar's preparation to chair the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2014; economic reform; and infrastructure development.

Another MoU dealt with the establishment of an "Energy Forum".

The discussion also covered

employment of Myanmar workers in Thailand and drug suppression.

As many as two million Myanmar workers are believed to live in Thailand, many vulnerable to exploitation: most of the *ya bah* (methamphetamine) in Thailand is smuggled into the country from Myanmar by rebel groups seeking to finance their lifestyles and operations against the Myanmar military.

## Fears grow over HFMD outbreak



Students in Bangkok undergo checks for HFMD. Photo: The Nation

FEARS are growing over the current hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) outbreak in Southeast Asia, though the Thai government continues to insist it has the situation under control.

In particular, the death of a two-and-a-half year-old girl from the disease has prompted concerns that Thailand's outbreak may mirror that of Cambodia, where dozens of children have died in recent weeks.

This year, HFMD has infected more than 13,000 people in Thailand. However, common strains of the disease are not very dangerous.

"What everyone should learn from this case [the 2-year-old girl] is that patients should be brought to doctors before their condition becomes really serious," said Disease Control Department (DCD) director general Dr Pornthep Siriwanarangsarn.

Public Health Ministry permanent secretary Dr Pajit Warachit said if parents find their children suffering from high fever and vomiting for two days, they should take them to a doctor as quickly as possible.

## Ramadan bomb injures eight

A BOMB blast in Thailand's restive Deep South injured eight people in an attack apparently timed to mark the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

In the Narathiwat attack, the device, which went off around dawn in Sungai Kolok district on July 20, was concealed in a pickup truck.

The explosion damaged an electrical appliance shop, starting a fire that spread to nearby buildings.

Among those injured were four people trapped on the roof of a burning building.

On July 19, a villager was killed and his companion wounded by a roadside bomb in Yala Province.

The men were hunting squirrels at the time.

Meanwhile, insurgents are plotting more attacks in key areas of Songkhla's Haad Yai and Muang districts, explained Songkhla Governor Krissada Boonraj.

"I have received information from reliable sources," Governor



The truck-bomb attack injured eight in Narathiwat. Photo: The Nation

Krissada said.

He said he had instructed district chiefs to convene meetings of local kamnan and village heads to

press for strict monitoring of strangers arriving in their areas.

"We have to be alert," he added.

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# New guidelines needed for tourism

ONE chronic tourism-related problem that periodically bubbles to the surface of the local media here in Phuket is that of illegal foreign guides conducting tours for fellow countrymen.

While the problem originally centered mainly around illegal Korean guides, its scope has expanded over the past decade with robust growth in the inbound markets from both Russia and China.

The issue was raised once again at a meeting in Phuket earlier this month, when Phanomphon Thammachartniyom, adviser to the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism, said he had been trying to stamp out the problem for more than 10 years, but to no avail.

In response to claims by the Tourist Police that their investigators had been unable to find any evidence of illegal guides working in Phuket, Mr Phanaphon pointed out quite rightly that: "If you spend three days at some of the popular tourist venues, such as Wat Chalong and Laem Phromthep, you would find a hundred of them." As any long-time resident of the island is well aware, Mr Phanomphon is right.

From a broader perspective, the illegal guide problem falls squarely into the wide range of "illegal-yet-common" practices in Phuket that can only continue if law enforcement officials are either too lazy to take action, or are "actively encouraged" to look the other way.

While a payoff here and a payoff there might seem innocuous enough, especially to those on the receiving end, the cumulative effect of this "culture of corruption" manifests itself as a cancerous growth on our society. Even the environment that sustains us all is at risk, as clearly demonstrated by the vast plunder of our forest reserves at the hands of rich "investors" and the officials whose palms they grease in order to steal these reserves from future generations.

While Thai labor law is notoriously vague in defining what actually constitutes "work", it is nevertheless quite specific about the circumstances under which foreigners can be issued work permits. Chief among these is "when qualified Thais cannot be found" to perform such work.

The lack of Thai guides with the mastery of Korean, Chinese and Russian languages is clearly demonstrated by the number of illegal guides from these countries in Phuket. But despite this, the "tour guide" profession remains one of the many reserved for Thais under current law.

We suggest that the government consider changing this law to allow qualified foreign guides from these countries – those who have sufficient knowledge of Thai history and culture – to be issued work permits. These guides could then join the ranks of law-abiding, tax-paying foreigners who have done so much to help develop the Thai tourism industry over the years – rather than serving to further enrich corrupt or lazy officials.



## Beach trash hits high-tide mark

I was recently on holiday in Phuket and spent some time with my family on Nai Harn Beach, a beach I have been to many times over the past six years. This excellent beach has a great tidal pool and is ideal for families.

However, each day at high tide, trash is swept into the pool and creates a floating garbage pile. This trash could be dealt with as the tides push it up onto the beach.

At no time in my numerous visits to the beach have I seen anybody doing anything about cleaning up this trash. All around the beach and tidal pool are discarded picnic items and plastic, but no sign of any rubbish bins.

No one on the beach seems to take any responsibility for this. Even the sunbed vendor does not seem bothered, even when it is clear that many people are not coming back because of this problem.

Many, many beaches around the world tackle this problem on a daily basis, and if Phuket wants to be considered a world-class tourist destination, then this problem needs to be taken seriously.

Perhaps the vendors could be more involved in the cleanup, as well as other businesses along the beach. How about a regular beach cleanup organized by the government, with special visits for a high-tide sweep.

Many of us come to Phuket for the beaches, and if Phuket doesn't look after them, we'll take our tourist dollars elsewhere.

Andy Birch  
Phuket

## Rule the sea, before we rue our reefs

*Re: Gazette online, New crab trap regulations not causing a snag in Phuket, July 19*

When we go to a Thai market, we can see a lot of juvenile fish. Regulations, as well as on-site controls, should be put in place to save reef fish.

## Letters

to the Editor

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

Also, fishing for sharks and the sale of shark products should be banned in Thailand – a shark is worth more alive than dead, as divers pay a lot of money to see them.

Whistle-blower  
Gazette forum

## An open letter to all the misogynists

Does this sound like you? You had bad luck with women and you blame it on feminism. Or your ex-wife. Or Western Society. Or Christianity. Or your mother. You came to Thailand and you think you found the pot of gold, the fountain of youth, paradise on earth. You finally feel like a winner.

If that's you, here's what I want to say: stop whining and suck it up.

You were born white and male in the First World. You had more opportunities than 99.9 per cent of the human beings who have ever lived on this planet. But you screwed up. You made some bad decisions and you were unhappy.

It happens. Get over it. And for Pete's sake, stop writing letters and blog posts and books (BOOKS!) about how you're some kind of Superman because you can pay for sex in Asia. Anybody can pay for sex in Asia. It's not rocket science. With 20 bucks in your pocket you can pay for sex 10 minutes after you clear customs.

It's nothing special. You're not special. You're just a normal guy who feels sorry for himself and hasn't got the guts to keep on living without liquor and commercial sex. You're boring, so shut up already.

Steve Rosse  
Phuket

## Many happy returns

I have been travelling to Phuket for the past 18 years and had some of my best holidays there, often encouraging my family and friends to make the trip to the "Land of Smiles" with its honest, friendly people.

It's with much sadness that I now read (online and in my Austrian newspapers) of all the crime, violence and theft happening on a daily basis in Phuket.

I am taking a friend to Phuket in July (his first time to Thailand), so hopefully we will not see any of this [crime] firsthand and both of us will come away with nothing but happy memories and stories of kind Thais, as I have experienced in the past.

Keep up the good work in removing this scourge from Thailand.

Kevin Chester  
Phuket

## Slow loris reaction

I just read the article about the slow loris in this week's *Gazette*. ["Slow loris rescue", *Phuket Gazette*, July 14-10, 2012].

Last Friday, I had a drink in a bar on Bangla Road and within five minutes – no exaggeration – I saw four people walking around with slow lorises.

It does not take a master detective to find these criminals. Just arrest them every night if needed and hand out stiffer fines. And confiscate the animal, of course.

Twenty years ago, I was involved in starting a campaign to get gibbons out of the tourist industry. So far very little progress has been made.

The police and the Forestry Department, who are probably responsible, should truly be ashamed.

Lex de Leeuw van Weenen  
Kathu

## Phuket Gazette

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Editor: Pana Janviroj

News Manager: Chris Husted

News Editor: Stephen Fein

Features Editor: Marc Mulloy

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand

General Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Production Manager: Suchart Changate

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: [news@phuketgazette.net](mailto:news@phuketgazette.net)

Advertising Sales: [adsales@phuketgazette.net](mailto:adsales@phuketgazette.net)

Classified Advertising: [classads@phuketgazette.net](mailto:classads@phuketgazette.net)

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Gazette Guide: [guide@phuketgazette.net](mailto:guide@phuketgazette.net)

Events Sponsorship: [events@phuketgazette.net](mailto:events@phuketgazette.net)

General: [info@phuketgazette.net](mailto:info@phuketgazette.net)

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240

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

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# Community safety on the home front

## FIRST PERSON

LOCAL people need to play a significant roll in the safety and security of the people who live in their neighborhoods and I believe that Village Security Volunteers are better at preventing crime than CCTV cameras. I really believe that manpower can't go wrong in the same way technology can.

As soon as we have our target number of volunteers for a village, we can ensure the security of that village.

The Village Security Volunteers, also known as the *ChorLorBor*, is a group of people from each village who are willing to volunteer and safeguard their own community. Although they are not government officers, *ChorLorBor* volunteers work under the Ministry of Interior's Department of Provincial Administration.

The framework of the Village Security Volunteers is a very similar to the Civil Defense Volunteers, except that we get absolutely nothing material in return for our services: no monthly compensation or any other special privileges.

When people become volunteers, they become the eyes and ears of the community. However, many people are still too busy with their personal lives. I think people began to realize how important the volunteers are after the tragic killing of Nong Som [the 17-year-old girl murdered in her home in Chalong on July 10].

We have about 20 volunteers in



Chalongsak Tawabutta, 58, has worked with local administrations for more than 20 years. As *Kamnan*, he is by law the head of the Village Security Volunteer team in his ambit.

Here, he explains the importance of community members becoming a part of the Village Security Volunteer team to protect their communities and ensure the safety of loved ones.

Chalong at the moment. Our goal is to get 10 volunteers from each village. Chalong has 10 villages, which means we need at least 100 people to help us protect the community.

There are also Village Security Volunteers in other areas of Phuket, such as Rassada, but they have a different a setup. Their main responsibility is to guard Bus Terminal 2. They work full time and are paid monthly compensation from the Rassada Municipality.

In Chalong, we all have day jobs and then patrol the village at night, or help police set up checkpoints to search for drugs.

It's important for members of our team to be close to the community and they must be respected by the people in their neighborhoods. I ensure this by meeting potential volunteers – I'm really the first step of the screening process. I select only people who I know can be trusted.

I'm hoping we can get a bigger budget from the Chalong Municipality, so we can get more

people to join our team. Foreigners can even volunteer, but of course we prefer people who speak Thai fluently.

Though we can't provide financial compensation to our team, we try to help cover the costs of gasoline for night patrols. Sometimes we are even able to provide a little money for a meal while on duty, a flashlight to use, a uniform or even a weapon, such as a gun.

Unlike Civil Defense Volunteers, *ChorLorBor* volunteers are allowed to carry weapons and we receive basic training from the police on how to handle situations. But the most important part about being a Village Security Volunteer is to work closely with the community to ensure the safety and security of the village, especially their loved ones.

Having them as part of the community offers everyone greater peace of mind.

No matter how rich or poor you are, a safe and secure environment is the most important factor in making a place feel like home.

# Eventually we'll all pay the price



**PAYING THE PRICE:** Gibbons aren't the only animals missing out on the wonders of the quickly disappearing jungle. Photo: West Chester Dumonts

RECENT headlines about encroachment on Phuket's national parks has caused me to reflect a little on the last time I visited a national park in Phuket. I believe it was when I had to visit someone who lived near the Gibbon Rehabilitation Center and was stopped on the main road near the Bang Pae Waterfall.

The guard looked into my car and announced that my three Thai passengers could come in for free, but that I would have to hand over 200 baht as I was a foreigner. I engaged the reverse gear of my car and have never gone back.

I disagree with a policy that charges 200 baht for foreign adults and 100 baht for foreign kids when Thai adults are charged 20 baht and Thai kids 10 baht. I work in Phuket and pay my taxes here, therefore I see no reason to accept paying "tourist rates" to visit one of the last few remaining oases of virgin jungle.

It is not that I disagree with the idea of paying for entering a park, but believe it should be a blanket charge for everyone,

## Island View

By Roy McAllum

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

regardless of race or social standing. After all the idea of paying an entry fee is presumably to help with the park's upkeep and not to make a profit.

However, given recent reports that about 30 per cent of nationwide encroachment occurs in Phuket, I wonder what those park fees are actually used for.

In three years, the Association of South East Asian Nations Economic Community (AEC) will come into effect. I would hope that when the overall harmonization of the AEC comes into play many archaic systems, such as two-tiered pricing, will disappear.

As for the encroachment on state land, if it is not stopped once and for all then maybe future generations of all nationalities will really be the ones paying a much higher price.

## Issues & Answers...

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

### Is Kata Beach a privately owned beach?

One day, my girlfriend and I decided to go to Kata Beach. As soon as we arrived and got settled on the sand, an "umbrella man" came and asked if we wanted to rent beach chairs. We declined, because we were only going to stay on the beach for 20 minutes, and we had already just put our stuff down between some beach chairs – there was maybe one meter of empty space around us. This man then told us that this area was private property and we had to leave.

Other people who were sitting on the sand like us were also asked to move. Everyone was surprised.

This is the first time something like this has happened to me in Thailand. All this time, I had thought that the beach was the property of the government. Is it a private beach now? If I want to stay on Kata Beach, do I have to rent a beach chair?

Mr Simon  
Phuket



Couple being forced to move from by 'umbrella man'. Photo: Mr Simon

**Weerasak Anakewongsawad, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) of Karon Municipality replies:**

All beaches are the property of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and are monitored by the government. Everyone has the right to use them.

The Kata Beach Umbrella Club is controlled by Karon Municipality, but the beach umbrella

operators probably hired someone who doesn't understand that the beaches are not private.

I would suggest that you file a complaint at the Karon Municipality Office. Once that is done we can investigate the case. Knowing the exact spot and being able to identify the person who claimed that the beach was private property would be very helpful.

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

Submit your issue at

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

### Thai dual nationality

Does Thailand allow its citizens to have dual nationality?

For instance, can a Thai national keep her Thai citizenship and acquire a foreign one?

If so, can that person then have two passports?

Akgun Kiciman  
Turkey

**Worrawan Pakamas, Phuket Passport Officer responsible for checking nationality and identity, replies:**

Yes, Thai citizens are allowed

to have dual nationality and own two passports.

If you are born in Thailand and have at least one Thai parent, you automatically have Thai nationality and can apply for a Thai passport.

However, if you are only half-Thai and were born and raised abroad, and do not have Thai nationality, you can still apply for a Thai passport. You must first contact the District Office that your Thai parent is registered at and have your name added to the Thai House Registration list.

For more information contact the Phuket Passport Office Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm at 076-222 081.

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

Although you are allowed to own two passports, you must leave Thailand on the same passport you used to enter The Kingdom.



# New trade surplus high

## Import – Export

THREE-QUARTERS of the way into the government's current fiscal year, international trade in Phuket is thriving, with this year's trade surplus already surpassing last year's record high.

Phuket Customs House' records through June 30 show that the value of exports in the 2012 government fiscal year (October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012) is now at 12.06 billion baht – just 440 million baht shy of the previous year's total.

Meanwhile, the combined value of imports is up to 1.67bn baht, compared to last year's full-year total of 2.12bn baht.

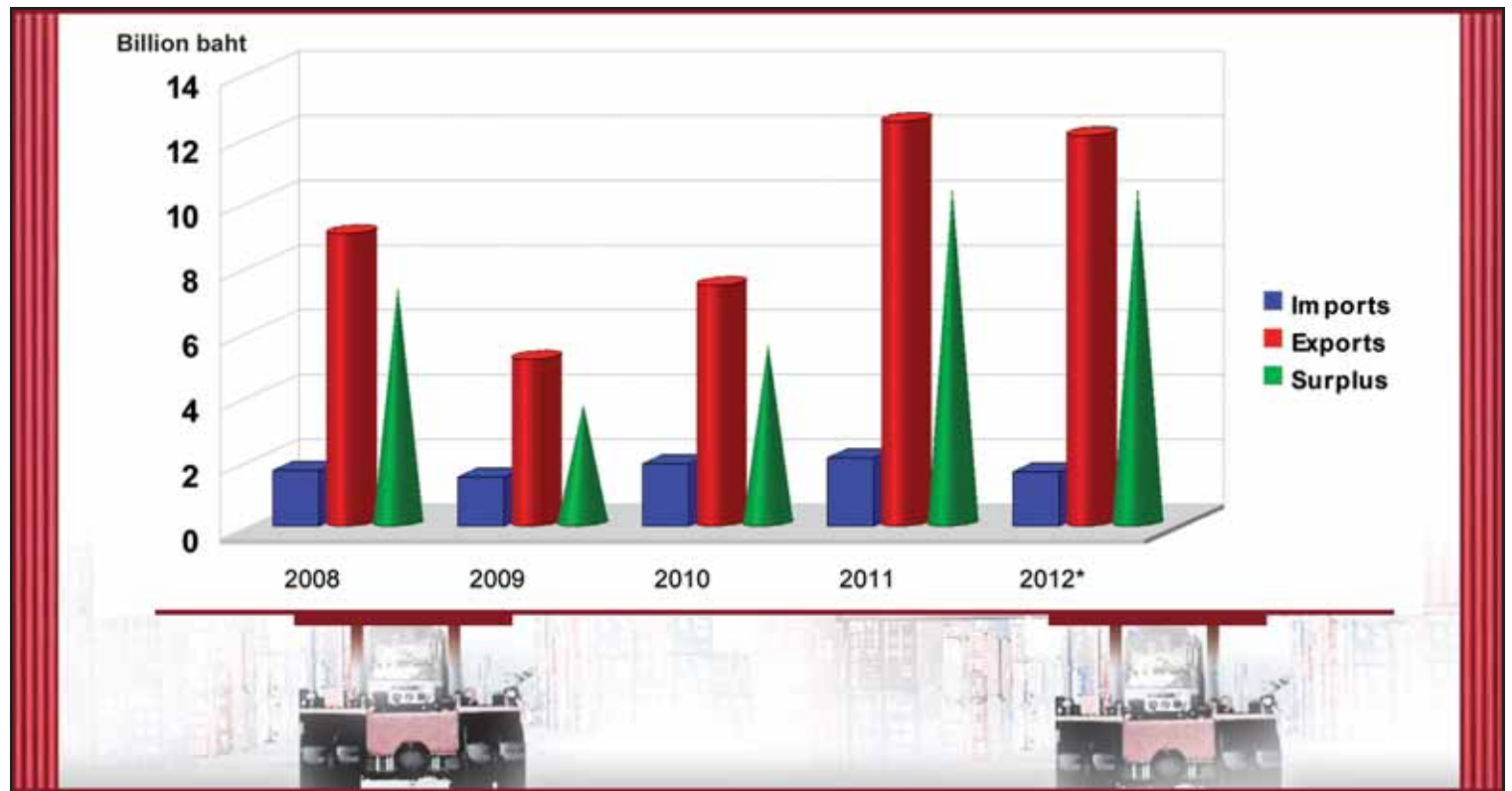
With three months still to go before the fiscal books are finalized, the island's trade surplus of exports over imports – 10.39bn baht – has already notched past last year's full-year figure of 10.38bn baht.

