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COMPLAINT OF LAND ENCROACHMENT LEADS TO FULL-SCALE RAID ON RESORT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

# Casino fears spark raid on resort island

Foreign investor's  
link to casino in Laos  
raises suspicions

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

MORE than 50 officers raided a resort under construction on a small island off Phuket's east coast on Tuesday with the suspicion that the project was intended to be opened as a casino hotel.

Armed with a search warrant issued by the Phuket Provincial Court, the officers inspected the site on Rang Noi Island, located about six kilometers directly off-shore from Boat Lagoon and only 2.5km from Koh Maphrao.

Leading the sortie was Pol Maj Gen Norrasak Hemnithi, Commander of Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Division (NREC) in Bangkok, joined by NREC Superintendent Col Watcharin Phusit and Witoon Chalayonavee, an expert in aerial map photography from the Courts of Justice.

Gen Norrasak explained that he became aware of the resort only after he received a complaint that public land on the island...

Continued on Page 2



Surasak Suwannachote, 26, who confessed to 'accidentally' killing Ms Smith during the botched bag snatch, has denied charges of murder. Photo: Gazette file

## A KILLER DAY OF DENIALS

THE two men charged with the death of Australian travel agent Michelle Smith, who died from a stab wound inflicted in a bag-snatch in June, denied all charges against them at a court appearance on Monday.

Surasak Suwannachote, 26, and Surin Tadthong, 37, were presented at Phuket Provincial Court to enter pleas to the charges...

Continued on Page 3



## Belgium's most wanted caught

BELGIUM'S most wanted criminal, Marc de Schutter, is to be extradited to Belgium to face charges of murder, money laundering and economic crimes after police raided his home in Rawai on Monday.

Mr De Schutter, 57, was arrested by over 30 officers from the Phuket Immigration Police and Chalong Police at a luxurious home in a soi off Saiyuan Road, where he reportedly had been living for 17 months with a 24-year-old Thai woman...

Full story on Page 3

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## This Week



### Business

Merchandising football: See how Phuket FC scores. **Page 13**



### Technology

Email scams: Nigeria's third largest export industry. **Pages 14**



### History

Anand Singh continues his account of Phuket's past. **Page 16**



### People

Q&A with the organizer of the 12th Architecture EXPO. **Page 17**



### Music

Art is ... Ron Artis II talks with the Gazette about his passion. **Page 18**



### Sports

Good vibrations: Power plate exercises at Thanyapura. **Page 47**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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# Raid on Rang Noi Island raises gambling suspicions

From Page 1

may have been encroached on by the developers of the resort, and that the *Chanote* land title deed for the resort site may have been illegally issued.

NREC Superintendent Col Watcharin told the *Gazette* that his investigators found several aspects of the *Chanote* title for the resort plot, issued in 1997, suspicious. "The company [Kan Krao Company] claims they have a *SorKor 1* [which confers the right to occupy land] issued in 1954, but when Rang Noi Island was added to the Land Office register in 1969, no one declared to be the owner of that land," he said.

"We will also have to check the *SorKor 1* document since the document said the land was in Moo 3 [Village 3] of Koh Kaew, which was correct at that time. But the administrative boundaries within Koh Kaew have since changed, and the island is now in what is called in Moo 6 [Village 6] of Koh Kaew," he explained.

He added that a discrepancy between the plot size marked on the *Chanote* and aerial photographs of the island prompted the NREC to apply for the search warrant that permitted the raid on Tuesday to take place.

"We will compare aerial photographs from the past with images taken in recent years. If we find that this document [the *Chanote*]



After inspecting the site and seeing that the construction resembled a casino, Gen Norrasak (center) believed the resort might be used as one.



was illegally issued, we will press charges against both the person who issued the document and the company that claims ownership for this land," Col Watcharin warned.

It was during the investigation of the land ownership history that NREC officers found that a foreigner, who they named as John Kevin Baldwin, was involved.

"We found that the land previously belonged to Bridge Rang Noi Company, which has two foreigners [as executives], including Mr Baldwin, and one Thai as the managing director.

Mr Baldwin is involved in Kan Krao Co, which is developing the resort, Col Watcharin said. Mr Baldwin is also allegedly involved in the Savan Vegas Casino in Savannakhet, Laos, where gambling is legal, he added.

"After inspecting the site, we saw that the construction looks like a casino, so Gen Norrasak believes that the resort might be used as one," he explained.

Among the partly finished buildings and sea-view swimming pool at the site, officers found a custom-built walk-in safe.

## Flood of candidates register for OrBorJor council election

REGISTRATION for candidates to enter the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) council election opened on Tuesday with so many entries that some candidates had to draw lots to contest the election.

A total of 24 council seats are up for grabs, with 15 for Muang district, six for Thalang district and three for Kathu.

The Khon Baan Rao Party, headed by current *OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising, enrolled candidates to contest all but three constituencies.

*OrBorJor* Chief Administrative Officer Manop Leelasuthanon said that despite the flood of registra-



Khon Baan Rao Party supporters.

tions, everything went smoothly.

"We expect about 70 per cent of eligible voters to show up on election day, because almost every voting district has more than one candidate," he said.

MORE than 150 officers from the Royal Forest Department (RFD) led raids on three sites in Phuket on July 28.

In Thalang, officers discovered a resort under construction within the boundaries of the protected Bang Kanoon Forest.