Indeed, the prospects for another record breaking year in trade in Phuket is looking bright, with the total value of trade – the sum of exports and imports – now clearing 13.7bn baht, and looking likely to surmount last year's full-year figure of 14.6bn baht.

To nobody's surprise, the island's top export this year, by far, has been block rubber, with exports of the commodity currently valued at 8.6bn baht.

This is followed by rubber fiberboard (2.03bn baht), motorboats and related components (1.1bn baht), live sea fish (103mn baht) and frozen sea fish (87mn baht).

Topping the list of the island's imports, by value, is cargo vessels, worth a total of 545mn baht. This is followed by chilled sea fish (466mn baht), sports and leisure vessels (443mn baht), frozen sea fish (149mn baht) and boiler components (40mn baht).



**PROSPEROUS:** This year's trade surplus reached a new high, with still three months left in the fiscal year.

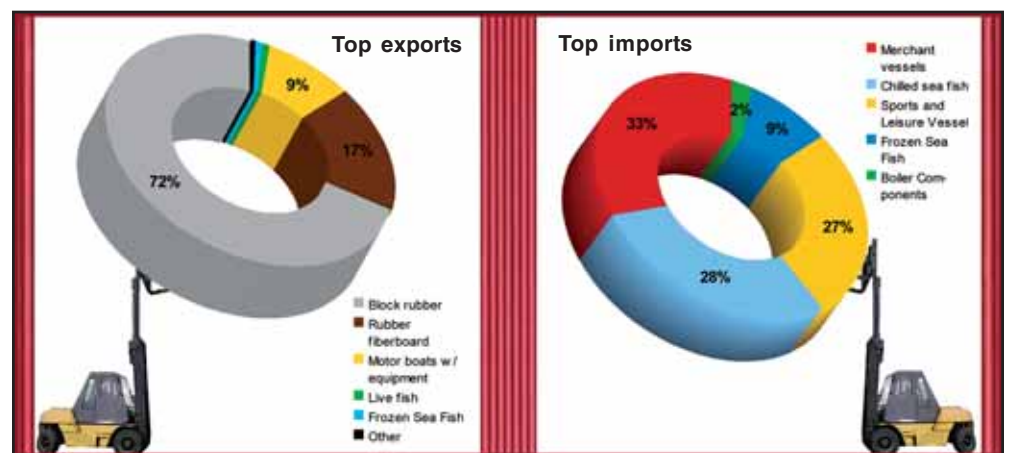
As for export receipts, Customs reported collecting 1,071 bills of lading (b/l) so far this year – 97% of last year's full-year figure of 1,101.

In contrast, a total of 737 b/l were collected on imports, about 85% of the 863 b/l collected last year.

Revenue collected by Customs from trade so far this year is just over 36mn baht.

This comes from 26.2mn baht in Value Added Tax (72%), 7mn baht from Customs fees (19.4%) and 2.96mn baht (8.1%) from Import duties.

– Steven W. Layne



# FDI jumps 66 % in first six months

THAILAND'S Board of Investment (BOI) has reported that the value of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects registered for investment promotion during the first six months of this year, was just under 280 billion baht.

Secretary-General of the BOI Atchaka Siboonruang disclosed that during the first half of this year, there were a total of 692 FDI projects worth 278bn baht, requesting investment promotion privileges.

Both the number and the value of the projects increased, respectively, by 32.6 and 66.5% from the same period last year, when there were 522 projects worth 167bn baht.

The industry that attracted the most investors is machinery and metal products, with 240 projects worth 109bn baht.

The electronics and electrical appliance industry came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, accounting for 134 projects

## Investment

worth nearly 60bn baht.

This was followed by services and public utilities with 130 projects, and the chemicals, paper, and plastics sector, which had a total of 97 projects.

Ms Atchaka expressed confidence that Thailand will be able to emerge as the investment hub of Asean.

She said that the BOI will soon hold investment promotion activities abroad and open a new office in Mumbai in order to bring in more Indian investors to the country.

Meanwhile, in anticipation of the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the BOI is also eyeing new projects in neighboring Myanmar, Indonesia and Vietnam.

"The office has to shift its focus from promoting investment in the Kingdom to the region. The

AEC's seamless trade will encourage more Thai enterprises to go abroad, particularly in ASEAN, a strong growth region amid the gloomy global economic trend," Vasana Mututanont, deputy secretary-general of the BOI, was quoted in a report by The Nation last week.

According to a Bank of Thailand report, the largest investment bases in ASEAN for Thailand are Singapore, Myanmar and Indonesia. – *NNT and The Nation*

## Foreign shares to be scrutinized

### Shareholding

Mr Banyong conceded that the MoC's probe into suspicious foreign shareholdings has been limited and lacked depth.

Such flaws have made it less effective to take legal actions against those who have broken the laws, said the DBD Director-General.

He added that the DBD is set to make the term "Nominee" more definite and clarified, and look

THE Commerce Ministry (MoC) is planning to inspect foreign shareholding in Thailand by August.

Director-General of the Department of Business Development (DBD) Banyong Limprayoonwong, said that the Commerce Ministry has been drafting a set of regulations on the management and inspection of foreign shareholding in Thai companies.

The move is part of a bid by the MoC to more strongly enforce the Alien Business Law of Thailand.

more thoroughly at the amount of shares held, the influence of foreign shareholders and other policies of the company.

According to Mr Banyong, there are more than 27,000 companies in Thailand with foreign shareholdings, all of which will be scrutinized by the DBD and MoC.

He stated that any company found to be in violation of the laws will face further investigation by the Department of Special Investigation.

– *Public Relations Department*



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# Meat suppliers clear inspection

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

OFFICIALS last week conducted a random, cleanliness inspection tour of some of the island's leading frozen food retailers, concluding that most of their targets were up to standard.

The inspections were aimed at checking quality and hygienic standards for frozen food products including beef, pork, duck and chicken.

Leading the inspection team were Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak, Phuket Livestock Chief Weerasit Phutthipairote, who were accompanied by a number of officers from

## Quality Control

the Phuket Office of Public Health, as well as representatives from Phuket City Municipality Office.

The stores inspected were: Saha Farm Store in the Talad Nua market, Betagro company, Makro, Big C Supercenter on the Bypass road and Tesco Lotus hypermarket in Kathu.

The main purpose of the inspection was to check whether the operators were following the rules and regulations as set by the Livestock Office regarding quality control of frozen meat.

Some of the things looked at were the appropriateness of the storage areas, temperature control, and the level of hygiene and sanitation at the factories where the meat came from.

A secondary purpose of the inspections was to boost confidence among consumers in the quality of frozen meat being sold on the island.

Following the inspection, Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak told the press: "We randomly inspected the market places that sell frozen food products to ensure that all stores follow the requirements on hygiene and food quality."

"We focused on the overall



**NOTHING FISHY HERE:** A shortage of hand-washing sinks was the only real problem found during last week's inspections of meat suppliers.

environment of the market place, temperature used for the frozen meat and fresh meat and hygiene of the personnel who work at the stores," said Mr Somkiet.

"We found that most of stores we inspected had followed the rules and regulations required by the Livestock Office."

"Some stores have some problems with their license and

cleanliness. Some stores don't provide enough sinks for people who work there or customers to wash their hands," he explained.

"Phuket Livestock Office will continue to inspect all stores in Phuket randomly without giving advance notice. This is so that tourists and residences can be assured that the food they are consuming is clean and safe," he concluded.

# Shrimp price stabilization a success

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has declared the "Shrimp Price Stabilization" project a success so far, with nearly 9,000 tons of shrimps sold in the first month of the program.

Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Theera Wongsamut disclosed that the Fisheries Department has been instructed to put the "Shrimp Price Stabilization" project on a trial basis for three months. The first month program was a success, with the Fisheries Department acting as mediator between farmers and cold storage firms.

Over 8,800 tons of shrimp are on the trading agreement, of which 6,000 will be shipped to the South and 2,000 to the East.

The program encompasses traders in 18

provinces, and currently there are 886 shrimp farmers taking part in the program.

Meanwhile, Wimol Jantrarotai, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries said that the price of shrimp in the market has moved up 5 baht per kilogram since the beginning of July, and is expected to rise further by the end of July. The expected rise was cited to the increasing demand of shrimps in foreign markets during Christmas time.

As a result of its initial success, the program will be extended by one more month, effective from July 19, after which an extension will be considered on a monthly basis until the shrimp price recovers.

— National News Bureau of Thailand



Demand for shrimp is rising along with prices. Data Source: Samut Sakhon Shrimp Sellers Assoc.

# Bangkok top tourist city in Asia, again

GOOD news for the Phuket tourism industry comes from a recently-released report by MasterCard that has Bangkok nestled into 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the credit card giant's list of major cities with the most tourist arrivals.

The MasterCard Global Destination Cities Index report by economist Yuwa Hedrick-Wong projected 2012 tourist arrivals in the Thai capital at 12.2 million, behind only global leader London (16.9 million) and Paris (16.0 million).

"Bangkok is again the number one destination city in Asia, a reflection of its strong and abiding appeal to tourists from the rest of the world," the researcher wrote in his summary.

The report covered 42 cities in Asia-Pacific.

The figures for Bangkok, which will retain its 3<sup>rd</sup> place status from last year, project a 6.5% increase in tourist arrivals from

2011, when 11.5 million people visited – despite massive flooding that devastated the city in the last quarter of the year. Rounding out the top five were fourth-place Singapore (11.8mn projected visitors in 2012) and Istanbul (11.6mn).

Despite its relatively low cost for accommodations, Bangkok also ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of total tourist spending after only London and New York. The report predicts a 16.6% rise in total tourist expenditure to 598 billion baht by year's end. The researcher noted that the high expenditure was the result of longer stays by tourists compared to other cities that made the top twenty.

The main source cities of tourists arriving in Bangkok were listed as Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Seoul and Kuala Lumpur.

The biggest spenders come from Hong Kong (74,431 baht per visit) and Tokyo (70,215 baht).

The report predicted the top ten destination cities in Asia-Pacific in 2012 as: Bangkok 12.2mn; Singapore 11.8mn; Hong Kong 11.1mn; Kuala Lumpur 8.1mn; Seoul 8.0mn; Shanghai 7.5mn; Beijing 6.2mn; Taipei 5.4mn; Tokyo 4.3mn; and Jakarta 2.8mn.

Phuket was not among the 42 cities in the Asia-Pacific region covered in the analysis, although some have projected that the current banner year for tourism could see total passenger traffic at Phuket International Airport surpass the 9 million mark this year.

Meanwhile, a report released by the Tourism Authority of Thailand yesterday reported a 31% year-on-year increase in tourist spending from 2010 to 2012, with total earnings of 776 billion baht.

"The figures show that Thailand has recorded clear increases in both quality and quantity of visitor arrivals. The growth in total number of visitors is being



**SLUMS AND SKYSCRAPERS:** South Central Bangkok. Photo: SW Layne

matched by increased average length of stay and average-daily expenditure, further underscoring the role of tourism as one of the most important economic sectors and contributors to job creation and nationwide income distribution," the report reads.

Thailand recorded 19.23 million international visitors in 2011, up by 20.67% over 2010, with an average length of stay of 9.64 days and an average daily spending of 4,187.12 baht per person, according to Ministry of Tourism and Sports figures.

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# How Windows 8 will roll out



## Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

EVEN if you have no intention of getting Windows 8, there are currently forces at work in the computer industry that will have an enormous impact on what kinds of computers are available in the near future, and how much they will cost.

If you're thinking about buying a new computer, you need to understand what's about to happen.

Sometime in the next week or two, Windows 8 will be complete. In Microsoft-speak it's known as "RTM" or "Release to Manufacturing." Shortly after Windows 8 hits the RTM point, Microsoft will ship copies of Windows 8 to computer manufacturers like HP, Dell and Lenovo.

MS will also ship copies to its major corporate customers. And it will post full-fledged copies of Windows 8 on its MSDN and TechNet web sites, where subscribers (who pay US\$200/year for the privilege) will be able to download and use a copy.

On October 26, a day Microsoft has marked as "General Availability" day, Windows 8 will be made widely available to the world.

That's going to change the nature of the PC business in several ways. First, hardware manufacturers are going to be stumbling all over themselves to get "Windows 8 Compatible" computers into the market stream. Last week, Intel said there were 140 different Ultrabooks poised to be released in short order, and 40 of them will be touch sensitive, thus fully qualified to run Windows 8.

Yes, you read that correctly. 140 new models of Ultrabooks will be coming out by October 26. That doesn't include new models of laptops or desktops. Just the little

MacBook Air-wannabe Intel Ultrabooks. Intel's projection is that the typical price of an entry level Ultrabook will drop from US\$1,000 (roughly comparable to a MacBook Air) to US\$700 by the time the holidays get here.

Let me translate that for you: now is the worst possible time to buy an Ultrabook. The market's going to be absolutely flooded with them by Christmas. And I bet three-quarters of those new models are discontinued or superseded by February.

This unleashing of so many models, so dependent on Windows 8 (which, I don't expect to sell well at all to the Ultrabook crowd), means that prices will drop like a rock around Christmas time, if not earlier.

You don't need to worry about buying a computer with Windows 7 on it, if you're afraid that the only PCs available next year will run Windows 8. Ain't gonna happen. Windows 7 is going to be around for a long, long time.

But it does complicate matters for those of you who are still running pirate versions of Windows. It's going to get harder and harder to find "real" copies

**INFINITE WINDOWS:** You can use Windows 8 on your mobile devices such as a cell phone or tablet (below) and to run a Google search on Mozilla Firefox 9 (right). Photos: Filip Skakun, Blair McBride



The great unknown at this point: Windows RT. Microsoft has two very different flavors of Windows 8, one called Windows 8 (D'OH), and the other is called Windows RT. There's a small chance that Windows RT might actually take off. A little bit.

Unlike Windows 8, Windows RT really does go head-to-head with the iPad. It's a locked-down system, just like the iPad, which means you can only install apps that have been pre-approved by Microsoft. Windows RT runs the Metro interface, which looks a little bit like the iPad and a lot like the Microsoft Phone (which hasn't sold much either).

The Windows RT machines that are due to come out on October 26 are based on a different kind of computer chip, designed by a company called ARM, which are quite different, internally, from the Intel PCs we've come to know and swear at.

They're fast and light and don't generate much heat. They work well with nice screens (at 1366 x 768 pixels and up). Their batteries last eight or ten or more hours. And they should be as cheap as an iPad. "Should" being the operative term.

Windows RT tablets will have one big advantage over iPads and various Android tablets (including the new Nexus, which I hear is stunning). Windows RT comes bundled with a copy of Office that's built for the touch interface. That's quite an accomplishment, actually, and one that makes a difference for people who have to work with Word, Excel and PowerPoint

documents.

Microsoft's biggest problem with selling Windows RT machines? Their basic applications, at this point, aren't worth the powder to blow them to Cupertino. Mail, Calendar, People (the Windows 8 contacts manager), SkyDrive and Photos don't hold a candle to the iPad counterparts. The Metro Music and Video apps are just extended advertisements, trying to sell you more music and videos.

Nothing comes close to, say, the iPad Mail app, or iPhoto, or iPod. And the Windows Store isn't anywhere near as compelling as the Apple AppStore or even iTunes.

All of that will probably change in a year. Microsoft's pouring a lot of money into Windows 8, and it's been known to back questionable horses for a long, long time. (It's still losing something like half a billion dollars a quarter to the Bing search effort.) Whether Microsoft can get a little bit of market share back with Windows RT remains to be seen.

On a personal note: last week I finished the initial edits on Windows 8 All-In-One For Dummies. It's the thickest book I have ever written, at well over a thousand pages. Putting it together was hellacious, particularly with Microsoft changing things in mid-stream. I was planning on spending three to four months on the project; ends up it took more than five. Anyway, I have one more intense editing period coming up, when we get the final version of Windows 8. But, at last, I can see light at the end of the tunnel, and life should be returning to almost normal before too long.

## Computer Clinics

I'm thinking about starting up the Sunday Computer Clinics again, but need a larger place to hold them. We were drawing 40 to 50 people during the sessions early this year, and I bet it could double in size if there were enough room. If you have any suggestions, drop me a line.

I'm also more interested than ever in starting a Mac/iPad/iPhone clinic. I have a Mac with a sound problem that does not succumb to anything and my iPad is a constant source of amusement and frustration. If you'd like to run one of the sessions, or you know someone qualified who could be coerced, let me know.

In the interim (and while I sneak away for a vacation in late August) the Wednesday afternoon computer clinics and Sunday morning informal computer get-togethers continue unabated. Drop by if you have a question. Hands down, they're the best way to get your internet questions answered, your PC problems solved. And they're free.

*Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions every other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, 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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# The Olympic legacy of G4S

## Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

SHOWTIME is fast approaching for the greatest sporting event on Earth. The runners are ready and the UK seems geared up towards putting on a major sporting spectacle.

However, not all has been plain sailing, even though the construction of the Olympic village and the refurbishment of the area surrounding the Olympic village seems to have gone unhinged. Not everyone has come out of this situation smelling of roses.

As the eyes of the World focus on London one company has emerged with a tarnished image from the Olympic saga – G4S.

This event could have potentially catapulted G4S and made the security company a household name. What has happened has been quite embarrassing for the “top dogs” at G4S. The company’s failure to employ enough security guards (10,400 as promised) for the Olympic Games has severely damaged its reputation.

If we look at the security company as an operation, it has consistently made profits and overall the business model of the company looks good. Has the Olympic saga caused irreparable damage to the company’s reputation? Will G4S be able to recover or is this a prime example of a buying opportunity?

Make no doubt, when it comes to the outsourcing industry reputation is everything and what you are essentially asking other corporations to do is to trust you to run part of their business.

This Olympic failure will likely cost the company in the region of 50 million pounds sterling just purely on the loss on the contract itself and of course there is the unmeasurable reputation cost.

Is G4S worth dipping your toe into? If we have a look at the figures and background of the company we will see that it has been a very successful business.

It is the world’s top provider of security for governments and businesses. It could be doubtful that it will provide security solutions to the UK government or major UK corporations after this. The UK market accounted for 20% of G4S’s 7.5 billion pounds sterling revenues for 2011. Year-on-year profits and return on capital have been very attractive as the attached graph points out:

Up to this point the business has been very stable exploiting opportunities to buy smaller businesses and build from there. In the last five years dividends have grown by 75% and the company has generated large amounts of surplus cash.

The money invested in the business has also provided profit margins of 7% and a return on capital of around 14%, which has all the hallmarks of a successful business. Can this now be maintained? What does the future hold?

Without having the much sought after financial crystal ball, no one can really tell what the future holds for G4S. Some argue that after what has happened with the Olympics, the major corporate deals, especially in the UK, are off the table for the moment.

If we also look at the outsourcing industry, this is not a dying trend and especially in Asia. The market for this keeps growing, around 30% of G4S sales derive from this region. The company also believes that it can increase its profits by 10% per year, and dividends tend to grow in line with profits.

As of writing, shares are currently traded at just 9.8 times the 2012 forecast, with a potential dividend yield of 3.8%. All in all this does not look like a bad stock to get into if it can live up to its promises. Obviously there are many risks to an investment like this but if you can take a long term view of the stock then there could potentially be profits in it.

*This article was written by Anthony Lyman, Senior Financial Consultant for the Montpelier Group. For more information on investments please contact [Alyman@montpeliergroup.com](mailto:Alyman@montpeliergroup.com)*



TRAGIC SUCCESS: G4S may still make a sound investment despite their olympic troubles.

## On the move

OUTRIGGER Hotels and Resorts Asia Pacific has appointed Mr Chris Adams as General Manager of the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas, effective immediately. Before joining Outrigger, Mr Adams was General Manager of the Anantara Golden Triangle in northern Thailand.

Prior to that, he held senior managerial positions at international brand hotels in Koh Samui, Thailand, the Philippines and China. Mr Adams, a New Zealander, has strong food and beverage experience. He has been an award winning executive chef or food and beverage manager at hotels in Vietnam, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.

“With wide international experience and five-star hotelier skills, Chris will find himself at home at the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort and Villas,” said Darren Edmonstone, Outrigger’s Managing Director, Asia Pacific. “Our aim at Outrigger in Phuket is to exceed the expectations of our international guests. Chris will play a key role in delivering that vision,” he said.

In his spare time Mr Adams enjoys dining out and travelling. He is a keen rugby supporter.



New Outrigger GM Chris Adams.

## Finance minister confident

FINANCE Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong has expressed his confidence in Thai economic conditions and the policies implemented by the central bank of Thailand.

Mr Kittiratt said that last Wednesday’s economic Cabinet meeting discussed whether the United States will implement a policy called the third Quantitative Easing measures (QE3), which involves printing more banknotes to boost the economy.

Mr Kittiratt said that those who attended the meeting believe that even if such measures are implemented, the impact on the global market will be short-lived.

The Deputy PM is confident that foreign investors are still highly interested in Asia and Thailand, where economic fundamentals are quite strong.

He also noted that the Bank of Thailand’s foreign exchange and monetary policies have been appropriate.

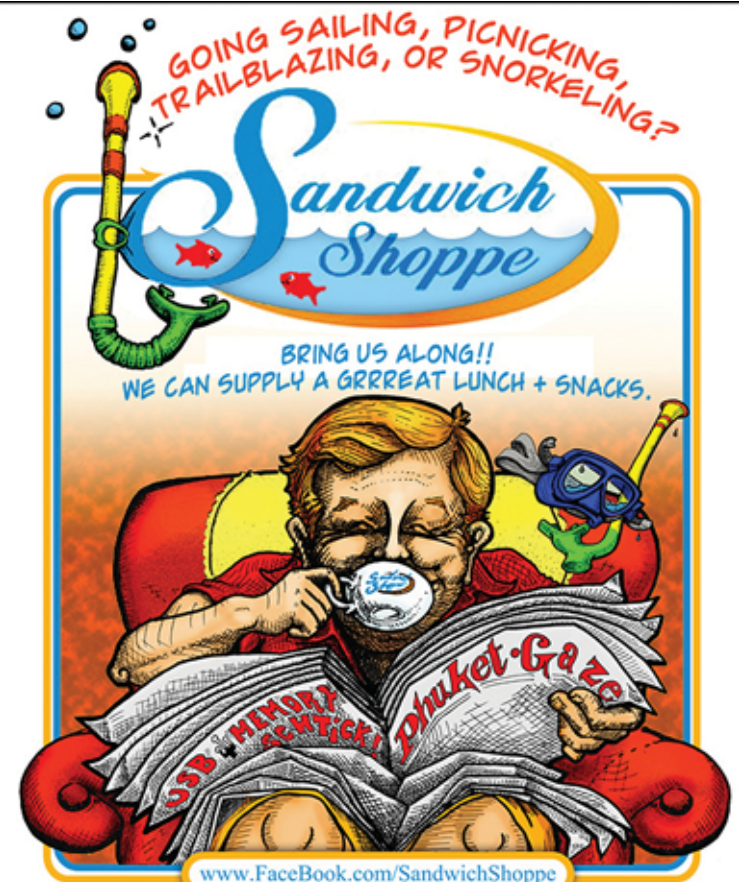
Concerning the rise in Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) prices, Mr. Kittiratt affirmed that the current price of industrial use already reflects the real market cost, while prices for the transport sector will have to be raised gradually.

Prices will be calculated by taking into consideration probable effects on goods prices, inflation and the cost of living. He also noted that the LPG price for food, business and household use will soon be increased little by little.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that local LPG prices should be adjusted during the next 2 years to accommodate the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.



Finance Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong. Photo: Remy Steinegger



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# A green print for Phuket

## at the Mövenpick Resort and Spa, Karon Beach

By Patrick Campbell

HANSRUEDI Frutiger, general manager of the Mövenpick Resort and Spa at Karon Beach, recounts a sad tale. The hotel's waste, carefully sorted into recyclable piles of glass, plastic, paper, cans and so on, used to be collected by the local garbage truck.

One day, the manager followed the vehicle, unseen, to its destination. What happened? All the rubbish was unceremoniously dumped in a heap, destined for the land-fill or the incinerator, never to be used again.

Sad, because the Mövenpick Resort and Spa most certainly *does* believe in reclamation – hence its subsequent decision to give this separated waste to accredited recycling programmes, and to utilize its own organic refuse, transformed into compost in its own plant nursery, for use on its flourishing lawns and trees.

The business of making money and accepting responsibility for environmental stewardship rarely go hand in hand. The Mövenpick Resort at Karon is an honorable exception; it is at the forefront of efforts to protect and sustain the natural environment in Phuket. To this end, its stated watchword is: "committing today

to do the right thing for tomorrow".

That the resort's management team mean what they say, is borne out by their recently awarded and much prized "Green Globe" certificate, an award conferred by an organization that not only demands the highest standards in sustainability practices within the industry, but requires its resorts and spas to improve their performance by 3 per cent every year. Quite an undertaking.

And the visual evidence is everywhere. Though the Mövenpick has 362 rooms, the main building is barely visible from the road, so spectacularly green is the approach, with rows of royal palms, evergreen fruit trees, and bougainvilleas ablaze on the terraces that flank the main entrance.

In the magnificent gardens beyond are literally hundreds of varieties of trees and shrubs, acres of lush Malaysia grass lawn, secluded thatched villas half hidden by palms, swathes of lilies and foliage plants, and a lake that looks so natural it might have been there forever. Twenty two acres of verdant gardens designed by a famous landscape artist, and maintained by eight gardeners. The



Green as in green papayas.



PRIZED LOCATION: the resort was recently awarded the much prized Green Globe certificate.

aesthetic appeal is instant. But consider too all the rich, oxygenated air that is being released into the atmosphere. And all the birds and butterflies that can call this home.

Of course, the main contributions to sustainability are less visible, but they are even more crucial. The resort has launched a number of enterprises. For example, it boasts its own water treatment plant. Sewage, instead of going straight into the mains (where it can often pollute other water systems), is used for drip irrigation in the gardens, an effective method that is activated in the cool of the day to minimize evaporation. The shrubs and trees certainly appreciate it.

Inside the rooms, many initiatives help optimize energy consumption. Energy-saving LED lighting is the order of the day, and in bathrooms toilet water is conserved by the use of dual flushing cisterns. The water pressure in all sinks and showers is deliberately reduced to keep consumption below eight liters per minute.

Exterior lights are on a time-switch, and both air conditioning and electricity are controlled by the key card to the room. The temperature is set at a conservative 23 degrees. No wastage there. In addition, guests can make their own sustainable decisions as to when the bed linen or towels should be changed. All these initiatives have had a marked effect: in the last two years, energy consumption per occupied room has dropped by seven per cent. The extra cost to the resort, Hansruedi assures me, is negligible.

It is not just the guests who are the beneficiaries. Suppliers take back their delivery containers; "green" cleaning materials are given preferential use. The use of fluorocarbons (CFCs) that destroy the ozone layer is not permitted.

The Mövenpick resort makes many contributions to the local economy. Needy people in the community have benefited from gifts of clothing; flood victims of the recent inundations have received contributions of money. Staff of the resort, who are constantly educated to think in the Mövenpick way, have even taken part in a "clean-up" of Karon Beach, and a mini-marathon aimed to highlight the dangers of drug abuse. Disadvantaged children are treated to an annual fun day in the grounds of the hotel.

There are 460 employees and, in keeping with Mövenpick resort's policy, the staff are almost all recruited from the neighborhood. In addition, local products are promoted, local

charities supported, donation schemes initiated.

The list of positives is endless. Indeed, it is hard to think of an area where the hotel is not making a positive contribution to the environment, and reducing its carbon footprint. And not just within its own grounds, but further afield: in the local community, and even in a national context.

Mövenpick, take a bow! You are certainly doing "the right thing", not only for "today" but also for "tomorrow". Your sustainability project, certified by Green Globe, is not just a blueprint for instant and positive action; it is a *green print* for the future of our natural heritage, for our children's children.



Organic refuse is transformed into compost for the plant nursery.

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# Raise a toast to a Phuket coffee roast

Find out why local coffee experts Hock Hoe Lee are setting their sights on expansion, and why they have been creating a stir with bean lovers for more than 50 years



VIEW OF THE PAST: Hock Hoe Lee in Phuket Town opened for business in 1958.



COFFEE TIME: Jutamas Tanpatcharapisuit and Ruengrit Petchvorakul at their Hock Hoe Lee coffee shop in Rawai.



COFFEE ART: Workers at the original Hock Hoe Lee shop in Phuket Town.

By Blair Christopher

EACH cup of coffee served at Hock Hoe Lee has more than 50 years of history steeped inside. It's a taste to be savored.

Three generations of one Phuket family have worked tirelessly to create the coffee served up today at Hock Hoe Lee, which has shops in town and in Rawai.

Back in 1958, when Chinese migrant Cheng Long arrived in Phuket by junk from his native land, he had a mat to sleep on and knowledge of how to roast coffee beans. That was all.

He scraped together enough money to rent a small ramshackle shophouse in the heart of Phuket Town's downtown market.

It wasn't long before inquisitive Thai-Chinese locals wandered in to sample Mr Long's coffee, sniffing the plumes of sweet-smelling smoke pouring from the shop. They were hooked and word soon spread of the Chinaman's magic beans.

He bought his beans from a friend in Penang, Malaysia. To suit demand, he roasted his beans with sugar and started selling cinnamon sticks too.

Hock Hoe Lee, meaning "Lucky" in Chinese, was the moniker Mr Long gave to his shop. As luck would have it, business spiralled and he ventured to Chiang Mai and Ranong to find homegrown beans.

After Mr Long died, his son Somboon took over his father's business with great success. Today, locals know Hock Hoe Lee as "Boon's shop", the best place in town to buy coffee.

Although the roasting process has been moved out of the original shop to a site nearby, the place still holds much of the charm it did fifty years ago, with bags of fresh coffee piled high, the clang of machines sounding out all day and workers hurridly bagging beans in bulk. It's typical of Phuket Town hustle-bustle.

Today, the original shop in town still attracts locals who buy Hock Hoe Lee beans by the bagful, but the brand has sprouted another shop in Rawai and more are planned.



Fifty years of history in every cup.

In 2010, Somboon's daughter Jutamas and her husband Ruengrit decided to build upon the family's coffee success and opened a new store in Rawai.

Sandwiched between Friendship Beach and Serenity Terraces, the modern shop is pulling in a different clientele: expats and tourists.

"We thought it was time to start making coffee to cater to

foreigners," Ruengrit said.

"The feedback has been great. Thai people walk into the new shop and are surprised to see we are serving espresso coffee and not just Thai coffee."

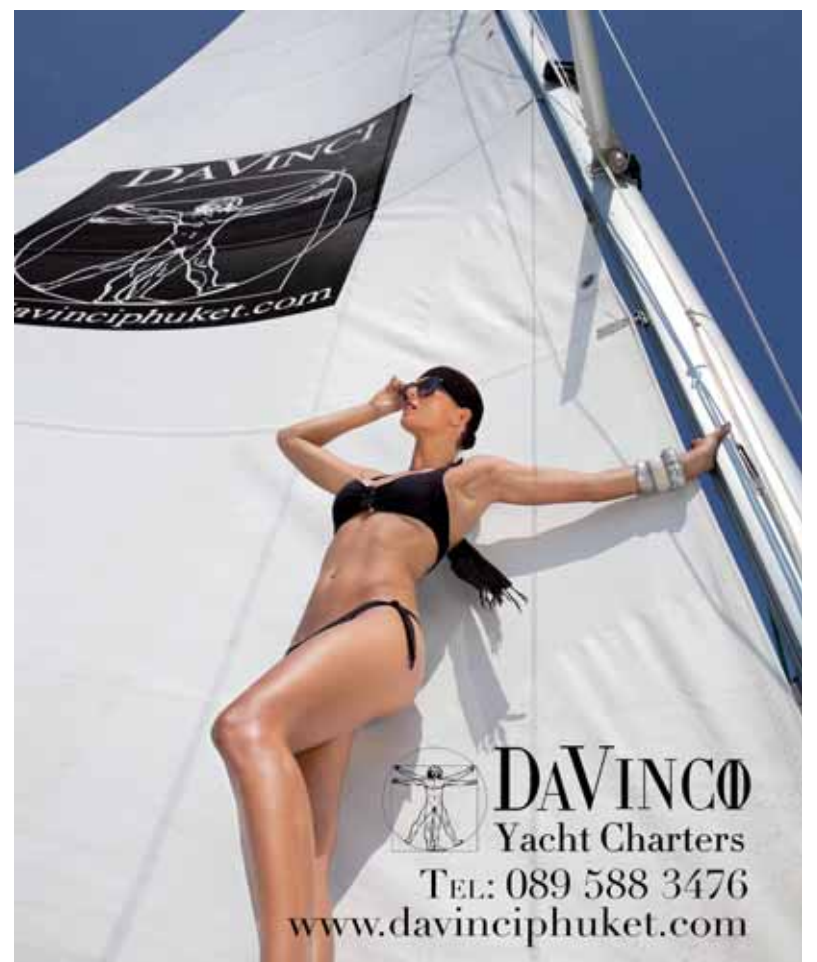
"We use the same beans for our Thai and Western coffee, it's just we roast Thai coffee on a much higher heat, with lots more sugar."

Ruengrit said that due to the success of the new shop, more shops are planned for the near future.

The secret to the coffee's flavor is also due to Hock Hoe Lee's selection of the beans they buy. As far back as 1958, the family has been personally inspecting the farms they use, and the processes the farmers use to keep the beans fresh. They've been getting it right for a long time.

For great homegrown coffee with a Phuket history, get down to Hock Hoe Lee in Rawai. Prices are fair and there's a great snack menu too. Beans by the bag are also on sale.

See [hockhoelee.com](http://hockhoelee.com).





# Getting ready for the rains' retreat

A look at two of Thailand's most revered Buddhist holidays

By Steven Layne

THIS weekend's full moon heralds the official start of the rainy season in Thailand, marked by back-to-back Buddhist Holidays, Asaha Bucha and Khao Pansa.

For non-Buddhists, the long "dry" weekend to welcome the "wet" season is a good opportunity to relax, if nothing else.

For most devout Buddhists, however, there is much deeper meaning and purpose to July's holy weekend.

Here is an explanation of the holiday, its roots and customs.

## ASAHA BUCHA DAY

Marked by the full moon of the Thai lunar calendar's eighth month, Asaha Bucha was designated to celebrate and perpetuate the first sermon that the two-month-enlightened Buddha gave to his first five followers over 2,500 years ago.

The words "Asaha Bucha" derive from ancient Pali language and literally means "worshipping fourth month".

The fourth month of the ancient Indian lunar calendar is equivalent to the eighth month of the Thai lunar calendar.

It is for this reason that in Thai, Asaha Bucha is also referred to as *wun pen deuan bpad* – the full-moon-day of the eighth month.

It is one of three lunar-based Buddhist holidays in Thailand.

The other two are *Makha Bucha* Day – typically a full moon in February, sometimes in March – which commemorates the Buddha's sermon to 1,250 followers; and *Visakha Bucha* Day – typically a full moon in May, sometimes April – which celebrates Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death all in one.



A young man prepares to ordain.

Celebrations and ceremonies in temples are generally the same for all three days.

After the offerings, blessings and sermons during the day, there is a climactic moonlight candle procession during which participants, carrying a lit candle, three joss sticks and a lotus flower encircle the temple's main Buddha hall three times.

The number three in Buddhism refers to the "triple gem" and symbolically represents the Buddha, his teachings (*Dharma*) and the clergy (*Sangha*). This is the reason for circling a temple or crematory three times and also prostrating three times in veneration of the Buddha or a senior monk.

## THE ULTIMATE TRUTH

The intricacies of custom and tradition all too often cloud underlying meanings and purposes.