"We found buildings that looked like a resort under construction on land inside the forest. However, there was no one at the site to declare ownership or the purpose of the buildings. So we put up a sign and an official letter asking the owners to remove the entire construction within 30 days," explained Amnart Sroykyo, head of



The owner was given 30 days to remove the buildings.

the RFD regional office for Krabi, Phang Nga and Phuket.

"If they don't comply within the stated period, we will remove the buildings ourselves," he warned.

The officers also inspected a

site in the protected forest area in the Kamala Hills, but found no one violating the law.

"However, we found one case in the Nakkerd Hills where a person was violating the law by having built a restaurant beside the road just before the entrance to the Big Buddha site," Mr Amnart said.

"The officers ordered the owner to remove the building within 30 days. The officers are now inspecting other areas of the Nakkerd Hills, since it is land that everyone wants to encroach on," he added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Resort removed from protected forest



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# Belgium's most wanted snatched up in Rawai

BELGIUM'S most wanted criminal, Marc De Schutter, is to be extradited to Belgium to face charges of murder, money laundering and economic crimes after police raided his home in Rawai on Monday.

Mr De Schutter, 57, was arrested by over 30 officers from the Phuket Immigration Police and Chalong Police at a luxurious home in a soi off Sai Yuen Road, where he reportedly had been living for 17 months with a 24-year-old Thai wife, reported *The Nation*.

Police confiscated his computer, a mobile phone and a bankbook, as well as some documents that the suspect allegedly used to contact overseas crime syndicates.

Crime Suppression Division Commander Supisan Pakdinarunart described Mr De Schutter as Belgium's most wanted criminal for the alleged murder of his wife and embezzlement from an oil company, a crime for which a Belgian court



**A MAN ON EACH ARM:** Belgium's most wanted and the fifth most wanted man in Europe, Marc de Schutter was arrested in Rawai. Photo: The Nation

ordered him to pay a fine of 20 million euros, reported Thai state news agency MCOT.

In addition, he was also accused of involvement in illicit casinos and the drug trade linked

with overseas criminal syndicates in countries including Italy, Israel, Netherlands, Ireland and Armenia.

Tuesday, Mr De Schutter was brought before the press in the presence of senior Thai police officers and a Belgian Embassy representative.

The Belgian admitted that he was the person appearing on his country's police list of most wanted fugitives, with outstanding arrest warrants in several cases. Mr De Schutter claimed, however, that he came to Thailand for business purposes, reported MCOT.

Mr De Schutter fled to Thailand in 2011. The Belgian Embassy asked for cooperation from Thai police, which led to his arrest.

Maj Gen Supisan said the fugitive would be handed over to the Office of the Attorney-General, which is responsible for extradition cases.

See related editorial, page 10.

## White sands of Phi Phi turn black

ONE kilometer of the once pristine sands of Koh Phi Phi went black from the oil of an unknown source on July 31.

"We have no idea where these stains came from, but they've been on the beach for two days now," said Phi Phi Tourism Association President Veerapat Jantharo.

"The tourists are scared and don't want to go to the beach," he added.

The potential damage to tourism the blackened kilometer of Lo Dalam Beach on Koh Phi Phi might cause, prompted beach vendors to demand local authority move quickly to clean up the beach.

Chaisiri Kundum, Chief of Marine Office 5 in Krabi suspects that the oil might be discarded marine engine oil used by fisherman.

"I have told the relevant departments to remove the oil stains from the beach. I have also ordered that fishermen in the area not release old oil into the sea," he said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Confessed killers deny all charges

From Page 1

which collectively accuse the men of murder and gang robbery.

In court, both men were asked whether they confessed to the charges against them.

Both men said, "No".

The judge then scheduled both Surasak and Surin to appear in court again on August 6, to explain in detail the previous confessions they had made to the police and why they have now pleaded not guilty.

The news follows Deputy National Police Chief Pansiri Prapawat telling some 50 media personnel at a press conference on June 26 that the pair had confessed to the crime, but said they had no intention of killing Mrs Smith.

Surasak had confessed to stabbing Mrs Smith, resulting in her death on June 20, but said he did not intend to kill her, Gen Pansiri told the press.

Surin had previously confessed to operating the motorbike used in the bungled bag-snatch.

In the same court, and on the same day that Surasak and Surin denied all charges, Norwegian national and long-term Phuket expat Stein Havard Dokset also denied the murder charges brought against him in connection to the death of his ex-girlfriend Runnana Suktong.

Dokset was arrested in Kata on February 28.

Officers searching the house



**Dokset also denied all charges against him.** Photo: Orawin Narabal

found the remains of a human body concealed in a plastic bin in a locked room in the basement. DNA tests later confirmed the remains to be those of Runnana.

However, in court Dokset denied that he concealed evidence of a crime. He also denied being illegally in possession of a firearm, saying that it belonged to his new girlfriend.

To the charge of murder, Dokset maintained his innocence, in line with his confession to police of "accidentally" killing her in a fit of jealous rage.

Chalong Police had previously reported that an initial forensics investigation showed that a skull fragment found among the remains exhibited signs of having been hit with a hard object.

Dokset is next set to appear back in court on February 12.

## Alcohol linked to vegetable dealer's death

PHUKET Police believe that cardiac arrest, possibly triggered by excessive alcohol intake, may have caused the death of a man on July 26, whose body was found by the side of a road in Sakoo.

Tah Chat Chai Police were notified of the discovery at 2:45pm.

At the scene in Sakoo Village 4, off the old airport road near Nai Yang Temple, they found the body of the man lying face up on a dead-end dirt soi, a bottle of Thai whiskey at his side.



**The body was found with a bottle of Thai whiskey.**

He was identified by his house registration papers as 51-year-old Sunan Srisawat, a resident of Mai Khao Village 4.

Police found no signs of trauma to the body or evidence of foul play at the scene.

Mr Sunan worked selling vegetables to local retailers and was known to have been a heavy drinker, said police.

After police concluded their investigation Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation workers transported Mr Sunan's body to Thalang Hospital to be held until claimed by relatives.

— Thawit Bilabddular

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# Drug rehab student dies in escape

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

EYEWITNESS reports now indicate that a student who died after escaping a youth drug rehab facility in Krabi last week drowned in the river and was not beaten to death by teaching assistants, as initial reporting indicated.

Allegations that student Maha Manitaya was beaten to death by teaching assistants at Por Noh Klong Gom School prompted more than 200 fellow students to abscond to a nearby mosque on July 26.

Following the incident, another 200 students fled, prompting the school director to close the facility. The school serves as a drug rehabilitation center for troubled youths from throughout Southern Thailand, most from the border provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala.

Maj Chadchai Nakpaksi of the Krabi Police told reporters that Abdulalima Ha, Mr Maha's partner in the escape, said that his friend did not die from a violent beating by teaching assistants, but rather drowned while trying to swim across the Krabi River.

"Mr Abdulalima said he and three friends broke out of the rehabilitation camp on July 21. They split into two groups and hid in the mangrove forest for one night," explained Maj Chadchai.

"The next day, they all attempted to swim 500 meters across the Krabi River to reach



Over 400 students fled the school in protest of the death of a fellow classmate before the facility was closed and the remaining students sent home. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Krabi Town, where they hoped they would be able to catch a bus home.

"About 300 meters from the shore, Mr Maha succumbed to fatigue and started to go underwater. Mr Abdulalima yelled to fishermen in the area to help his friend."

Mr Maha was allegedly pulled out alive, but died onshore about five minutes later.

"Mr Abdulalima explained that he was taken back to the school by the teaching assistants and was kicked three times, but did not sustain significant injuries.

"He said he later got into a fight with other students back at the school and received a wound to his forehead that needed stitches, which is why he was sent

to hospital overnight," Maj Chadchai explained.

The other two members of the group who escaped that day made it home safely, he added.

Krabi Provincial Police Commander Jamroon Ruenrom explained that his team had already questioned Mr Abdulalima and received his account of the incident, but that the cause of Mr Maha's death had yet to be determined.

Following the closure of the school, Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon, Gen Jamroon and school owner Anurak Ginglek, on July 28 held a video-conference with Royal Thai Police Deputy Commissioner-General Adul Saengsingkaew.

During the video conference, Mr Anurak admitted that "improvements" to the school's management were urgently needed.

"I and the management team will now consider what measures can be implemented to control student and teacher behavior," he said.

Mr Anurak pointed out that the school needed renovating and the student numbers reduced to a more manageable figure. "There are currently more than 1,000 students in the school. It's too crowded," he explained.

Mr Anurak voiced his regret concerning the tragic loss of a student and said he was willing to cooperate with the police in any way he can.

## Gold shop takes a cracking during youth street brawl



GIMME SHELTER: Phuket City Police examine the damage to the Sri Thong 11 gold shop after two desperate youths tried and failed to find shelter inside from a large gang of assailants. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A GANG of eight students attacked two others in front of a gold shop in the heart of Phuket Town at about 10:15am on July 26.

The attack started in front of a hardware and electronics store on Ong Sim Pai Road in front of Kaset Market. The two students who were set upon ran to the Sri Thong 11 gold shop in hope of finding safety.

"A group of students ran up to the front of our shop asking us for help, but we locked the door," the gold shop owner said.

"They tried to force the door open, causing it to crack," he explained.

"Once they realized that they couldn't get in, they ran towards Wat Saensuk where they were caught and attacked again in front of the temple," he said.

After the fight both parties ran off, the shop owner said.

Sub Lt Aekkachai Siri and Sub Lt Jaroonpong Sainoi of the Phuket City Police inspected the damage at the shop after the incident.

"One side of the door was cracked while the students were trying to get inside," said Lt Aekkachai.

Police are now looking for the gang members involved aided by images taken by the gold shops CCTV system.

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# Kiwi gets ticket to ride

**Anonymous donor covers flight costs for man swamped by medical bills after a hit-and-run**

By Atchaa Khamlo

SEAN Kenzie, the 27-year-old New Zealander stranded and unable to pay his mounting medical bills after a hit-and-run accident, boarded a plane for home on July 27 thanks to an anonymous donor who supplied the funds for his flight.

"My mother was upset about the [private] hospital kicking me out. She had sent NZ\$8,000 [more than 200,000 baht, for medical fees], but they told my mum that it wasn't enough," he said.

Sean explained that he still owes the hospital about 500,000 baht.

His insurance refused to pay, claiming that motorbike accidents were not covered under his "premium policy".

Desperate, Sean's older brother started a fundraiser on Facebook.

"When I get back New Zealand, I'm going to court with my insurance company. I was supposed to be covered for motorbike [acci-

dents]. I was supposed to be covered for everything. And then, when I had the accident, they told me I wasn't. They pulled out and I'm left with big bills, huge bills."

Sean said that "thousands and thousands" of people made donations to the Facebook fund his brother Kane started. One anonymous donor put up all the money necessary for his flight home.