Contrary to popular belief, to understand the essence of Buddhism and benefit from its philosophy, practitioners do not have to be versed in ancient mantras and spells, nor do they need to seek the protection of a magical tattoo or amulet. In fact, many of the practices we see today are contra-

dictory if not irrelevant to what Buddha actually taught.

The real point of Asaha Bucha day is to honor Buddha's first and fundamental sermon, which explains that the Dharma Wheel – an analogy for our life cycle – comprises the "spokes" of birth, illness, death and rebirth.

The wheel turns relentlessly; life is a constant cycle of suffering caused by our desires, dependencies and attachments.

In order to break free from the cycle of pain and suffering that is life – not to be reborn again into the same cycle – and thus obtain the ultimate truth of enlightenment, detachment and renunciation of the unessential and harmful things in life must be practiced.

At the same time, it is important to avoid extremes and instead seek a middle path, willfully and consciously living by the basic five precepts: to abstain from killing, stealing, lying, drinking and sexual misconduct.

That said, Buddha is not a god to be worshiped, but rather a teacher to be honored.

## KHAO PANSA

The day after Asaha Bucha – this Friday, August 3 – is Khao Pansa, literally the "rains retreat". This is the customary time for laymen to ordain as monks.

For this three-month period, monks traditionally retreat to temples because the rains make it difficult for them to meditate in the forest or ask for alms in the village on a regular basis.

To ensure the monks are able to sustain themselves, laypeople make larger-than-usual offerings during Khao Pansa.



PRINCIPAL SERMON: Asaha Bucha Day commemorates the Buddha's first sermon about the 'Dharma Wheel in motion'. Photo: KayEss



THE RAINS RETREAT: Monks retreat to the temples during the three month 'Khao Pansa' because of the seasonal weather. Photo: Fraser Reid

Aside from food, large candles have been the customary form of offering, a practice dating to times before the invention of electricity. Today, large candles are still offered but this is largely a tradition now as most temples have a continuous supply of electricity.

During Khao Pansa monks stay in temples, disciplining themselves by following hundreds of precepts which dictate that they abstain from everything

from growing eyebrows to even singing. This is in contrast to the five basic precepts that laypeople attempt to follow as outlined in the Buddha's principle sermon.

Khao Pansa also sees an increase in social awareness through media campaigns on Thai TV, newspapers and radio; the most common of these is echoed in the nationwide alcohol abstinence slogan: "*Khao Pansa Ngote Lao*".

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## Siam Society Journal free for all

THE Journal Of The Siam Society (JSS), the oldest and most prestigious academic publication in Southeast Asia, has made all of its contents available free online.

A total of 99 volumes with more than 2,000 articles running to over 30,000 pages can now be perused, free of charge, by ordinary members of the public.

The Journal was the first to publish English-language translations of the Sukhothai inscriptions, the Ayutthaya and Burmese chronicles, King Chulalongkorn's letters to one of his daughters, the testimonies of Siamese war captives taken to Myanmar, plus excerpts from a host of foreign-language accounts of Siam such as that by the Dutchman Jeremias Van Vliet.

The pages of this periodical have

at times hosted fierce academic controversies over such subjects as the transliteration of Thai into English (with King Vajiravudh as a contributor) and the authenticity of the Ramkhamhaeng Inscription.

Its early issues contain fascinating pieces by foreigners about adventures they had in Siam and discoveries made about Thai culture, including articles by G.E. Gerini, Erik Seidenfaden, Reginald Le May, W.A.R. Wood and Francis Giles.

The great administrator/historian Prince Damrong Rajanubhab was a major early supporter and contributor, as were other intellectual royals such as Prince Dhani Nivat, Prince Wan Waithayakorn, Prince Naris and Prince Prem Purachatra.

Readers can trace the develop-

ment of Thai history in the pages of the JSS with contributions from Kachorn Sukhabanij, Michael Vickery, David Wyatt, Thamsook Numnonda, Hans Penth, Yoneo Ishii, Michael Smithies and many others.

Bilaibhan Sampatsiri, president of the Siam Society, had this to say: "This is a big step for such an established journal. Today, academic articles must be on the web. We want to make JSS accessible to everyone, not just those with a university affiliation."

JSS first appeared in 1904 and is still going strong. The current issue and all back issues, published over a period of 108 years, can now be accessed via [W:siam-society.org/OJS/index.php/JSS/index](http://W:siam-society.org/OJS/index.php/JSS/index).



# Yesterday's breakfast

## Phuket Po-Cha-Na upholds old traditions

### Dining Out

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

ON a busy stretch of Wirat Hongyok Road, amidst run-of-the-mill modern shophouses, the quaint Phuket Po-cha-na Café stands out like an oasis of calm. Its wooden structure and charming interior, made up of marble-topped tables and old-fashioned household items, lend an incredible air of the Phuket of yesteryear. A bicycle parked haphazardly in front completes the picture.

Run by Isaan-born Tawee Mancharoen, Phuket Po-cha-na, is open for breakfast and lunch and serves Chinese-style food featuring *khao tom* – rice porridges – noodles and a variety of steamed dumplings known as *dim sum*.

A typical breakfast here would be made up of a bowl of rice porridge (topped with fish, minced pork or shrimp – 35 baht) and a few bamboo baskets of dim sum, all washed down with fragrant red tea and lots of condensed milk. This is what my friend, Phuket-born Wanida Hongyok, usually likes to order.

Actually, there are no rules concerning breakfast. Maybe a steaming bowl of noodle soup, instead of rice porridge, is a good idea, but don't stop there. Try *bak kut teh*, the full-flavored stewed pork ribs in Chinese herbs and shitake mushrooms, a dish praised by locals for its natural health-giving properties.

A tantalizing variety of steamed dim sum in bamboo baskets can make up a



TIME WARP: The atmosphere is calm and cool, and the Chickens' feet (inset) are a rare delicacy. Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem

whole meal in itself, if you so wish. The most popular ones are *har-gao*, pleated parcels filled with pork and shrimps, and *pao* or *sala pao* – those steamed white buns with roast pork fillings. Wanida's favorite dish is the melt-in-your-mouth chicken feet, steamed in five-spice sauce.

Then there's the usual fare such as *Pad Thai*, *Hai Nan* chicken rice and roast *char siu* pork on rice.

A new addition to the breakfast menu is the popular rice noodle dish, *kanom jeen*, which can be had with a variety of sauces – fish flake curry or the fiery southern fish curry *gaeng tai pla*, served with the usual selection of fresh herbs and pickled vegetables.

No breakfast in Phuket is ever complete without the famous *cha boran* – that traditional tea with condensed milk. It's an addition that may raise your blood sugar but is an essential ingredient, because *cha boran* without condensed

milk is simply not the real stuff. There's also freshly brewed coffee as well as a variety of iced drinks, all at 20 baht each.

All this can be enjoyed in an open veranda-styled setting, backed by a pleasant garden. The eating area is sectioned into three zones named after the three Amphoes of Phuket Province: Thalang, Kathu and Amphoe Muang.

Located at 98/5 Wirat-Hongyok Road, Phuket Po-cha-na is open from 6am to 2pm daily. Tel: 076-522 935



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# A date with lady Capricorn

By Andrew Scott

LEAVING the Cape Panwa Hotel jetty around 9am, we headed to the start line to spend a glorious Saturday aboard SY Capricorn. It was the perfect way to mingle with new friends and watch the sailing action unfold.

SY Capricorn was built in 2009 and she is a Turkish Gullet, which is an all wooden hand-crafted sailing yacht that has one or two masts.

Gullets were originally built for fishermen but most have now been re-designed into luxurious sailing yachts to cruise Mediterranean or Asian waters.

Capricorn may be a fairly new yacht but she has had an

interesting couple of years on the water. On March 2, 2011, the yacht was sailing through the Gulf of Aden with a rented security escort vessel close behind, when six Somali pirates attacked her.

The pirates were young boys wielding machine guns and a man with a rocket launcher. A fire fight ensued between the escort vessel and the pirates as the Belgian crew on Capricorn fled to the safety of the machine room. Some of the pirates managed to board the yacht before the escort vessel regained control. Luckily no casualties were reported.

With no sign of unwanted guests we arrived at the start line

at a fairly respectable pace and slowly followed the international racing fleet as they made their way down the east coast past Chalong down to Rawai. The blazing mid morning sun meant a number of guests chose to seek refuge on the partially covered aft deck.

The vast aft deck space features lounging and dining areas and the front of the yacht has a sun lounge area with cushions and mattresses.

The interior of the yacht boasts modern mahogany features throughout. The main saloon has a comfortable white couch, mahogany cupboards; work tops, a herring bone pattern marquetry floor, wicker chairs and a flat screen

TV. The tasteful mahogany theme is continued in the cabins. Some of the cabins are *en suite* and the yacht can have up to 11 guests.

As the wine flowed and the day wore on, new friendships and business

partnerships were formed. Conversation would only



**FRIENDSHIP:** Marc De Schutter and Roland Scholiers (owner).



**PICTURESQUE:** The comfortable aft deck.

cease for a moment to be replaced by the click of camera shutters as one of the many racing yachts whizzed passed us, so close you could see the sail-

the blue and white mattress on the aft deck as the sailors toiled away, but I am sure they were having just as much, if not more, fun than us...well some of them anyway.

With the early afternoon sun beating down on the yacht, the Captain of Capricorn in true sailing style stopped the motor and raised the sails. The owner of Capricorn, Roland Scholiers, turned to me and said "I have never seen him (Captain) do that. It must be because I am on board."

As the yacht sailed back to Cape Panwa Hotel we were served

a delightful array of finger foods and took in the beautiful scenery of the east coast from the sea. Phuket Raceweek 2012 continued in the afternoon but most of the guests aboard Capricorn were ready for an afternoon nap after a stressful day at sea.

Capricorn anchored just off the shore at Cape Panwa Hotel and guests took a tender back to the jetty. Everybody who was aboard Capricorn agreed that getting in amongst the action is the best way to experience Phuket Race Week, whether on a yacht or actually racing.

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## Plane sailing

By Chris Hudon

THERE are many fine vantage points from which to view Phuket Raceweek. Perhaps while sipping rum from the veranda of your hotel room, or on a powered boat following the action, or best of all from the deck of a racing boat.

The *Gazette* had the pleasure of being invited aboard *Sailplane*, a heavy mono-hull with a crew of 11, captained by Joe Bottomley (the youngest captain in Raceweek), 19, of Yorkshire, England.

The boat was a hodge-podge of people from England, Scotland, Australia and Hong Kong. Ages of the crew ranged from the youngest at 17 to oldest at... (we'll be kind).

Unlike other more relaxing times on a sailing boat (see above), Raceweek is a very serious event. The crew must have great communication, total precision and steady focus, or risk falling way behind in the rankings.

Aboard *Sailplane* (we came in 5<sup>th</sup> in the IRC Racing II Division) there was always 'ship' to do.

We encountered more than a few hairy situations, which required skillful recovery. During the first race our spinnaker came apart at the seams as we rounded the buoy.

A ripped spinnaker is difficult enough but add to that the fact that other ships are racing up from behind you with no intention whatsoever of slowing down.

Several times we came so close



to *Miss Saigon* that I could reach out and touch her bow.

Having dealt with our spinnaker issue we soldiered on until a traveller snapped off the boat. A traveller is the metal piece which holds down ropes that are under heavy tension.

It wasn't until our 5-10 minute lunch break that we had time to relax, laugh a bit and enjoy one another's company.

*Sailplane* may not have won but she was a fun boat.





**LOOK MOM – NO BUBBLES:** Kevin Black of Kiwidivers partly submerged off Koh Phi Phi. Looks like the phrase, “Take only pictures, and leave only bubbles” will need to be modified.

# Gear and skills part the waters

## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

WHEN was the last time something truly fresh hit the dive market? Yes, every year we get niftier regulators, more swanky dive watches and new fin designs that we can't resist at least window shopping for. But, when was the last time something was put on the market for recreational divers that really parted the waters – changed the way we thought about diving?

In an activity that is becoming more and more relaxing and accessible to the general public, those wanting to “push the limits” without doing the heavy lifting of tech-diving books, have found themselves at a loss.

Those of us with full time non-dive industry jobs still want that sense of discovery; that want to end up in the footnotes of a history book, or at the very least want more than 50 minutes down on a dive trying.

This year PADI has finally gotten the ball rolling with the launch of three new specialty diving courses: recreational rebreathers, sidemounts and self-reliant diving.

But, this isn't tech diving.

Kevin Black from Kiwidivers in Chalong, one of only four recreational rebreather dive instructors currently in Thailand, explained that PADI was bringing the “Wow” factor back to scuba diving. The new certifications let recreational divers safely push the boundaries of what they consider sports diving.

The only closed-circuit rebreather currently available on the recreational market is the Poseidon's MKVI. This is one of those bits of gear that guys piecing together their tech kits in their garage years ago would have dreamed of, and now it's here, safe and actually designed for sports divers.

Before sitting down with Kevin my understanding of rebreathers was fairly simple –

they don't make bubbles.

Well, I wasn't wrong, but I was missing just a little bit of the point too. Yes, they don't make bubbles as the air you breathe out is cycled and scrubbed through a closed system and then has pure oxygen from one of the two tanks on the kit automatically blended with the oxygen depleted air, making it good for another breathe, time and time again. Sounds complicated, but I was assured that they were dummy proof – so I wouldn't have any issues.

However, by only focusing on not blowing bubbles and disturbing the fish, I missed the point. Rebreathers don't just add a couple more minutes to your dive, as I thought. They don't just double your dive time. They actually can turn a one hour dive into a three hour dive, Kevin explained.

That means, you are the first to jump and then after everyone has come up, had lunch, geared up, booked a second dive, you are the last to come up – and still don't have decompression time, unlike a tech-diver.

Just last weekend PADI ran an event showcasing both the Poseidon recreational rebreather and sidemounts on Koh Phi Phi.

For many of the 30 to 40 divers on Phi Phi who attended the event this was their first time strapping a tank under each arm for the sidemount configuration and feeling the new diving “flow”. Sidemount configurations have been around for a long time, first reportedly being used in England for cave diving, and subsequently used all over the world for cave diving and penetration dives.

The weightlessness and balance that sidemount divers gloat about is enough to make me sign up for the course, just to join the club. And the redundant gas supply and reduced lower back strain are both advantages that I'm looking forward to.

Though the course is geared towards recreational diving it also provides a nice view of the tech-diving world. It's a little step that leaves you totally comfortable when

you start shooting for your ultimate goals, from exploring cave systems to just feeling like your part of the ecosystem when you hover above the corals and snap a stellar photo.

Different from the recreational rebreather course and the sidemount course, the PADI self-reliant course isn't about becoming comfortable with new equipment, it's about becoming comfortable with yourself.

PADI has, since time immemorial preached (and perhaps rightly so), that divers should never dive without a buddy. Though that philosophy has not changed, PADI is now willing to admit that it does happen, either intentionally or unintentionally. And let's be honest, who is a dive instructor relying in an emergency when they are taking two “Discover Scuba” divers on their first dip into the big blue?

PADI position is clear in the following released statement: “Diving without a Dive Buddy, by choice, while not advocated, is something which PADI recognizes to be occasionally either necessary or preferred by some divers.”

This recognition is in many ways a new frontier for experienced recreational divers (100 plus dives is necessary to take the course). Those who have only been loosely following the buddy system or ignoring it completely while taking photographs, spear fishing or lobster hunting



**CLOSED SYSTEM:** Recreational rebreathers a go. Photos: PADI Region 26

can come out of the closet.

Not only can they now stop hiding in some murky underground social circle, but now they have the opportunity to be trained in “self rescue”, to be tested so that they can at least engage in a more risky activity in the safest possible way.

“One of the key things you learn is how to deal with running out of air when you don't have a buddy to rely on. You also learn a lot about calculating just how much air you use in different cir-

cumstances and how to plan dives around your estimated consumption,” Kevin explained to me.

Yes, I'm stoked about this and over the next several months plan on taking the opportunity to check-out these courses, log some stunning dives and shoot for the foot notes of someone else's history book.

*This is part one of the four part series on PADI's new specialty diving certifications.*





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# Plan B revels in the flames of London 2011

BETWEEN August 6 – 10, 2011, several London boroughs and districts across England suffered widespread rioting, looting and arson. Thousands of people took to the streets.

Rapper/Singer/Songwriter Plan B, famous in Britain and gaining exposure abroad, is the first major artist to give voice to this movement – largely condemned in the UK.

In his new album titled *Ill Manors*, musician and director Benjamin Drew (Plan B) marks his third major album release. His last album, *The defamation of Strickland Banks*, was a soul record that went straight to number one in the UK charts.

The *Ill Manors* album accompanies Drew's latest film of the same name. Both the film and the album discuss the London riots of 2011. Drew paints a picture of harsh life in London's ghettos and of a generation bored out of its mind and getting out of hand.

The film, set in Forest Gate, London, revolves around the lives of eight characters and features six original songs by Plan B, which act as narration for the film (like Pink Floyd's *The Wall*).

The first night of rioting was on August 7, after a peaceful protest in Tottenham, following the death of Mark Duggan – a local man shot dead by police on

## Music

By Chris Hudon

Thursday, August 4.

According to the BBC, although London employs CCTV cameras to monitor crime and large events, reports indicated that citizen footage contributed more to capturing looters than the police.

Riots, protests and social unrest have historically played muse to great artists. The student shootings at Kent State in Ohio, the riots in Belfast, Ireland

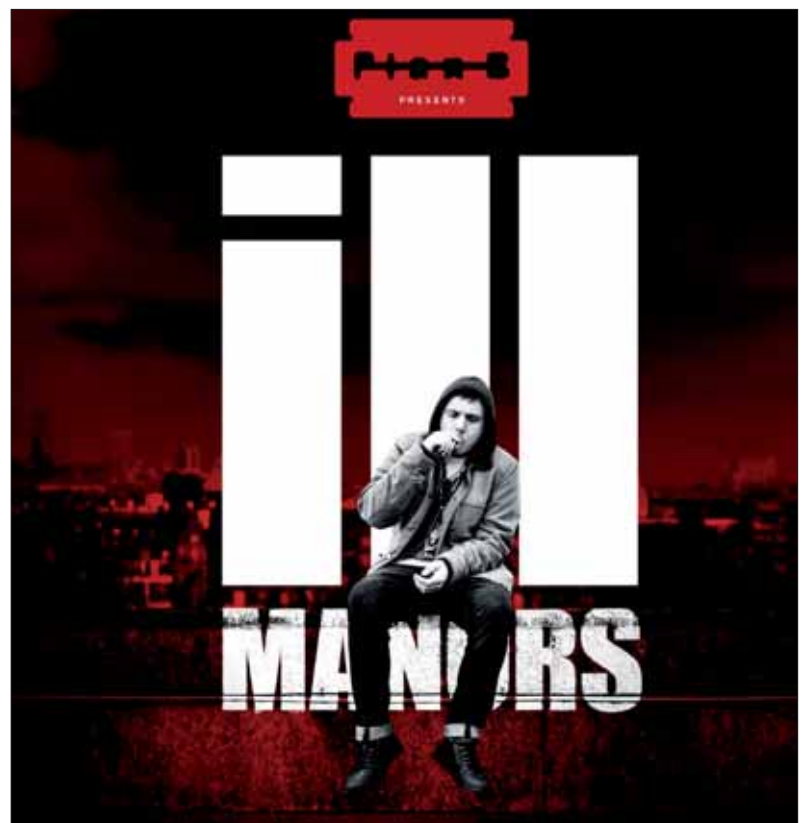
and so on.