"I'd like to thank the people of New Zealand. They're awesome; they got behind me I probably would have died here if it wasn't for them," Sean said.

He explained that more money was wired to the hospital on July 27, as he was finally allowed to leave Phuket after signing an agreement allowing him 365 days to pay off the remainder of his medical expenses.

The hit-and-run accident Sean is recovering from left him in a coma with both lungs collapsed, a split liver and other injuries.

Rescue workers took him to the



Sean Kenzie is wheeled to his flight home. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

private hospital for care.

With two collapsed lungs, Sean awoke with two tubes in his chest. He was told they would be re-

supposed to come out, but... my lung collapsed again," he explained on July 26.

"They brought me back down to the surgery room and gave me drugs and put the tube back in. I woke up in the afternoon and they kicked me out.

"I didn't know what was going on... All I knew was that they were kicking me out. Then they brought me here [to an open patient ward at Vachira Phuket Hospital]."

Once back in New Zealand, Sean will start down the long path of rehabilitation.

"There is no police record; no police have come to see me," Sean explained. "I've been here nearly a month. The taxi that hit me should have had their insurance paying for all of this."

Despite the horrors of Sean's first trip to Thailand, he is determined to return.

"I will return to Thailand as the country still owes me my travelling," he said.

## Farewell to Phuket TAT Director



Gov Tri presents Ms Bangonrat with a portrait of the highly revered Phuket monk Luang Por Chaem. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

THE Director of the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Bangonrat Shinaprayoon, bade farewell to Governor Tri Augkaradacha at Provincial Hall on July 31, a day before her move to Bangkok.

Ms Bangonrat was due to leave the island on August 1 to take up her new position as Director of Attractions Promotion Division.

"My new department is responsible for deciding what places and venues in Thailand should be promoted as tourist attractions."

She went on to explain that although she is leaving her post at the end of the day, the TAT Phuket office is still working on various important promotions to draw tourists to the island.

"Apart from targeting families, which is a very important group for us, we also believe that educational tourism and museums are worthy of promoting," she said.

— Chutharat Plerin

## Noon blaze consumes car parts warehouse



The room and stock damaged was not insured. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

By Atchaa Khamlo

A FIRE believed to have been started by an electrical fault destroyed a car parts warehouse in Patong on the afternoon of July 26.

No one was reported injured in the blaze, but the damage caused has been estimated at around 100,000 baht.

Responding to a call at about 12:30pm, 23 firefighters with six fire trucks and an ambulance attended the scene on 50 Pi Road overlooking Patong.

The firefighters took about 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

The owner of the warehouse, 48-year-old Jatupol Khuenthin, gave his thoughts on what probably caused the fire.

"I think the fire started as a result of a short circuit in the fuse box, which was in the same small room where I kept the new parts. In that same room were two gallons of petrol kept in separate containers, which could easily have caught fire.

"It's such a pity. I don't have insurance for the building or the stock [that was destroyed] and I'm trying to sell my house and land, including the storeroom, for 30 million baht," he added.

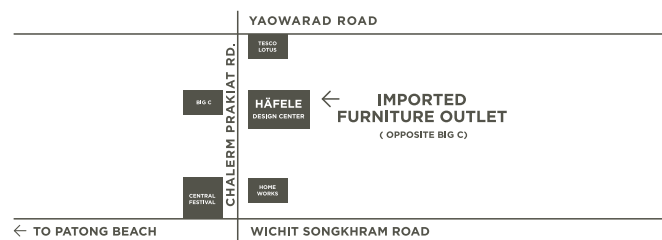
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## Phuket Life Music Festival to honor 'The Stars'



Dome, winner of The Star Season 8, will perform at the Phuket Live Music Festival 2012.

Photo: PR EXACT - SCENARIO

PHUKET-BORN Jaruwat "Dome" Cheawaram, better known as "Dome The Star" after winning the popular television singing contest, will headline the Phuket Life Music Festival 2012, to be held in Phuket Town on August 14.

The concert will be held at Anuphas Field, near the Phuket bus terminal on Phang Nga Road, from 7pm to 10:30pm.

Other live acts to appear on the night include "Hun and Can", two contestants from the same show.

Before the main concert, "Look Ked", who is the younger sister of Kaem, the winner of The Star season seven, will perform at about 6:30pm.

Tickets are priced at 1,000 baht for Zone A, 800 baht for Zone B and 500 baht for a seat in the stands.

Reservations can be made at the Arrow Media office in Chalong, located near Chalong Temple on Luang Por Chaem Road (the road joining Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West Roads), or by calling 088-752 3368.

Ten per cent of the concert's income will be donated to organizations who help provide disaster relief.

— Chutharat Plerin

## Decomposed human body washes ashore at Koh Racha Yai

CHALONG Police are trying to identify a badly-decomposed human body found washed ashore at Koh Racha Yai early on Monday morning.

After the Phuket Tourist Rescue Center at Chalong Pier was notified of the discovery at 7am, they dispatched a Chalong Tambon Administration Organization speedboat to the island, about 20 kilometers due south of Phuket.

Rescue workers told the *Gazette* that only the torso had flesh remaining; the limbs and head had been reduced to bone. However, part of the body was still clad in a pair of underwear.

Given the state of decomposition, police estimated the time of death at about 15 days before the discovery of the body, which was transported to the morgue at Vachira Phuket

Hospital for examination and storage.

Despite the advanced state of decay, Chalong Police said they suspect the body is that of a Thai man.

Chalong Police initially suspected the body might be that of Suwit Suwannakij, a 25-year-old Koh Sireh resident reported missing during a night-time fishing expedition in Koh Racha Yai area on July 21.

However, Jamba Songkaew, the 31-year-old aunt of the missing fisherman, ruled this out after examining the remains.

Anyone with information that could assist in identifying the remains is asked to contact Chalong Police at 076-381247

— Atchaa Khamlo



Chalong OrBorTor speedboat was used to transfer the badly-decomposed body from Koh Racha Yai to Phuket. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

## Safety first when travelling

### British Ambassador continues call for UK nationals to be safe in the Kingdom

BRITISH Ambassador to Thailand Asif Ahmad has repeated his call for UK nationals to exercise caution when travelling to Thailand and to make sure they have adequate insurance coverage when they do visit.

"I have seen the sadness and anguish of victims and relatives after incidents which, if thought through, are entirely avoidable. Like the majority of visitors and residents in Thailand, I hope everyone stays safe and enjoys their time in the country," Amb Ahmad said.

"Thailand rightly remains an attractive tourist destination and a significant number of people have chosen to become long-term residents. Good planning is the best way to avoid hazards, and insurance for travel and health is essential," he added.

The ambassador's comments follows the UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) listing Thailand as the second most likely country where British nationals would need consular assistance, after the Philippines.

In its annual British Behaviour Abroad Report for 2012 – compiled from data gathered from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 – the FCO noted that British na-



In recent years Thailand has maintained an average of 12,000 deaths per year from road traffic accidents, most involving motorbikes. INSET: British Ambassador to Thailand Asif Ahmad. Main Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

tionals were most likely to be hospitalized in Greece, followed by Thailand. They were most likely to be detained in Spain, followed by the USA, then Thailand.

The report, released last week, shows that the number of British consular assistance cases globally

increased by 3%, the number of rapes reported to consular staff increased by 10%, the number of deaths was up by 3% and the number of applications for Emergency Travel Documents rose by 10%.

Of the 296 deaths of Britons in

Thailand over the past year, about 75% were residents, many of whom had retired in Thailand.

After natural causes, the second most frequent cause of death was road traffic accidents.

In recent years in Thailand, there has been an average of 12,000 deaths per year from road traffic accidents, of which about 70% involved motorbikes. Many accidents are due to poor safety standards of vehicles and drivers. Travelling at night in private or by public transport increases the risk of death or injury on the roads, the report said.

"Medical bills can run to thousands of pounds and the ordinary British taxpayer cannot meet the uninsured costs of fellow citizens who have chosen to venture abroad," said Amb Ahmad.

"Make sure you read the small print – riding a motorbike or other activities could invalidate the insurance policy. Reading the FCO's Thailand Travel Advice will help visitors familiarize themselves with local laws and customs, and become aware of scams and potential risks.

"We do recommend travellers to check health requirements to ensure they've had all the necessary vaccinations," he added.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Muslim inmates gifted supplies for Ramadan

THE Phuket Islamic Committee gifted food items to Muslim inmates at Phuket Provincial Prison on July 26 so they could properly partake in Ramadan.

Phuket Islamic Committee President Komon Doomluck handed over rice as well as other dried foods, such as palm dates, which are the traditional foods for breaking fasts, to the 225 male and female Muslim prisoners in the facility.

"In the month of Ramadan, the Phuket Islamic Committee and Phuket Provincial Prison held a sermon to bless the prisoners and to celebrate HM Queen Sirikit's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"The sermon was held on Wednesday. So today [July 26] we



Komon Doomluck (left) presents Phuket Provincial Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon with dried foods for Muslim prisoners.

offered food to the prisoners," said Pol Sgt Maj Komon.

He went on to explain that Muslims partake in Ramadan to prepare themselves mentally,

physically and spiritually.

"To properly fast you must think positively about yourself and others. You must avoid bad thoughts and bad actions," he said.

During Ramadan it is forbidden for Muslims to eat or drink between 4:30am and 7pm, he explained.

It is also forbidden for Muslims to have sex during Ramadan, he added.

"Allah declared this month an important month for Muslims. It is a month of forgiveness, and a month to make good things happen," he said.

"I would like to ask all Muslim brothers who have faith to fast for Ramadan and pay respect to Allah. I wish Allah blesses you all so you can only do good things."

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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# No wrongdoing at Big Buddha hill

AN INTERNAL inquiry by the Royal Forest Department's Community Forest Management Bureau has found no wrongdoing by any parties involved in the Phuket Big Buddha project.

The inquiry was launched after a flood of complaints led Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak to demand a completion date from the project's managers, the Mingmongkol Faith 45 Foundation.

The 45-meter-tall Buddha image itself is complete, but construction of other buildings and structures at the site is ongoing.

However, Ongkharak Ritthiroot, Director of the Community Forest Management Bureau at the Forest Department's regional office in Krabi, confirmed to the *Gazette* that the permit for the project has been extended again, this time until 2016.

"The project started in 2002 and permission for its continuation was given in 2007. This is the third

extension. The previous permit expired at the end of September last year.

"The delay in approving the extension to the permit is due to the fact that we had to find resolutions to several complaints we had received from residents worried about the risk of landslides. Officers examined the area and found no evidence of landslides. Since then, the complaints have stopped," he said.