Don't worry if you're not political. This album has the tell-tale 'flow' of Plan B. Lots of arrhythmic patterns, heavy break downs and shout choruses that you can sing along to.

The writing is admirable and features great symmetry and prose. Take this passage in the first verse for example, skillfully crafted: "Let's all go on an urban safari we might see some illegal migrants. 'Oi', look there's a C.H.A.V., that means (Council Housed and Violent). He's got a



THE FILM: Plan B's celluloid take on the London riots shares its name with his latest album that was released on July 23<sup>rd</sup> (top right).



hoodie on give him a hug, on second thoughts wait you don't wanna get mugged."

One hallmark of a great writer, I'm told by friend of the *Gazette* Dr Patrick Campbell, is the ability to carry a metaphor throughout the entirety of a piece. In this passage Drew carries forth the already established metaphor of people as safari animals.

"We got an eco-friendly government, they preserve our natural habitat. Built an entire Olympic Village around where we live without pulling down any flats. Give us free money and we don't pay any tax, NHS healthcare, yes please, many thanks."

One thing that is interesting about Drew's political perspective is that he isn't necessarily siding with rioters or the police. He just enjoys reveling in the flames – shining a spotlight on an out of control situation.

In order to promote the film and album, Plan B is a part of a

growing list of artists to be featured in the YouTube Livestream Concerts series that broadcasts performances simultaneously around the world.

Plan B performed for YouTube on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and the concert can be viewed by searching "Plan B Livestream". *Ill Manors* the film is in select theaters now and the album can be purchased through Amazon for 8.97 pounds sterling, approximately 440 baht. *Ill Manors* was released on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to accompany the Livestream.

*Let's go looting  
No not Luton  
The high street's closer  
Cover your face  
And if we see any rich kids  
On the way  
We'll make 'em wish they  
stayed inside  
There's a charge for congestion,  
Everybody's gotta pay  
Do what Boris does... Rob  
them blind.*

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## Kids books abound for August

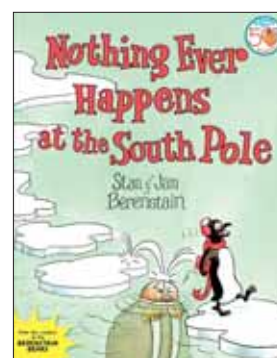
*Captain Underpants and the Terrifying Return of Tippy Tinkletrousers* by Dav Pilkey. Scholastic.



CAPTAIN Underpants returns! In their ninth epic adventure, it's up to George, Harold, and the amazing Captain Underpants to stop Tippy Tinkletrousers' reign of terror before it's too late and everyone is zapped by Tippy's laser-shooting Freezy-Beam 4000.

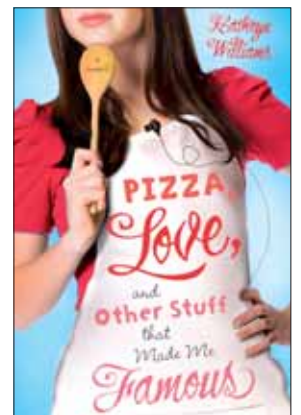
## Book briefs

*Nothing Ever Happens at the South Pole* by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain. Illustrated by Mike Berenstain. HarperFestival.



THERE'S a lot going on at the South Pole, but when one penguin goes looking for adventure, he doesn't see anything exciting at all. Could it be he's just not looking closely enough?

*Pizza, Love, and Other Stuff That Made Me Famous* by Kathryn Williams. Macmillan.



SIXTEEN-year-old little Sophie Nicolaidis was practically raised in the kitchen of her parents Greek-Italian restaurant. So, when her friend convinces her to try out for a spot on a teen reality show it looks like Sophie could find herself with a scholarship at an elite cooking school AND a summer romance?



# Dr Phumin Silapunt

DR Phumin Silapunt, 39, steps out of his office to greet me. He is wearing a bright blue cotton shirt with batik pattern fringe, attire not commonly associated with a hospital director – or with a doctor, for that matter.

But as the soft-spoken director of Patong Hospital explains this is the uniform shirt for all personnel, and even if he is the boss he wears it to show he's part of the team.

The team spirit ethos is something Dr Phumin, a trained surgeon, takes seriously. Five years ago, the post was entrusted to him with a request to “come back and help your father's land,” referring to Phuket, his father's birthplace.

The top job came with its own inherent problems and to solve them this young doctor (34 at that time) had to win the hearts and minds of his new staff, some of whom were much older than him. It was this very team spirit, he says, that has won him the staff's regard and made Patong Hospital the respectable institution it is today.

It's a widely held belief, in Thai medical circles anyway, that surgeons make the best hospital chiefs. Was this why he got the job? He laughs, and says:

“Perhaps. General surgery requires dexterity, patience and creativity. It's art if you like, but must be practiced with decisiveness and boldness. Most of the time you don't have a second

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

chance – the job must be done and done well. All that in the context of complex medical situations of course. It's multi-tasking and an administration job is like that too.”

Dr Phumin (whose nickname is Art) says his virtue is being patient – jai yen – and under his leadership Patong Hospital has prospered and passed the tough quality test by the Healthcare Accreditation Institute of Thailand, one of the only two Phuket hospitals to receive such award, the other being Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Apart from running Patong Hospital, Dr Phumin holds a surgery clinic every Wednesday afternoon at Phuket Vajira Hospital. His skills are now directed at performing arteriovenous fistula operations for patients with kidney complications.

Dr Phumin is the only surgeon in Phuket qualified to perform such an operation, in which an artery and a vein are connected to allow for application of dialysis treatment.

When asked to comment on the fact that many expatriates now regularly use the hospital's facilities, he answers:

“There are both advantages and disadvantages for admitting foreign patients. Expats make up 20 per cent of the hospital's intake and because they pay (as opposed to Thais who are subsidized by the state), the hospital benefits. However, there are problems with drunk and disorderly night time patients. Then there are also those who can't afford to pay.”

The latter, he says, poses a problem and a headache. “I just don't understand how tourists are allowed to enter the country without any health insurance. Something must be done to correct this or else many government hospitals will end up picking up the bill for treatment and sometimes even funeral fees.”

Dr Phumin's working day is typified by a series of meetings – both at his hospital and at government offices in town. Apart from the Wednesday surgery clinic, he is also head of the Phuket Patong DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Team) responsible for quick deployment in case of local and national crisis. As such he has had to undergo constant training.

He is also a devoted father and always has time for his two daughters, eight and seven, helping with homework and ferrying them to sport activities over the weekend.

Dr Phumin is married to Dr Suntree Thantong, a radiologist attached to Bangkok Hospital on Phuket.



## 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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## Party Time at Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek



**SURF'S UP:** Ray Waldron's Phuket 8 Surf Patrol receive a prize.



**YOUNG AND OLD:** Simon Morris (above left) accepts the Seraph Classic Trophy donated by Tom Howard while the Phuket Youth Sailing Club Team (below) thank their sponsors Phuket FM Radio and Sunsail (Thailand). Photos: Marc Mulloy



**MATEYS:** Liam Kealy and Chris Husted (above) console each other while *McBob The Boat's* crew (right) savor victory.



**HIGH FLYERS:** Lively Ukrainian performers were in Phuket recently at the Simon Star Cabaret Theater.



**CLEAN LIVING:** Somsak Chaochang from Kamala OrBorTor (third left, rear) and Phuket official Sare Lammak (second left) took part in the recent Kamala Green project. Photo: Jim Newport



**MY FAIR LADY:** The One Tambon, One Product (OTOP) Fair, which featured a range of products from four provinces of Thailand was held last week at Central Festival Phuket.



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**HABIT FORMING:** Somsakul Limsuttaphan, Assistant MD of Plus Property Company, recently welcomed customers and celebrities to the Grand Opening of Habitia-Habitown in Koh Kaew.



## YOUR Phuket



**IT'S GOOD TO GIVE:** Indigo Pearl Phuket's management team led by GM Kelly Lewis, returned to Uncle Pitak's House to donate educational materials and spend quality time with the children.



**TRI TRIO:** Tri Property CEO Adisorn Vivakanonde (left) thanks the 70-plus team of Bangkok and Phuket-based media professionals at a party put on by Phuket marcom agency Prodigy One at Room Zociety, Central Festival Phuket, following the successful launch of Zcape Condominium. Also pictured are Tri Property CFO Chaiwat Tuntiwiwat (center) and Prodigy One Managing Director Pakhin Aungulsant.



**NUMBER ONE:** Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club's triathlete, 31, Jaray Jearanai won first place at the Boat Lagoon Mini Marathon.



**UNSUNG HEROES:** Some 30 members of the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation pose with their vehicles for a souvenir photo at Nai Yang beach.



**OO-ER MISS[US]:** Phuket-born Vanessa Muangkod, Miss Thailand World 2012, helped present prizes to appreciative sailors at Cape Panwa Hotel Raceweek 2012 (see facing page).



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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:

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### July 26 - 29, 11am to 8pm: Construction Materials & Tools Exhibition

Construction Materials & Tools Exhibition: All types of construction materials, from floors to roof tiles. See the latest breakthroughs in construction technology, interior design and building maintenance. Learn how to design smart homes for multi-million-dollar projects – IPTV, 3G internet, IP Phone, CCTV and high-tech devices. Top of the range light and sound systems for conventions and conferences and night clubs. The latest products for home spas, swimming pools and gymnasiums. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

### July 28, 7:30 to 9pm: Salsa Night with BBQ @ Royal Marina Yacht Club

Royal Phuket Marina Yacht Club is delighted to invite you to our Salsa Evening with BBQ Dinner (500++ baht). Dance the Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba and Rumba Live with the sound of DJ Miscaro. For more information and reservations, please contact Anna & Didier on 084-306 2016 or Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

### 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. The day is observed by donating offerings to temples and listening to sermons.

## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### August 3, 17, 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 10 and 24, 7 to 9pm: Indian Night! at Les Anges

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

### August 4, 11, 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. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats and in the bakery we bake all our own bread. With well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise 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 flowing beverage alternatives.

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

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

### August 12: Mother's Day Celebration at Mare Italian Restaurant

Celebrate National Mother's Day on HM the Queen's birthday. Especially for Mother's Day, Sunday, August 12, at Mare Restaurant. We are offering a family get together lunch with special promotions and lots of surprises for moms. Savour a scrumptious meal accompanied by live music. After lunch, enjoy our swimming pool, kid's pool, lazy river, jumping cliff and water slides and have great fun. Only 1,490 baht net per person including soft drinks, water, coffee and tea. Including one bottle of red, white or rosé wine (per couple) the price is only 1,890 baht net per person. Children under the age of five are free. Children ages 6-12 are half price as well as all Mothers will pay half price in honor of their special day!

### August 13: HM The Queen's 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. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome but prior registration is essential for participants. Entry for members is 500



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### July 16 – August 15

10am to 6pm, Häfele Design Center on Chalerm Prakit (Bypass) Road, opposite Big C.

baht, guests 650 baht. For more information or to register please contact [info@phuketiw.com](mailto:info@phuketiw.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://W:twochefs.com). All this for only 395 baht, and only an extra 300 baht for free flow drinks.

## Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

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

Free Computer Clinics at:  
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Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - Aug 8, 1-3pm

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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

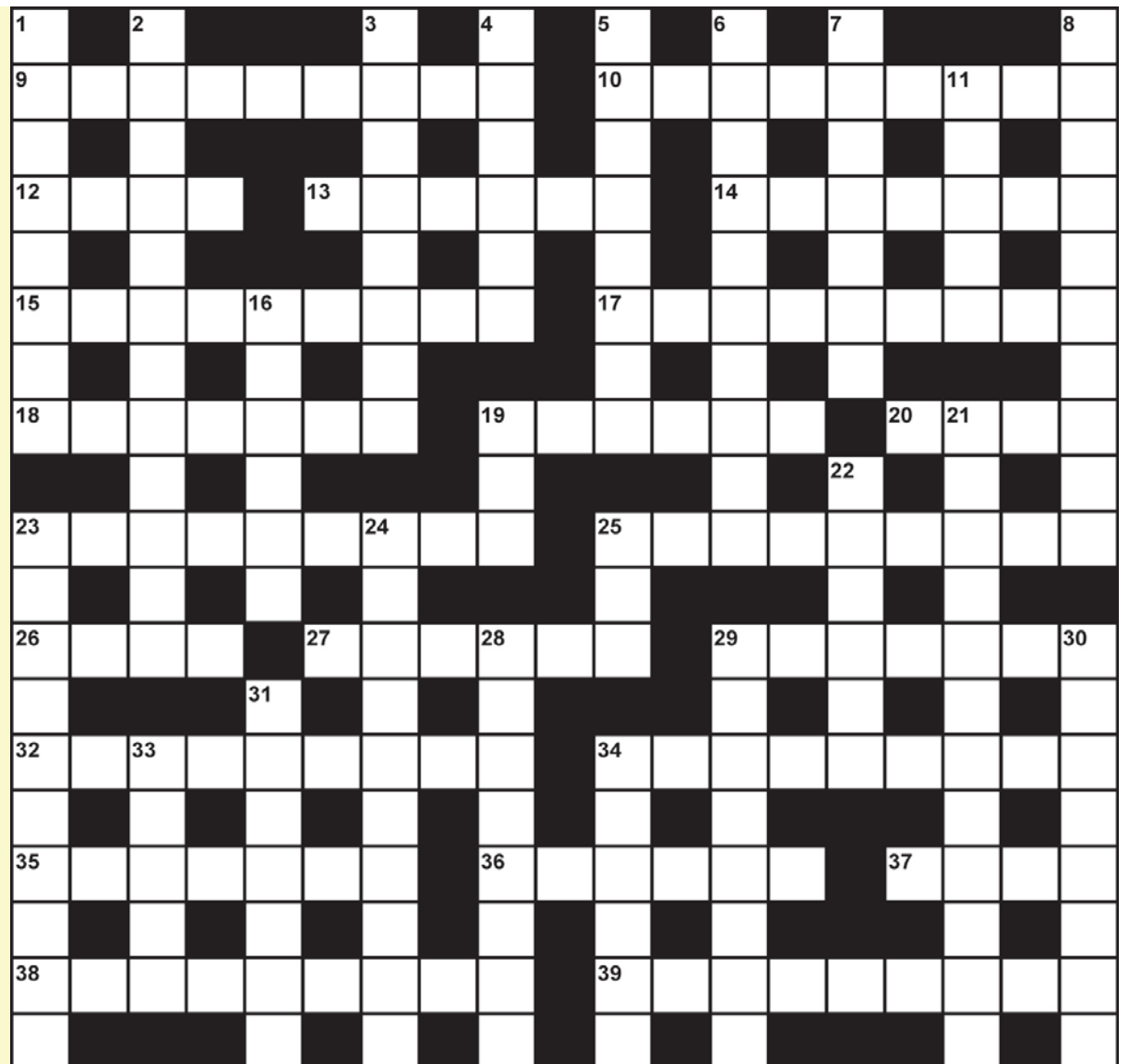
### Across:

9. Point out next cell inside is first class (9)  
10. Consequently life after death (9)  
12. Regarding Erin in an odd way (2,2)  
13. In an apathetic state, turn disorganised sport round (6)  
14. Behaving like a baby on the soccer pitch? (7)  
15. The rich go lay about a small group in power (9)  
17. Result, developed that frame (9)  
18. I coast around learner, showing calm acceptance (7)  
19. Cut grass container to make a fireless cooker (6)  
20. May possibly turn a head on Phuket (4)  
23. Clean space, son, for toilets (9)  
25. Serious discussion in Drill

- Instructor's series of lessons (9)  
26. Does not take seriously to unknown. Singular! (4)  
27. Shortened sail freed traveling around the East (6)  
29. The loan arranged for alcohol (7)  
32. Dutchman to land in hole by river (9)  
34. Wildly shout about extraction of coal causing wholesale loss of life (9)  
35. Launches no article about refreshments (7)  
36. The widow shifted a liter, round about (6)  
37. Exist to return evil (4)  
38. Back on street, circles without hindrance (2,7)  
39. Make a demand to freely sit up late (9)

### Down:

1. Wanting to be roused, possibly about one, son (8)  
2. Expressing offensive criticism second, curiously indiscriminate about right and left (12)



3. Straight up against it, clear out (8)  
4. Call in, remain near (4,2)  
5. Chap Mary disturbed in the dispensary (8)  
6. Traveling, do I transit customs? (10)  
7. Romeo could openly aspire to long, slender weapons (7)  
8. Plants shelter verdant abode (10)  
11. Bait I formed from bone (5)  
16. Agreement to account measure of timber (6)

19. Hotel a son owns (3)  
21. To do with aircraft, maybe are nothing to do with boats (12)  
22. Barbaric old German in charge of medieval architecture (6)  
23. Observe a wish in a Phuket temple (3,7)  
24. Diverse divers go on taking excessive medication (10)  
25. Date I had cheated (3)  
28. Rest for refreshment, son, in the castle (8)

29. Selecting from various sources, etc., Cecil is different (8)  
30. Scattered waste let dirt spread around the East (8)  
31. Ah, rain falling, North Phuket area (3,4)  
33. Len is upset, rows (5)  
34. Last, he moved the most healthy (6)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 43**

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



A water sign's reluctance to be supportive could be the final straw for Leos in a working relationship. The stars indicate that taking distance from this person will lead to more worthwhile contacts being made. Those with a birthday in the week ahead should see fewer obstacles blocking the path to success in the coming year. Romance is well-starred this weekend. Your lucky number this week is three.

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



The stars suggest that your luck in August is set to increase, particularly where work is concerned. Those who have been attempting to get a new project underway should find all systems go – finances for this look more secure when another earth sign comes on board. A water sign's passing comment gives lovelorn Virgoans interesting food for thought at a social event. The number six can shine this week.