Mr Ongkharak explained that only after his office had completed the investigation into the landslide complaints could he apply to his superiors in Bangkok to extend the permit.

"Another complaint, that construction had spread outside the area for which the permit had been granted, was difficult to deal with as most structures that surround the Big Buddha are not permanent," he said.

That complaint, which dates

back years, resulted in a meeting in June 2011 at which Phoppol Sirilugsanapong, the then head of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment office in Phuket, ordered the Foundation to pull down all unauthorized buildings at the site that were not directly related to authorized construction.

Mr Ongkharak explained that one "temporary" building on the hill is for preparing food while others are housing for on-site workers and security guards.

"Besides, the buildings on the hill are not related to tourism, but for matters relating to donations. No tourist accommodations have been established on the hill and tourists cannot stay overnight."

Relations between officials and the Foundation operating the Big Buddha project, one of the most popular tourist attractions on the island, have long been strained.

The friction is primarily due to the controversy over the handling



The support buildings around the base of the Big Buddha image will remain for at least another four years. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

of donations; the fact that the giant image sits in the middle of a protected forest; and the fact that it is much bigger than what was originally approved.

It was reported by the *Gazette* last August that the Foundation

was to continue to collect donations for the project, this despite a committee ruling that it was no longer allowed to advertise or publicly solicit donations for the project off-site.

— Atchaa Khamlo

## Bone fragment of the Lord Buddha installed at temple



The bone-fragment of the Lord Buddha was installed in the Chedi Dok Bua Kaew at Nakaram Temple in Wichit. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A BONE fragment relic of Lord Buddha was respectfully installed at Chedi Dok Bua Kaew "Crystal Lotus Pagoda" in Nakaram Temple, Wichit, during a ceremony on July 27.

The ceremony was led by Phra Thepsitthimunee, Deputy Monk Dean of Region 16 from Dusidaram Warrawiharn Temple in Bangkok, along with 108 Buddhist monks from the greater Phuket area.

"The relic of the Lord Buddha was given to Wat Nakaram by Sangharaja [the head of the order of Buddhist monks in Thailand] to be installed in Chedi Dok Bua Kaew," said the Director of the Phuket branch of the National Office of Buddhism, Chatpawit Jinapong.

"It is intended to remind Buddhists in Phuket of the virtues of the Lord Buddha, as well as to build their faith in Buddhism."

Mr Chatpawit explained that the installation of the relic would benefit Buddhism, as well as tourism for Phuket.

"Seventy-three per cent of the people on Phuket are Buddhist, and the island is well-known as place of culture as well as for its natural beauty," he said.

There are 37 Buddhist temples in Phuket, 31 of which are of the *Maha Nikaya* order and six are of the *Dhammayuttika Nikaya* order. There are also 11 Buddhist monk camps on the island that have yet to be formally recognized as temples.

The ceremony was chaired by Information and Communication Technology Minister Anudit Nakornat, who was joined at the event by Phuket Senator Thanyarat Achariyachai, Phuket MP Raywat Areerob and Wichit Mayor Kreetha Chotwitpipat.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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## Juggernaut crushes woman in rush hour traffic



The driver, who didn't flee the accident, was charged with reckless driving causing death.

THE driver of a six-wheeled truck with a dual-axle trailer in tow has been charged with reckless driving causing death after his trailer clipped a 58-year-old woman riding a motorbike to work on July 24.

The woman, Prapha Charoen-siri, fell onto the road and died instantly after she was crushed under the wheels of the juggernaut.

Maj Kittiphum Tinthalang of the Phuket City Police said he received a report of the accident at about 9am.

Police officers rushed to the scene with Phuket Ruamjai Rescue Foundation workers.

They arrived at the narrow stretch of Chao Fa West Road between the Naka Temple junction and the unnamed road that leads to Suan Luang Park to find a white Isuzu truck and trailer parked by the side of the road and a red Honda Wave motorcycle lying nearby.

Ms Prapha's body was still lodged under the wheels of the trailer.

"The truck driver was heading to Phuket City and didn't notice Ms Prapha, who was driving to work in the motorcycle lane," Maj Kittiphum explained.

The truck driver, 40-year-old Amnart Jamjuntra, did not flee the scene.

He has been charged with reckless driving causing death.

Police are preparing their case to press charges and present it to Phuket Provincial Court.

## Wildlife activist supports merger of Forest, National Parks

A WELL-KNOWN wildlife activist has told the *Gazette* that he supports the planned merger of the Royal Forest Department and the Department of National Parks (DNP), Wildlife and Plant Conservation.

The merger was announced on July 11 by Preecha Rengsomboonsuk, who heads the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry that controls both departments.

Once the merger gets the green light from Cabinet, it will take about a year to draft the legal framework, which will then be put before Parliament for approval, Mr Preecha said.

"The two departments should [become one] because the scope of their duties is overlapping. With the merging, the work process will be streamlined," Mr Preecha said.

Currently, crimes that take place on pro-

tected forest land come under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department, whereas those that take place inside national parks, wildlife reserves or non-hunting areas fall to the National Parks Department.

Edwin Wiek, founder of the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand, agreed that the merger was a good idea.

"It's all very unclear, so it's much better if they just become one department," said Mr Wiek, whose foundation filed the complaint that led to the arrest of two men for illegal possession of three lorises in Phuket last month.

It is also hoped that the merger will help the government in its ability to end encroachment on state land.

— Stephen Fein



Mr Preecha visited Phuket last month to examine allegations of encroachment on National Park land. Photo: Orawin Narabal

# Krabi killers escape after 'M16 ambush'

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

KRABI Police suspect a conflict over a palm plantation was the motive for a shooting in Khlong Kanan subdistrict last Saturday, when gunmen opened fire on a moving pickup truck in a well-planned ambush.

One person was killed and five others were injured in the attack.

The murder victim, driving an Isuzu D-Max, was identified by police as Paruhas Kongbannuek, village headman of Baan Klong Wai Lek.

Mr Paruhas, 44, was pronounced dead at the scene of a gunshot wound to the head.

Police said that Mr Paruhas and his companions had just left the Neua Khlong Pracha Bamroong School, where they attended a public hearing over the construction of a proposed new power plant.

Maj Suriya Damrongwattana, an investigating officer with Khlong Kanan Police, told the media his office received a report of the shooting at about 6:30pm.

"Witnesses told us that a bronze four-door Toyota with no registration plates pulled onto the road and followed the target vehicle.



The truck ran off the road after the gunmen opened fire on it with what police believe to have been an M16 assault rifle. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"Someone from the back seat shot at the rear of Mr Paruhas' pickup three times. They then pulled in front of the truck and continued to fire into the vehicle.

"The truck went out of control and hit a road sign before veering across the center line and colliding with a vehicle coming from the opposite direction," he said.

Four villagers traveling in the

pickup bed of Mr Paruhas' pickup truck were injured in the attack. Police did not report any injuries from the oncoming vehicle that the pickup collided with.

Most seriously injured was Baan Klong Wai Lek deputy headman, 46-year-old Dolwaha Jongrok. He remains in hospital, where he is being treated for a gunshot wound to the head. The

three other victims have since been discharged from hospital.

"When we arrived at the scene, we counted more than 10 bullet holes in the side of Mr Paruhas' truck. More bullets destroyed the windshield. Police recovered a total of 20 casings believed to have been fired from an M16 automatic rifle," he said.

The following day, Khlong Kanan Police Investigations Inspector Wisan Rakmak collected more evidence at the scene.

"The bullet cases recovered will be compared with spent cases recovered from a shooting incident at a checkpoint at a palm oil plantation in Khlong Kanan Village 6 in mid-June," he said.

As the attack was well planned, the gunmen must have known their intended target's intended route and planned the ambush at a curved section of road where his vehicle would have to slow down, Lt Col Wisan said.

The most likely motive is a conflict over an oil palm plantation, which has been the source of frequent harassing gunfire by unknown gunmen over the past three months.

"Police will continue to search for the killers," Maj Suriya said.

## Street sleeper avoids becoming roadkill

A DRUNKEN man chose an exceptionally bad place to sleep off the effects of alcohol over the weekend: in the middle of the busiest and deadliest road in Phuket.

A good citizen called the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation at 6:45pm on July 29 to report that a man was asleep in the left lane of Thepkasattri Road outbound in Srisoonthorn.

Rescue workers raced to the scene, arriving just as the final hints of twilight were disappearing from the evening sky — making the man's site of slumber even

more precarious.

After initial efforts to rouse the man failed, the workers administered smelling salts.

In what the workers described as highly slurred speech, the man admitted he was "really, really drunk" and said he "just wanted to sleep it off".

When the workers offered to give him a ride home, he refused.

As rescue workers lack the authority to force help upon people who refuse it, all the Kusoldharm crew could do for the man was to help him over the guard rail onto



Sleep it off. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

the grassy shoulder and place him in the recovery position, where he promptly passed out again.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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# Return of the notorious son

## Deputy PM Chalerm says son's transfer to police 'not nepotism'

### AROUND THE nation

THE appointment of Duang Yoobamrung, son of Interior Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung, to a position in the Royal Thai Police (RTP) has sparked outrage on Thai social networks.

The appointment also stirred the wrath of controversial politician Chuwit Kamolvisit, the former massage parlor tycoon who now presents himself as an anti-corruption crusader.

Mr Duang was infamously acquitted of the 2001 shooting of a policeman in the face in a crowded Bangkok nightclub.

Mr Duang's new appointment will see him take a position at a police training center. National Police chief Piewpan Damapong said Mr Duang would be an in-



Deputy PM Chalerm Yoobamrung (left) and his son, newly appointed to the Royal Thai Police. Photo: The Nation

structor on a pistol shooting course for policemen "because of his expertise in it", *The Nation* reported.

The appointment caused confusion even among police leadership. RTP spokesman Lt Gen Piya Uthayo initially dis-

missed the news in a statement. Later that same afternoon, however, Metropolitan Police Bureau commander Lt Gen Khamronwit Thoopkrajang confirmed that he had signed the appointment.

The appointment document was posted and circulated online,

including by Rak Thailand Party leader Mr Chuwit, who questioned Mr Duang's return to the police ranks.

Writing on his Facebook page, Mr Chuwit openly referred to the shooting to death of a junior policeman who had a brawl with Mr

Duang – at that time called Duangchalerm – on October 29, 2001 at the Twenty Pub on Ratchadapisek Road, Bangkok.

Mr Duang absconded for 187 days before appearing at the Royal Thai Embassy in Malaysia, before standing trial for murder.

He was discharged from service and stripped off his rank in *absentia*.

After his acquitted by the court, public prosecutors chose not to appeal the verdict.

Mr Duang enlisted in the Royal Thai Army during the government of Samak Sundaravej, when Mr Chalerm was installed as interior minister.