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



Many of those born under the sign of Libra should have something to celebrate as July ends. The stars suggest that recent effort made in the world of work will pay off,

but August is forecast to be a busy month with the chance of holiday plans being changed. Your luck in love is steady, but a water sign could take some convincing this weekend. Number nine can bring good fortune this week.

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



Simple goals can be easily reached during August, but you should avoid aiming for the moon. The stars indicate that Scorpios who are intent on tying up work projects will need to make allowances for others who are more in holiday mood. Romance could be a seesaw ride; going overboard to impress an earth sign may result in an embarrassing moment. Your lucky number this week is one.

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



Others may seem intent on trying to change your mind this week, but there are signs that most of them don't know what they are talking about. However, another fire sign has valid information on Monday or Tuesday that could be to your advantage at work. In the realm of romance, a mystery involving a water sign starts to unravel. The stars suggest that number two can be special for Sagittarians this weekend.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

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



The stars advise that you get to grips with what is happening in your life at the start of August as there are signs that distraction could cause problems. Overspending may be the slippery slope for some Capricorns this week – persuasion to part with more than you can afford could come from a fire sign. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. The number three can be fortunate this week.

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



This is an auspicious time to locate lost objects and put relationships back on track. The stars show that Aquarians stand good chance of getting ahead during August, as long as you don't allow others to rush you into decisions. Work is well-starred, with focus on another air sign sharing important information on Monday or Tuesday. Number eight stands out for those born under the sign of Aquarius this week.

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



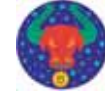
Pisceans are advised to put themselves first this week. The stars advise that others may take support for granted, and this could also involve your hard earned cash. As August commences, some quiet solitude will allow you to gain better perspective on a work related dilemma. Romantic relationships will also benefit from time spent thinking about what you really want. Your lucky number this week is four.

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



Creativity flows freely as July turns into August. Those born under the sign of Aries who have been feeling less than inspired should see a turn of the tide. Expect an influential air sign to show interest in your skills midweek. Where romance is concerned, honest answers are recommended when a water sign has something on their mind this weekend. The number two can be important this week.

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



The world of work is well starred for those born under the sign of Taurus. This is an auspicious week for second chances, whether it means giving someone else the ben-

efit of the doubt, or another person inviting you to try another approach. Those who are single and seeking could experience mixed emotions when a blast from the past makes contact. Number five can bring good fortune this week.

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



The stars suggest that time could be wasted by another air sign being economical with the truth this week. You may need to dig deeply to get to the core of this matter, and work projects can be delayed as a result. Events should start to move more quickly towards the middle of August. Another air sign is ready to take a romantic step further. Gemini's lucky number this week is eight.

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



Patience is predicted to pay off for those born under the sign of Cancer. Your luck in business is well-starred during the month of August and the stars indicate that extra financial gain is within reach. Lighthearted flirtation with an earth sign could be taken more seriously by the other person than you intend. Romance with a fire sign looks likely. Cancerians could see that number seven brings good luck this week.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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

# Zcape condos near Laguna

LOCAL property investors are confident that Tri Property's affordable new Zcape Condominium, currently under construction near Laguna, is just what Phuket's residential property market needs.

More than 70 per cent of Zcape's smartly-designed compact units were reserved within days of the sales office opening at the site of the new, low-density development on Baandon Cherng-Talay Rd.

Conceived by Bangkok-based residential property developer Tri Property Co Ltd, construction of the compact condo development is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2014.

Upon completion, the development will be alongside a brand new boutique community mall and international supermarket.

Comprising of 198 studios and single-bedroom units on seven floors, laid out in a horizontal Z-shape, most of the units have an unobstructed view of the pool, garden or hillside.

Starting at 1.19 million baht and ranging in size from 21 to 46.68 square meters, Zcape Condominium offers three types of units.

Designed by Preen Studio, the units have several innovative space-saving 'flip & slide' features to keep costs low. The rooms can be quickly adapted to suit residents' needs simply by flipping and sliding furniture and partition walls – a concept adapted from other residential projects found in some of Asia's densely-populated cities.

Each unit has a furnished kitchenette and bathroom separated from the living room and bedroom by a three-panel sliding glass partition.

The entire development covers a total area of about 2,200 sqm including a 100sqm triangular swimming pool with hydro massage jets and a baby pool, a fully equipped fitness center and a peaceful garden.

"The units are an ideal accommodation option for single professionals, or people visiting the province on long or short-term trips, who want to be near some of the best resorts and community facilities the island has to offer," said Tri Property CFO Chaiwat Tuntiwiwat.

Mr Chaiwat, a native of Phuket, says he plans to put high-quality affordable homes on the market and make them accessible to both local

and international buyers.

"We've already had a lot of interest and we're highly confident that Zcape Condominium is just what Phuket's property market needs," said Mr Chaiwat.

"Based on some very positive feedback from many local property watchers, we're anticipating quite a rush ... investors will be looking at healthy rental returns and first-time home buyers are offered easily affordable down payment plans over the next 18 months," he said.

Zcape Condominium sales booths are scheduled to remain at Central Festival until August 12 and at the Tesco Lotus superstore in Thalang until August 15.

Investors' high confidence in the Zcape Condo concept is also linked to Tri Property's financial stability and solid track record in condo construction with two similarly successful condominium projects in Bangkok: Proud and ProudX2, both in the Cheang Wattana area.

For more information drop in to the Zcape Sales Gallery on Baandon Cherng-Talay Rd, near Laguna Phuket, or visit [www.z-phuket.com](http://www.z-phuket.com). Tel: +66 (0)84-444 0707-9.



ON THE RISE: 198 studios and single-bedroom units on seven floors.

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**laGuna**  
PROPERTY



# Will Phuket be hit by a property bubble?



**Property Watch**

By Bill Barnett

I AM a big fan of the Martin Scorsese movie *Casino*. One of the most telling lines is from Robert De Niro's character Ace Rothstein who waxes poetically: "In the casino, the cardinal rule is to keep them playing and to keep them coming back. The longer they play, the more they lose, and in the end, we get it all."

In many ways Phuket's broad property sector has been hit again with a gambling-like mentality. A strong wave of new low-priced products have hit the market over the past 18 months, which looks to alter the playing field of real estate far into the decade.

These offerings priced from 1-2 million baht have a sustained surge in transactions and it's been hard to feed the beast of overwhelming demand. Somehow the trend makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck as it reminds me of another era.

In the old days, about 10 to 12 year ago, Phuket moved into growth mode and Chalong played home to some of the early domestic-oriented housing projects – the multi-phase Villas 1, 2, 3 and now I've even lost track how many there are. Then came Land and Houses with a pocketful of attached to semi-attached and detached houses, which offered something for every budget.

These projects were aimed mostly at domestic Thai buyers but they also saw pick up from foreigners. Mostly folks were end users, who would live in these units, raise families and had roots in the community. Coincidentally, at the same time the overseas market was picking up. Along coastal areas lifestyle migrants from Hong Kong, Singapore and elsewhere were buying second homes or eventual retirement havens. Again the common thread was buyers who wanted to use the property.

As the 'greed is good' days of the mid 2000s arrived, the foreign market ramped up with a case of halcyon-induced euphoria and investors flocked to our shores, looking to double their money overnight.

Somehow the big Bangkok listed property developers were so entrenched in the nation's capital they forgot about the upcountry market of Phuket. Domestic offerings were mostly attached or semi-detached homes on inland plots of land.

We all know what happened to the foreign market after the financial crisis – oversupply, flat demand and the all encompassing secondary resale market.

While after the crisis a steady flow of listed Thai firms made inroads to Phuket, property for the most part has been a domestic storyline. Somehow supply and demand were kept in check but the rising affluence of an increasing

middle class, and readily available credit multiplied the catchment of willing property investors.

Today there are well over 5000 entry level condominium units in the development pipeline on the island, which will be completed over the next 24 months.

Typically, buyers are Thai rather than foreigners, and in many cases they have purchased multiple units.

Like a casino, the game is to make a small down payment on launch, speculate that project pricing will appreciate during the development phase and flip the unit prior to registration of the condo. This forestalls either doling out cash or else raising bank finance. In theory strong market sentiment has worked in their favor over the past year.

Now, the question is how deep the buying pool is and what will happen when all of these completed units are transferred on. Inevitably the tables will turn as those unable to flip, will be forced to rent. This effectively will displace possible buyers of new launches, as renting will become cheaper. Secondly, there will be a resale market with considerable inventory.

One can almost overlay the same situation, which happened in the resort grade foreign sector five years ago and it's likely that a similar scenario will occur. Cycles are a fact of business life. As Phuket grows, its real estate industry will fractionalize into



GOING UP: But where do the children play? Photo: Brandon Fick

new sales, resales and rentals.

While pundits may point out that domestic growth can continue unabated, as it has done in Bangkok, there remains a limited population base here and saturation will come inevitably.

There is also a possible mismatch of product. While the shoe-box influx of units that are 20 – 30 square meters is aimed at a certain demographic, it will not attract Thai couples who want to have kids or those with families already.

Geography is another issue. While Bangkok has these flats along key transportation lines like the BTS and bus routes, traffic in Phuket is getting worse. Businesspeople and employees are increasingly drawn to being closer to their work

so where the largest build of these units are, may be less desirable in the years ahead.

That given, the trend is not all bad. Planned estates, reasonable scale and a rise in the quality of domestic products are good things. But the concern is the voodoo-like spread of inexperienced first time investors who are only prepared financially for the upside and not the possibility of market volatility.

Buy a good product, pick a strong location and be willing to ride out the storm and your investment should provide a reasonable return.

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

## Resort-property sales lag behind tourism

THE hotel business in Phuket is booming as tourists flood the island, but sales of resort properties have failed to benefit, according to CBRE Research's Phuket Property Report.

"Despite healthy increases in tourism arrivals [for now we are not] seeing a proportional increase in sales in the resort property market. Rising tourism numbers are mainly from Asia, whose tourists have yet to become resort property buyers," said David Simister, Chairman of CBRE Thailand.

According to the report, Phuket welcomed 594,999 local and 730,667 foreign visitors in the first quarter (Q1) of this year.

Despite the global economic uncertainty, tourism continued to grow, with the expansion coming from Australia, China and Russia.

The Q1 average occupancy rate improved to 82.7 per cent from 80.5 per cent in the Q4 of last year. High-end hotels were the best performers with average achieved room rates of 22,835 baht for



SAVA in Phang Nga is the exception having sold out.

luxury hotels – up 6.8 per cent year-on-year, and 7,425 baht for first-class hotels, up five per cent.

Currently 13,171 rooms are in 83 existing upscale hotels, and 5,471 are under construction in 30 hotels due for completion by 2014.

The new supply is not confined to the West coast, but shows a wider geographic footprint, including Koh Siray, which is east of Phuket Town.

A new residential market has emerged – non-beachfront, non-resort condos – developed by

Bangkok listed developers such as Sansiri and Supalai. New off-plan projects have been successfully selling condos inland aimed at local island residents. They are mainly studios of 29-37 square meters AT an average price of 1.5 million baht.

Based on the company's survey in the Q1, 60 resort villas were sold. Sales were spread across all price ranges. Villas below 15 mn baht made up half of sales, but at the top end, two sales were recorded in excess of 120 mn baht.

The Sava across the Sarasin Bridge in Phang Nga province has reportedly sold all seven villas at prices ranging from 62 to 180 mn baht, three of which were sold this quarter.

In the resort condo market, 84 units were sold. Sales were concentrated in five projects with mostly one-bedroom units at an average price of 5.9 mn baht. There are about 3,700 completed resort condos in Phuket.

– The Nation/Phuket Gazette

### LaGuna

PROPERTY RESALE

Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

<p><b>1 Allamanda 1-Bedroom Suite THB 5.9 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 bed 1 bath Condominium</li> <li>• fully furnished • freehold</li> <li>• golf course view</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.5 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 beds 2 baths Condominium</li> <li>• lagoon view • leasehold</li> <li>• fully furnished</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Angsana Island Villa THB 18.5 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 beds 2 baths Condominium</li> <li>• fully furnished • freehold</li> <li>• pool &amp; garden view</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Laguna Village Townhome THB 21.3 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey 3 beds 3 baths</li> <li>• lagoon view • leasehold</li> <li>• private pool</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Laguna Village Residences THB 29.75 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 beds 3 baths • leasehold</li> <li>• lagoon view</li> <li>• private pool</li> </ul>	

For more information on these and other properties, please call:

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# Landowning in the name of a company

## Property Legal

By International Law Office

THE purchase of land in the name of a Thai Company, (a "company ltd" is the preferred corporate form as its liabilities are limited) is thought by many to be impossible when it involves the inclusion of foreign shareholders and/or a foreign director in the company.

However, if one follows the rules of the Company Registration Office (CRO) regarding company registration and the regulations and requirements of the Land office, the lawful registration of a Thai company – that includes foreign shareholders and/or directors – may be accomplished.

Generally, for a Thai landowning company that has a foreign director and/or shareholders, the CRO will require evidence that Thai shareholders have made actual capital contributions into the company.

This may be demonstrated by submitting copies of the records of their respective bank accounts for the previous 6 month period that indicate each of the Thai shareholders independently possessed sufficient funds for their respec-

tive investment in the company.

In addition, the Thai shareholders must provide evidence of where such funds originated. Examples of the above include savings from their salaries, inheritances, funds received through the sale of properties or received through a bona-fide loan.

Shares in a Thai company may also be issued or transferred to Thai nationals in compensation for their 'special' contributions made to the company that may take the form of skills, knowledge, experience or property.

In this instance, the Thai Shareholder must pay income taxes on the amounts representing their contributions of skill, knowledge or experience based upon the value of their shares, or based upon the value of the property transferred into the name of the Thai company.

A Thai landowning company must be set up according to the land department rules, which require at a minimum one Thai director with full signatory powers (along with the foreign director) and which require that all company shares issued to foreigners represent no more than 39 per cent of all company shares issued. The minimum

number of shareholders in a Thai Company Ltd. is three, and there must be more Thai shareholders than foreign shareholders.

Once the company has been registered for the purpose of owning land, and/or to conduct the business of real estate transaction (to purchase and/or sell land or rent out such properties) the company, through its directors, may apply at the land office to purchase the target land and must submit all the necessary supporting documents.

Further, a company purpose for the land purchase must be declared (office, or commercial use, etc.). At this time, the Thai Director and all Thai shareholders must be present at the land office to show evidence of their financial investment and to sign a declaration that such shareholders are bona-fide shareholders and not mere nominees.

If all the documentations and evidence as presented is correct and accepted by the land official and the land title clear, the land official will commence with the registration process for the purchase and transfer of ownership of the land into the name of the Thai company, and the officer shall



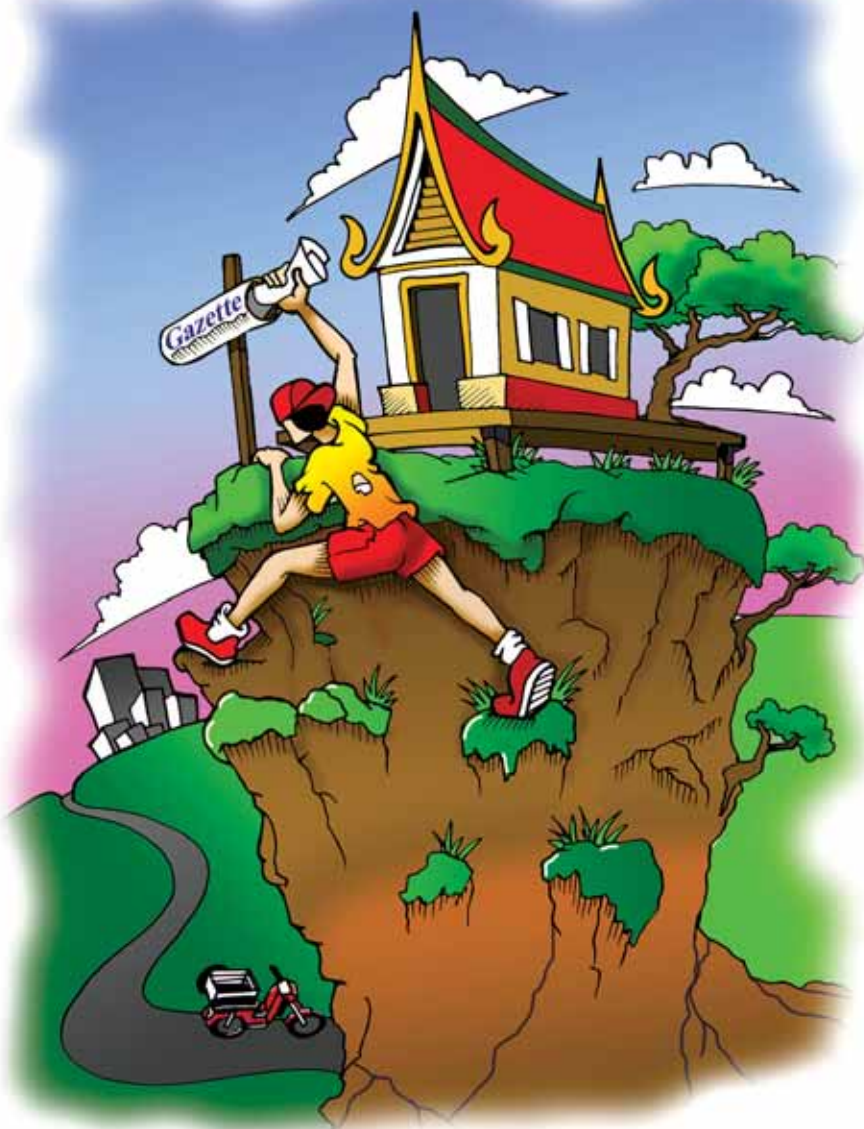
**BALANCING ACT:** Legally creating a business. Photo: BackgroundNow.com

issue the official Purchase/Sales Agreement for the property in the name of the company. Upon registration the officer will also collect all registration fees and taxes due and payable on the transaction.

Although the process seems difficult, a lawful Thai landowning company can easily be formed notwithstanding the presence of foreign directorship or foreign shareholders. The advantage of incorporating such a company correctly is that the government, through its officers at the land office and the CRO, has given its stamp of approval for the underlying land transaction having verified the legitimacy of the company, its directors and shareholders.

Upon having registered the Thai company as legal owner of the property, the Thai company should commence its business promptly as yearly audited accounts have to be filed with the CRO and Revenue Department. This requirement is independent as to whether or not the company actually has income. An accountant and/or auditor should be contacted for such purpose.

*This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd, a Phuket based law firm for international purpose only. In case of inquiry, please contact Michael Greth, Consultant, by phone: 076-222-191-5 or email: michael@ilo-phuket.com*



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# Trumpeting their virtues

WHEN I started this column, one of the first plants to be given the seal of approval was *tecaoma stans*, commonly known



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

as yellow bells or the trumpet tree. It received a rave review because one was already prospering in my garden, an amiable small tree that always seemed to be in bloom, and was capable of coping with poor soil and relatively little moisture.

If the trumpet tree has one minor disadvantage, it is that it is deciduous and, because it has a fairly open crown, it produces highly visible bunches of seed pods after the manner of most of the *bignonia* tribe. A small price to pay for a colorful shrub whose smooth grey branches are liberally bedecked with lots of large, yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers.

Originally from tropical America, *tecaoma stans* behaves here like a seasoned native, apparently immune both to disease, and to the vagaries of the Thai climate. It will rapidly reach five or six meters, but pruning will both improve its shape and thicken the bright green, toothed foliage.

Moreover, if you want a constant display of these campanulate blooms, you will

need to remove the bean-like seed capsules.

Readily available in Phuket plant nurseries, where it is known as *thawng urai*, you may find therein a newish hybrid with flowers of an even richer golden hue. Propagate from the papery seeds or, more reliably, from plant cuttings taken from the previous year's growth.

*Tecoma capensis*, sometimes known as the cape honeysuckle, is another member of the genus. Equally adaptable and tolerant of salt-spray, drought and wind, it has a tendency to climb and sports large, glossy leaves.

The flowers are orange-red or scarlet and although they have the characteristic bell shape of most *bignonia*s, they are tightly tubular, and are borne as racemes at the end of branches. Hence the "honeysuckle" tag. Aurea, a modern cultivar, has golden yellow flowers. It is worth looking out for.

Also seaside hardy is the yellow poinciana (*peltophorum pterocarpum*). Although often upstaged by the flame tree's dazzling array of orange blooms, this particular poinciana is deservedly popular both for its shade and its flowers.

Less spectacular than *delonix regia* it may be, but its erect yellow spikes of flowers, produced at the same time as the handsome, fern-like leaves, are both attractive and fragrant. Indeed, it is sometimes planted in company with flame trees along Indian avenues, creating a colorful parade of alternate scarlet and yellow. Surely a practice worth repeating here. Unusually, the young branches are covered with rusty red hairs. Flat, leathery pods mature during the dry season.

Known as *non sii* in Thailand, it's probably a bit big for the average garden, since it can grow to thirty feet or more, and has spreading branches. While it dislikes



**BIRDS AND BEES LOVE TECOMA:** Above, a sunbird enjoys the nectar of *tecaoma capensis*, while (right) a bee gets it on with *tecaoma stans*. Photos: Wilferd Duckitt, mauroguanandi



drought and will become deciduous in bone-dry conditions, *peltophorum* is normally evergreen, given sufficient moisture. In Phuket, it is found growing wild in a variety of damp habitats – from the margins of mangrove swamps to flood plains, but, as an ornamental addition, it is occasionally seen in parks and gardens.

Placed by some botanists in the *cassia* sub-group of the legume family, it has more than its golden color to link it to other members of this clan. *P. dasyrachis*, for example, is a relative. Another substantial tree with characteristic brownish-red, tomentose shoots and ferny foliage.

Synchronizing the appearance of its blooms with the new leaves that appear in March in Thailand, it goes on to produce seed pods that start red and turn

black as they mature. One difference is that the clusters of fragile yellow florets hang down in racemes rather than pointing skywards. The result: a greater dramatic impact.

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



**YELLOW POINCIANA:** *peltophorum pterocarpum*. Photo: Tatiana Gerus



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The Owner: Tri Property Co., Ltd. Registered capital (Baht): 100,000,00 (Fully paid up). Head office located at no. 21/114 Block D, RCA, Soi Soonvijai-rama9, Rama9 Rd., Bangkok Sub-District, Huaykwang District, Bangkok. Managing Director: Mr. Adisorn Vivakanond. Zcape condominium project will be constructed as a Residential Condominium of 7 storey(ies), 1 building, total of unit(s), 198 unit(s) on the land title deed no. 40583, 40584 Baandon-Cherngtalay Rd., Cherngtalay Sub-District, Talang District, Phuket Province, total of 1 plot(s) approximately land areas: 1-1-58.6 Rai, under the titles of the Project Owner and have been mortgaged with Bank of Ayudhya Public Company Limited. Now the project is in the process to submit the building permission and expect to commence from December 2012 and expected to be completed in February 2014. The project will be registered as the condominium after the construction is completed. The unit owners must pay common property expenses, tax and fee at the rate as stipulated by the Project Owner or in accordance with the Regulation of the Condominium Juristic Person under the condominium law.



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Two Indian sisters died after 'poisoning' themselves, police say. The bodies were found in a hotel room in Patong.

**Phuket Sports: FIVB Grand Prix update**  
PHUKET: Thai ladies continue to live up to their reputation as some of the world's best ball control artists, with the final round of the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) 2012 Grand Prix, providing the latest stage for them to demonstrate their considerable skills.

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### LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

### MAI KHAO LAND

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### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

### HOUSE IN GARDEN PLACE



Project at Thalang, opposite to Thalang school, 92sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 4 aircons, wardrobes, beds, kitchen. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 086-476 9612.

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### D CONDO 1, KATHU

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-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.

-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.

Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (include furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument towards to Tesco Lotus Thalang. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

### SEAVIEW CONDO

In Kata. Quiet location. Foreign Freehold. Furnished or unfurnished. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuketpn@gmail.com

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no 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.

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### THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



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### FAMILY HOUSE IN QUIET AREA

Living area 113sqm. Fully furnished. Sand stone wall. Ready to move in. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Price: 3.5 million baht, negotiable. Tel: +45-31-536373 (English), +45-26-282479 (Thai). Email: janthongsamer@live.dk

### LAND SALE CHIANG RAI AREA

3 rai of great land for farming & house project. Quiet area, no flood. Chanote title. Access road. Tel: 089-143 1915 (English & Thai). Email: saranya\_ab@hotmail.com

### HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 5.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

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## Properties For Rent

### THALANG LUXURY POOL HOUSE

Long term rent: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com. For further details, please see our website at [www.rentpoolhouseinphuket.com](http://www.rentpoolhouseinphuket.com)

### 3 BR HOUSE AT L&H CHALONG

Top condition, aircon in all rooms, largest type with garden. 39,000 baht per month. Tel: +66-732-444045. Email: johan@phuket-properties.co.th

### NAI HARN POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, big pool and garden, 4 aircons, 9 fans. All new, luxury furniture, hi-speed internet, HD TV. Tel: 089-052 8970, 089-052 3534 (English). Email: ordersofte@gmail.com

### LUXURY 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT

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

### THE ROYAL PLACE CONDO



Bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3fl with swimming pool view, 2 terraces, 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: 086-476 9612.

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For rent, 3-exclusive luxury apartments in Rawai, each comprising 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and large Euro-style kitchen and living room. Large balconies, back and front, with sweeping views over Rawai and the Andaman sea, LCD TV, wi-fi. Ground floor swimming pool and a rooftop whirlpool where you can relax and take in the sea and hill views. Each apartment also has its own private whirlpool. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com [www.premierpropertiesphuket.com](http://www.premierpropertiesphuket.com)

### 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>

### VILLA LONG TERM RENT



4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room with bathroom, 2 kitchen, fully furnished, swimming pool, WiFi, garden. 55,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

### BUNGALOW IN RAWAI

Full furnished, wifi, aircon, TV, kitchen, quiet. Rent: from 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

### LOCH PALM KATHU

3 double beds all ensuite. Pool sala, lounge, dining, kitchen, covered parking, private gated estate with 24hr security. Rent: 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-265 8002. Email: garysmith436@btinternet.com

### 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

### LONG-TERM RENT

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

### 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](http://griffinpromedia.com/villa). Tel: 086-940 4267. Email: johngriffinphoto@griffiny52@yahoo.co.uk

### 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.

### 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

### 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

### PALM BREEZE RESORT PENTHOUSE

At Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com [www.premierpropertiesphuket.com](http://www.premierpropertiesphuket.com)

### RENT A HOUSE: LAST MINUTE!

At Kathu, private pool, 4 bedrooms, kitchen, 5km to Patong. Tel: 081-968 0309 (English). Email: info@houseinphuket.com Website: <http://lastminute.houseinphuket.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

### KATA BEACH CTR APTS, REST.

Rent apts, restaurant. Starting from 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-828 0972 (English). Email: kata\_residence@hotmail.com

### KATA BEACH APARTMENT

1 bedroom, wifi, kitchens, aircon, cable TV. Rent: 6,000 - 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

### STUDIO IN PHUKET

For rent, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, near Daorung School, 10 minutes to Central Festival Phuket. 6,500 baht per month. Tel: 085-788 8692, 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@gmail.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.

### PLUS CONDO KATHU

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

### 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).

### 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 Chermg Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.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

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

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

### OFFICE FOR RENT

Cheap price, near Laguna, includes furniture. Excellent location! Tel: 081-787 9767. [www.farang-handyman.com](http://www.farang-handyman.com)

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



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

### NEW HOUSE IN PATONG

Fully furnished modern house with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Spacious dining area, stylish open western kitchen. Living room with balcony, full aircon. All extras: LCD, internet, satellite. Quiet setting. Tel: 084-185 8536 (English).

### 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

### 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

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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: [patcharakornrnt@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:patcharakornrnt@bisphuket.ac.th) or [sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th)

### IT OR AV ENGINEERS

Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: [info@techworx-project.com](mailto:info@techworx-project.com)

### 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)

### 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)

### 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)

### 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)

### 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@cravensnurseryphuket.com](mailto:info@cravensnurseryphuket.com)

### LIVE-IN HOUSEMAID

Thai housemaid needed. Cherng Talay area, must live in. Tel: 085-790 2241.

### SECRETARY WANTED

Basic accounting. Speak English. Tel: 089-652 5664.

### 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)

### STAFF WANTED

1 chef and 2 waiter staff wanted for restaurant bar in Karon. Good salary, bonus. All year round work. Must speak English, friendly personality required. Tel: 085-655 9008.

### MANAGER IN FOOD SHOP

Thai nationality, English, computer skills. Salary 15,000 baht. Tel: 088-838 3242, 082-427 0155 (English). Email: [zxigor.n@gmail.com](mailto:zxigor.n@gmail.com)

### 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)



## 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 1 Position
- Assistant Front Office Manager 1 Position

#### ENGINEERING

- Assistant Chief Engineering 1 Position

#### FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Restaurant Supervisor 1 Position

#### MAIN KITCHEN

- Steward Supervisor 1 Position

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Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

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#### FRONT OFFICE

- Guest Relation Manager 1 Position
- Guest Relation Officer 1 Position
- Duty Manager 1 Position
- Night Manager 1 Position

#### ACCOUNTING

- Purchasing Officer 1 Position

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

- Assistant HR Manager 1 Position

#### FOOD & BEVERAGE

- FB Manager 1 Position
- Restaurant Supervisor 1 Position

#### HOUSEKEEPING

- Assistant Housekeeper 1 Position

**Welfare:** salary, service charge, life insurance, staff apartment, transportation, uniform, meals, social security, birthday party, staff party, staff picnic etc.

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Tel: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1510 Fax: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1505

Email: [career@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:career@lagunaphuket.com)

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#### Qualifications:

- Male/female, Thai national only
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- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh)
- High responsibility and punctuality
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#### Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
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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)

### SALES AND MARKETING

Ezystays Ltd located at the Baan Yuree Resort and Spa requires outgoing smart enthusiastic people wishing to live and work in Phuket. We have positions available for in-house hotel marketing staff to generate clients for our holiday club. Good commissions and work permit. We are also seeking sales consultants, excellent earning potential. Tel: 076-341241. Email: [clientliaison@ezystays.com](mailto:clientliaison@ezystays.com)

### BARISTA/CAFE MANAGER

1-2 persons needed for April start, at the re-opening of the Trees Club Resort Cafe. English speaking required. Tel: 086-268 3238. Email: [billyanthony6@hotmail.com](mailto:billyanthony6@hotmail.com)

### MANAGER IN FOOD SHOP

Thai nationality, English, computer skills. Salary 15,000 baht. Tel: 088-838 3242, 082-427 0155 (English). Email: [zxigor.n@gmail.com](mailto:zxigor.n@gmail.com)





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- Purchasing Manager
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If this sounds like you, please submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying for, and the reason you would like to be part of us by August 7<sup>th</sup> to email address [hrphuket@anantaraclub.com](mailto:hrphuket@anantaraclub.com). Good luck with your application!

## MOTORBIKE RENTAL SHOP

Cheap rental in Patong near Jungceylon. Looking for staff. Tel: 085-158 7638. Email: pierre\_hammar@yahoo.se

## RECEPTIONIST

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

## LOOKING FOR BABYSITTER

Age 25-35, must have experience with 3-month-old baby, knowledge of English language is a must. Starting salary: 15,000 baht. Tel: 086-270 7506.

## 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

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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).

## 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)

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A&B Design Agency brings high quality graphic design, corporate image, web design and branding services. We are looking for a self motivated person, part-time or full time, we offer salary, freedom/flexibility and incentives. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

## NEW ANDAMAN COVE MANAGER

Andaman Cove Juristic Person is looking for a new Manager (Thai national) for 29 luxury condos/private residences inside Evason, Rawai. Knowledge of accounting and maintenance needed. For more information call Khun Gim at 085-918 2238 or email [waruneehangan@hotmail.com](mailto:waruneehangan@hotmail.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

## 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)

## THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shifting schedule, can speak English, customer service. Good salary with bonus. Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

## RUSSIAN STAFF NEEDED

Russian staff with good English needed for Phuket Cable Ski Park. Call Oley. Tel: 082-329 3207.

## MAID NEEDED

Maid for apartment needed. Full day. Salary 14,000 baht per month. English preferable. Tel: 083-640 0616 (English), 084-734 0122 (English). Email: [ikhovroman@mail.ru](mailto:ikhovroman@mail.ru)

## MALE WEDDING STAFF

- Hair and makeup.  
- Flower arrangement.  
- Dress maintenance and customer service.

Thai male with multiple skills more than two of above required. Driver's license, good command of English and computer are also needed. Email: [info@sa-mer.com](mailto:info@sa-mer.com), For further details, please see our website at [www.samerwedding-thailand.com](http://www.samerwedding-thailand.com)

## WANTED: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Person or company that has experience in project management. Good salary for a person. A company can give a quotation. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: [cc@bayshoreprojects.com](mailto:cc@bayshoreprojects.com)

## NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Brainy House is a private English-language school. We are looking for native English teachers to start ASAP. For children 6-8 years old. We offer an excellent compensation. Please send a cover letter and CV to: [info@brainyhouse.com](mailto:info@brainyhouse.com) Tel: 080-907 7466 (contact Sasi).

## CLUB ASIA FITNESS

Club Asia Fitness - Phuket's leading fitness centre requires an Operations Manager & Sales Consultant. Requirements: Thai National with degree and ability to communicate in English. Please submit your CV to Email: [info@clubasiaphuket.com](mailto:info@clubasiaphuket.com)

## ENGLISH HOME TUTOR

Native English speaking female home tutor for assistance with primary level homework and further learning. Must be employed as a teacher in Phuket, flexible hours after school, maximum two hours per day during week days only. Rate negotiable. Email: [morganiain@hotmail.com](mailto:morganiain@hotmail.com)

## KARON HILLSIDE HOTEL

Looking for the following positions no English is required: Gardener, Handyman. For the following positions English is required: Bar and restaurant service staff, Reception staff, Night reception. Good starting salary and service charge. Only Thai nationals. Please contact Sandy on 082-281 4394. Email: [info@karonhillsidehotel.com](mailto:info@karonhillsidehotel.com)



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- **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
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- **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

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- **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

### CHERNG TALAY

- **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

### RAWAI

- **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

### KARON

- **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911



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Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo.

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## Bulletins

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## FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

## COFFEE TABLE

Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

## 7KW. 3-PHASE WATER PUMP



Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margy on 089-908 7486.

## Articles For Sale

## FARANG SELLING WASHING MACHINE

Samsung, 9kg, 6 months old, security. Price: 5,000 baht. Tel: 083-635 2414.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

Bar chair, counter, table, sofa, TV and much more. Tel: 088-765 0886.

## 2ND HAND GOODS FOR SALE

Shelves, executive tables and more. Prices negotiable. Tel: 081-978 2725.

## HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very highly used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdo@hotmail.com

## FURNITURE AND MORE

Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Please call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@hotmail.com

## NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sunparasol@gmail.com

## FREEZER, FUGE TABLE

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## CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

## Business Opportunities

## BAR HOTEL: PAY IN 15 YEARS



Rawai Beach. For sale: 15 million baht. Land + building, 9 bedrooms, 100m to the pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

## Business Opportunities

## GASTONE PIZZERIA RESTAURANT



For sale: new Italian pizza restaurant at Kata Beach. Fully equipped with latest-generation pizza oven, great location, attractive price. Contact Claudio. Tel: 081-270 9698 (English). Email: claudiothai@hotmail.it, www.restaurantgastonephuket.com

## BAR FOR SALE

Patong, Soi Tiger. 14-month lease from July 1. Rent per month: 36,000 baht. Sale: 1.8 million baht (neg). Tel: 085-472 4427 (English). Email: thai\_mand@hotmail.com

## BAR - EST 3 YEARS, SOI SANSABAI

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## SHOP RENT/SALE, BANGLA ROAD



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## KATA BEACH CTR APTS &amp; MGMT

With restaurant. 16 million baht. Tel: 081-828 0972 (English). Email: kata\_residence@hotmail.com

## BAR AND MASSAGE

Enjoy bar and massage for sale in Chalong, right up from Chalong Pier. Nothing needed except some stock and staff. Excellent potential. 13 months left on existing lease. \$250,000. Tel: +61 0403 012117. Email: masamada@hotmail.com

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Land+shop, Bypass road. Rental income 1.08 million baht per year. Price: 18 million baht, ROI 6%. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

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## GUEST HOUSE: PAY IN 20 YEARS



Rawai beach, sell: 9 million baht, land 400sqm, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 300m to the pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

## HANA BEAUTY SALON FOR SALE

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## Club Memberships Available

## GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Blue Canyon individual lifetime membership. 900,000 baht, includes transfer. Tel: 086-029 0563. Email: stenm555@yahoo.com

## Pets

## PLEASE CAN YOU HELP SAVE THIS DOGS LIFE?



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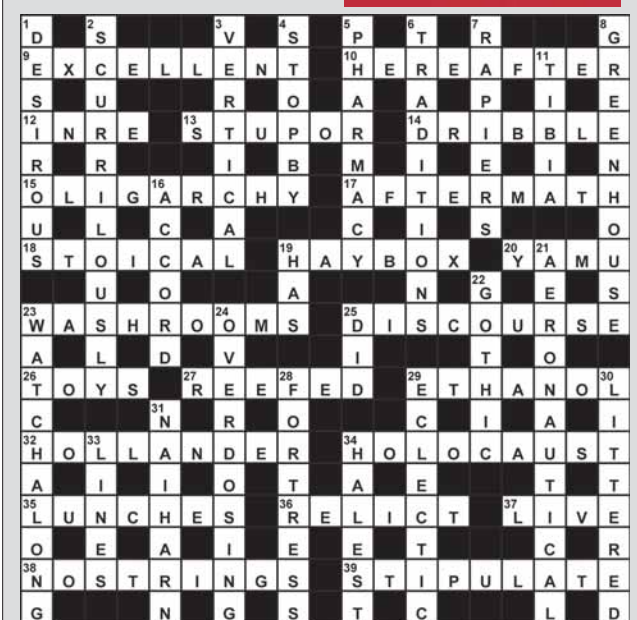
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For sale. Center console steering, 60Hp Yamaha 4-stroke motor with 320 hours (serviced by Yamaha). Large storage area, Chalmark hypalon tube covers, rod holders, fresh water shower. New seat cushions and battery. Boat cover included. Located in Boat Lagoon Marina. Price: 385,000 baht. Contact Dana. Tel: 083-827 2264.

#### SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

#### CrypticCrossword



#### COFFEE break

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# Local lad heads to London

By Andrew Scott

THE London Olympics began on July 27 with the opening ceremony held at Olympic Stadium in North-east London. The ceremony was dubbed 'Isles of Wonder' and highlighted the wonders of Britain through artistic expression.

This is the third time London has hosted the Olympics, having hosted it before the First World War in 1908 and just after the Second World War in 1948.

Her Majesty the Queen attended the opening ceremony, joining other heads of state from across the world. The athletes entered the ceremony nation by nation with the Greek team coming first as the founding nation of the Olympics. As host nation, the British team entered last, while the other nations formed the procession in alphabetical order.

London is in party mood and the streets are lined with giant globes, and flags of the 204 competing nations. Even the Mayor of London is getting in on the act, launching Discovery Trails that encourage people to explore London by walking round the city to find life-sized London 2012 mascots: Mandeville and Wenlock.



Tower Bridge in London

Tower Bridge has giant Olympic Rings hanging from it; all the bridges along the River Thames are lit up come nightfall and another set of giant rings will float down the River Thames during the games.

Over a thousand athletes arrived into London Heathrow on July 24 and 10,000 athletes have been filtering into London over the last few weeks, including Thai athletes.

Thailand sent 37 athletes to London to compete in 19 different events: wrestling, volleyball, track and field, cycling, boxing, tennis, rowing, shooting, swimming, taekwondo, sailing, wind surfing, archery, equestrian, clay shooting, fencing, table tennis, badminton and weightlifting.

Phuket will be represented by



SHUTTLE OFF: Phuket local Manepong Jongjit is looking for gold in the men's badminton doubles. Photo: Badzine.de

a young badminton player, Manepong Jongjit who will be competing in badminton's mens doubles along with Bodin Issara.

The pair have been put in Group B with fourth seeds and world No 4, Ko Sung Hyun and

Yoo Yeong Seong from South Korea; Polish world No 21 Adan Cwalina and Michal Logosz and world No 6 Mohammad Ahsan and Bona Septano from Indonesia.

Thailand's Manepong and Bodin

are ranked No 19 in the world.

The badminton mens doubles starts on July 28 and if the Thai hopefuls navigate their way out of a tricky group, they join the quarter final games, which start on August 2.

## Wiggins wins France

By Patrick Campbell

AFTER a lack-luster performance in the 2009 *Tour de France*, Bradley Wiggins admitted: "That's for someone else. Kids from Kilburn don't win the Tour".

Wiggins still doesn't look the part; a lanky figure with skinny limbs, a gaunt face with unfashionable sideburns. But his achievement in winning the 2012 *Tour de France* is the stuff of schoolboy dreams, an achievement so epic, so prodigious, it is being trumpeted as the greatest performance in the history of British sport.

What is so remarkable is that Wiggins is already an Olympic champion at the four kilometer pursuit. An out-and-out sprint. And now this.... Not four kilometers, but 3,497 kilometers, a lung-bursting twenty stage race with grueling mountain ascents. Has there ever been an athlete, in any sport, who has displayed such versatility? In a world dominated by specialist sportsmen, it's like asking Usain Bolt, the world record holder for the 100 meters, to go out and win a marathon – or a steeplechase. Utterly inconceivable.

Moreover Bradley has done it with panache. Articulate when interviewed, he has displayed a chirpy and sometimes cussed Englishness as palpable as Blackpool rock. Even the French have warmed to him.

In a country where the *Tour de France* has an almost mystical significance, an historic race in existence for 99 years, Wiggo charmed the French in part with his modest, knowledgeable comments; more by two time-trials in which he destroyed the opposition and perhaps most of all by his gallantry in slowing down the "peloton" to allow riders who had punctured, to rejoin the race.

Certainly, and Wiggins has been the first to acknowledge it, there have been contributory factors in helping him claim the tour title: the superior unity of Team Sky, the management of Dave Brailsford, the guru of British cycling with his meticulous attention to "marginal gains", Chris Froome's emergence as a great climber and ally.

But at the end of the day, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day, it was Wiggo's own lanky legs that did the talking and carried him to victory – the same level of success he hopes to achieve at the London Olympics.



TRIOMPHE: Wiggins celebrates with members of team Sky. Photo: AFP

## Alonso on track in F1 series

FERNANDO Alonso continued his dominant season with victory at Hockenheimring. The Spaniard started on pole and led the majority of the race, losing his position once after the first of two pit stops.

There was no repeat performance of the 2010 controversy as Ferrari's Felipe Massa crashed on the first corner in the race with Romain Grosjean in Lotus and Bruno Senna in Williams.

Two time world champion, Sebastian Vettel, finished second in the Redbull car but was penalized

20 seconds for an illegal overtaking maneuver on Jenson Button, which dropped him down to fifth, moved Button up to second and Kimi Raikkonen third.

Alonso leads the current standings with 154 points, Webber is second with 120 points and Vettel is third with 110. Alonso has admitted that the title race is wide open.

Hamilton managed to unlap himself from Vettel, who accused him of ruining his chances of catching Alonso. Hamilton started to chase Alonso down in order to

unlap himself before mechanical problems forced him to retire with 11 laps remaining.

This weekend's grand prix is in Budapest, Hungary. Jenson Button will be aiming to kick on from a positive race in Germany that showed the McLaren is starting to race a bit quicker and the car could be in contention over the remaining 10 races.

Alonso has won 3 races so far this season, and with 25 points left to go for first place, there is still so much to race for.

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PHUKET'S NEW SIGNINGS: From left, Wanmai Sethanun, Kampol Pathom-attakul, Boas Chun, Nawaphon Tontrasenee, Nontaphon Jiensathawong, Roland Vargas and Yutthana Jongnok.

# Heads up: Islanders reinforced

Seven quality players added to payroll to help Phuket FC climb up the league table in season's second half

## Football: Yamaha 1

PHUKET FC fans, players and executives are all looking towards the second half of the 2012 season, with the onset of a strategic mid-season overhaul, highlighted by a series of transfers and new signings.

The Islanders concluded the season's first half last Sunday with a scoreless draw at home against Songkhla FC, leaving some 2,100 fans at Surakul Stadium content, yet ever eager for the ensuing changes.

The highly anticipated makeover follows three back-to-back losses early in July that settled the squad firmly into the five-team relegation-zone of the Thai league's first division (Thai Yamaha One).

Coach Milos Joksic's subsequent resignation in mid July was followed by departure announcements from former team captain Suphat Angthong and star Brazilian keeper, Alonso Da Silva.

Suphat returned to his home town to play for league leaders Ratchaburi Mitraphol FC, while Alonso announced his intention to sign with struggling premier league side, Samut Songkhram FC.

Also joining the Islander's outgoing list, with relatively lesser fanfare, were a handful of midfielders including Ivorian Bamba Messi, Korean Kim Wonsup and Thais, Rachapak Duang-Fa and Supanon Prang-jun. Nonetheless, Phuket's new coach,

Narong "Noi" Ajarayut, a former national team defender and coach, was determined to prove himself in his first two matches this past week – in home and away fixtures against Southern powerhouse Songkhla FC.

In the moments leading up to the home fixture on Sunday, striker Wacharapong Jun-ngam was announced as the new captain, while the new coach, along with four of the seven new signings were introduced to Phuket's eager fans.

These include Wanmai Setthanun, defender from SCG Muangthong United, Kampol Pathom-attakul, goalkeeper from SCG Muangthong United; Roland "Pato" Vargas, a Bolivian midfielder who last played for PTT Rayong, and Boas Chun, midfielder from Korea, formerly with Patthalung.

The new players did not officially debut until Wednesday's away-fixture, played at Jira Nakorn Stadium in Haad Yai, when three additional signings were revealed. These include Nontaphon Jiensathawong and Nawaphon Tontrasenee,

Thai defenders from Muangthong, as well as midfielder Yutthana Jongnok, formerly with Suphanburi FC.

But even without the new reinforcements on Sunday, the Islanders fared okay.

Indeed, it was hard to tell that the 15<sup>th</sup> placed Islanders were the underdogs against 8<sup>th</sup> placed Songkhla. Both current keeper, Da Silva, and former Phuket keeper, Jonathan Matijas, now playing for Songkhla, were put firmly to the test, managing to



**DENIED:** Former Phuket keeper Jonathan Matijas last Sunday saves a shot by Thawin Butsombat (in dark green), while Sadu Sani (in blue and white) follows up. Photo: Arm Za Nok Sanarm

keep Sunday's encounter scoreless.

Come Wednesday, Phuket fans were given another surprise when keeper Alonso fielded, apparently backing out of his transfer.

With the first half ending 0-0, it looked to be a match of the keepers once again. However, Phuket, went on to prevail 1-0 thanks to a goal on 69 minutes by Brazilian Marcios Santos, who converted a free kick by fellow South American and new signing Pato.

The Islanders now return home for a rematch on Saturday against PTT Rayong, who just two weeks ago, squashed Phuket 6-0 in Rayong. Kickoff is set for 6:30pm.

– Steven Layne



**STANDOFF:** Phuket coach Narong Ajarayut, left, with Songkhla coach, Sompong Wattana.

## T20 Cricket gets under way

THE T20 cricket league kicked off last weekend with Neill Culpan scoring 57 not out, helping current champions Laguna defeat last season's runners up Patong in the first game.

Patong won the toss and chose to bat first. They didn't start well, losing opener Richie Desmond for 5 with only 12 runs on the board. Patong's batsmen Manesh Sadarangani 32 not out, Seemant Raju 22, Anthony Van Blerk 17 and Feroz Khan 16 helped the team reach 125 for 5 after 20 overs.

Laguna's bowlers restricted Patong to 5 boundaries. Neill Culpan 1 for 11, Ian Henry 1 for 24, Sami Ullah 1 for 26, Roshan Jayasuriya 1 for 27 and Roly Cooper 0 for 28 conceded less than 30 runs from their 4 overs each.

Laguna, led by Neill Culpan, took 16 overs to reach 127 for 4. Roshan Jayasuriya scored 20, Raj 11 and Sami Ullah 9 not out. Laguna found the boundary 12 times and Ullah and Culpan both hit a 6, with Culpan smashing the ball clean out of the ground.

In the second match of the day, ICC easily defeated the Village. The Village's opening batsmen were bowled for ducks. Mark Ashman, 24, and Lucas Nolan, 22, tried to restore some pride but after the loss of Ashman the brief Village resurgence crumbled and they were bowled out for 79 in 14 overs. The ICC bowlers were led by Pares Borkar 2 for 18, Imtiaz Mushtaq 2 for 18, Anand Chand 2 for 22, Pawan Kothari 2 for 12 and Nareem Ul Haq 2 for 0.



**BOWLING:** Laguna took 5 wickets.

Aided by opener Imtiaz Mushtaq scoring 39 and the Village giving away 21 extras (20 wides), ICC took no time in reaching 81 for 4 in 15 overs.

The ICC take on Patong at the ACG on Sunday, July 29 at 9am. The ACG has an all weather wicket, which allows matches to be played during the monsoon season.

## International Health Marathon

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) announced that they expect as many as 5,000 runners to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phuket Health International Marathon, which returns on July 29.

The starting point is at Sarasin Bridge on the north of the island, and the finish line is at Sapan Hin in Phuket Town.

Commenting about preparations for the event, Montri Suksom, a PPHO expert researcher said that his department has collaborated closely with the local government as well as public and private sector to ensure that everything will run smoothly.

This year's concept is 'Run for Health'. Elaborating on the concept, Montri explained that health has four dynamics: body,

mind, society and intellect.

Beyond health, a secondary objective of the event is to promote Phuket tourism among both Thai and foreign runners, he said.

The marathon will comprise three categories: the walk and run, four kilometer race, a 10 km mini race and the full-on 42 km race.

A total of 300,000 baht in prizes, including medals, trophies and cash will be dished out.

In addition to professional and seasoned racers, groups of local villagers are also expected to join.

In collaboration between the PPHO and the local Village Volunteers Group (OrSorMor), various Tambon or subdistricts across Phuket will be represented by at least two teams of 20 racers.



# Cape Panwa Raceweek recap

CAPE Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek ended with a bang last weekend. The final day of racing saw winds of 10-12 knots and gusts of up to 15 as fierce competition took place around the southern islands off Phuket.

Despite a second and third place finish on the final day *Jing Jing* (Rick Pointon) won both IRC Racing I and IRC Overall comfortably.

In the stronger winds, the all-new Aquila Reichel Pugh 45 *Katsu* (Ben Copley) performed well and put in a solid last day performance scoring two firsts, pulling them up the leader-board into second overall in IRC Racing I. *Wan Marang* (Kevin Whitcraft) finished third overall in IRC Racing I.

In the Sportsboats class, racing came down to the wire and the winner was decided in the final race. A first in race one left the Phuket *Surf Patrol* (Ray Waldron) in a strong position, however, on the longer course they were beaten by the Welbourn 25 *Brace! Brace!! Brace!!!* (Paul Murphy), with its Dynamic Stability System. But that wasn't enough to knock them off the top spot and *Surf Patrol* won the series by two points with *Brace! Brace!! Brace!!!* in second and *Longitude* (Rolf Heemskerck) third.



CHAMPS: The *Jing Jing* (Rick Pointon) won both IRC Racing I and IRC Overall comfortably. Photo: Chris Hudon

In the IRC Racing II Division *Skandia Endeavour of Whitby* won the first race but placed fifth in the last, allowing *Ruby Tuesday* (John Vause) to gain position with two second places and take the title by a single point. Two points

separated the top three in IRC Cruising going into the last two races and it was certainly a climactic encounter. A collision at the pin-end of the startline between *Jenzmirc VI* (Andy Brennan) and *Dreamtime* (Rob Azzopardi) added

to the intensity.

*Sail in Asia* (Mike Downard) won line honors and on corrected time in race one. It held on to beat *Remington* (Jim Ellis) by one minute on corrected time in race two and went on to win the series by two

points. *Remington* were second overall and *Dreamtime* third.

In the Firefly One-Design class *Voodoo* (Hans Rahmann) had already wrapped up the title on Saturday with a masterclass in multihull sailing. *Moto Inzi* (Roger Kingdon) scored a fourth place finish and a first to come second overall with *Twin Sharks* (John Newnham) in third. The Andaman Cabriolet catamaran *DaVinci* (Mark Pescott) had already won the Multihull Racing title with an unbeatable run of first places coming in to the final day of races. Add to that five from five at the Phuket Multihull Regatta and *DaVinci* are 13 races undefeated.

The other Andaman Cabriolet design, *Niña* (Rob Cullen), finished second overall ahead of *Sweet Chariot* (Henry Kaye), who finished third. In the Classic class *McBob The Boat* (Joe Gruba) threw away their chance by finishing fourth, leaving the door open for *Sirius* (Simon Morris) who won and topped the series with 4 points. 34 entries and over 500 participants from around the world took part in the 2012 Phuket Raceweek. The *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV* were proud sponsors of the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

## Thousands turn out for Toyota

TOYOTA Motor Sport Series 2012 featured 50 cars that raced in three categories: Yaris One Make Race Class C, Vios One Make Race Lady Cup and Vios One Make Race Class C.

In the Yaris One Make Race Class C division, Toyota Racing School (#29) finished first, followed by Phuket Srisuchat in second (#44) and third (#9) places respectively.

Four university students from different parts of Thailand were selected by the Toyota Racing School Team after passing a number of rigorous tests, devised by some of Thailand's Championship winning drivers, in both driving theory and practice.

Toyota Racing School officials say they are pleased with their Motor Sport Series results, which included one first and two second place finishes.

In the Vios One Make Race Lady Cup, which featured racing model Natalie Davis who placed 10<sup>th</sup>, Singha - AIT finished first, followed by Toyota Racing school in second, three seconds behind. In addition to racing, spectators were treated to an array of perfor-

mances and activities at the event, which celebrated Toyota Thailand's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Events included the Champion Performance Show, which gave Toyota's best driving instructors the chance to show off their skills.

The final division, Vios One Make Race Class C, saw Zorus Energy Racing finish first, followed by the Toyota Racing School car in second - more than ten seconds behind. The Toyota 86 Drift Show featured famous drift driver KiKi Sak Nana in a rear wheel drive sports edition, Toyota 86. Thailand's Super Car Champion 2011 Nattawut Charoensukwattana performed the Toyota Team Thailand Victory Show. The

Legend Show featured performances from popular Thai superstars, including Pete Thongjue, Um Ummarin and Kratae Supaksorn. Students from Phuket took part in a cheering team contest where more than 70,000 baht in prizes were given out. Thai superstar Bank (of the band Clash) played a free concert in Sapan Hin on Sunday at 6pm, which brought the event to a close.

- *Phuket Gazette*



NEED FOR SPEED: The qualifying rounds at Sapan Hin. Photo: Chris Hudon [front page: chillout foto by JK Modelling]

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