Mr Duang said he had himself sought the transfer from the Army to the RTP as he felt more familiar with police work than Army service. He claimed his father had played no part in the move.

He declined to give an interview, citing police regulations and lack of permission from his superior officers.

## The King acts against jams

HM KING Bhumibol Adulyadej has relaxed rules on royal motorcades in a bid to lessen the impact they have on Bangkok's infamous traffic snarls.

New guidelines for the Royal Thai Police will permit oncoming traffic in the lanes opposite a royal convoy.

They will also reduce the length of time roads are closed and the number of police officers required to carry out such closures.

Traffic on highways above royal motorcades will no longer be stopped. The measure had been in place for decades for security purposes and also to ensure ordinary people were not "higher" than royalty.

Another change will allow shopping malls to remain open when they receive a visit from a member of the Royal Family.

About a dozen members of the



Bangkok traffic jam. Photo: Kurisuuu

family currently travel by motorcade, including Their Majesties The King and Queen, their children and grandchildren, reported the Associated Press.

The new rules apply with immediate effect and police are receiving training in the new guidelines.

## Cops get death for murder

THREE police officers have been sentenced to death for the extrajudicial killing of a 17-year-old during former premier Thaksin Shinawatra's infamous "War on Drugs".

The Criminal Court found the three senior sergeant majors, Angkarn Kammoonna, Sudtanan Noanting and Pansin Uppana, guilty of strangling Kiatisak Titboonkrong to death in Kalasin Province on July 22, 2004.

The three men were found to have killed the young man, a suspect in a motorcycle theft case, before moving the body to Roi-et and making it appear as if Kiatisak hanged himself.

Lt Col Sumit Nansatit, who was deputy superintendent of Kalasin City Police Station at the time of the murder, was convicted of collaborating in the killing. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

His supervisor Col Montri Sriboonleu was found guilty of trying to help his subordinates escape conviction. He was ordered to serve a seven-year jail term.

According to some estimates, more than 2,000 people died in extrajudicial killings during the so-called "War on Drugs".

Many of those who died turned out not to be involved in the drugs trade, rights groups say.



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# Intelligence key to crime prevention

The recent arrest of Belgian murder suspect Marc De Schutter is the latest in a series of events that have kept Phuket in the international spotlight. It also highlights the need for a more savvy approach by authorities in preventing criminals, both the domestic and imported, from trying to establish themselves on the island.

Although the Tourism Authority of Thailand would be loath to admit it, Phuket has just about everything a criminal on the lam could ask for: generous immigration rules for new arrivals, a wide choice of accommodation, and a relatively low cost of living. With its large expatriate community and millions of foreign visitors every year, Phuket is a place where just about anyone can blend in – whether from Novosibirsk, Nairobi or Nakhon Nowhere.

While some metropolises may boast a similar cultural mix, few have nice beaches and clean air. Perhaps it won't be long before Phuket supplants Mexico as the shooting location for the hackneyed final scenes in Hollywood movies, when the likable diamond thief is seen relaxing on a beach, pina colada in hand.

For better or worse, humans have an innate tribal tendency that manifests itself in a desire to congregate among those who share a common language, culture, nationality or some other common denominator.

The same is true of domestic transplants. Although most foreign residents are probably unaware of it, there are many large associations of people from other parts of Thailand here in Phuket, and it's important that these networks be put to better use in the fight against crime.

Recent statistics are troubling. There was a 72.3% increase in heinous crimes on the island in the first half of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011. While the year-on-year rise is not statistically significant and probably reflects in part the island's increasing population, it is nonetheless unacceptably high.

Police are quick to herald closed-circuit television (CCTV) as the savior in the fight against crime, but while CCTV imagery has helped investigators bring many criminals to justice, it is not nearly as effective as a deterrent – just ask the families of murder victims Michelle Smith or Sunisa “Nong Som” Saiyoy.

In the final analysis, CCTV will never replace intelligence as the key to crime prevention. If the Royal Thai Police are really serious about preventing crime before it occurs, it needs to create a better working relationship with local residents, Thai and foreign. A good start would involve decentralization and a change away from the ‘shuffle-them-in, shuffle-them-out’ regimen that makes it so difficult for ranking officers to establish ties to the local community.

Nowhere has this failing been more starkly highlighted than in the Deep South, where violent attacks have claimed the lives of at least 14 in recent weeks.



## Aussie to get pop star status

Re: Gazette online, Aussie tourist who cried ‘rape’ in Phuket deported today, July 24

This very immature young lady will be met at the airport on her arrival home by our pathetic press, treated like a pop star and then paid a large sum of money to appear on one of our sleazy current affairs programs.

Who knows, she may get a call from Hollywood!

One other thing bothers me. She was sentenced on Friday June 15, but only commenced her sentence on Wednesday July 3. So where was she during this period of time?

Sitka  
Gazette forum

### It smells like justice

Re: Gazette online, Restaurant, resort ordered removed from Phuket protected forests, July 30

It's starting to smell good in Phuket. Hope it is not just a few weeks of a “save-face show” to deteriorate later into a scenario in which the biggest law-breakers are greasing the palms of politicians and civil servants in order to stop the cleansing. As an official at the national level has said, more than 3,000 rai have been encroached upon.

Whistle-Blower  
Gazette forum

### Fit for other jobs

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: New ‘guide-lines’ needed for tourism, July 29

This is a common sense solution. The importance of guides that can relate to the tourists they are serving should be obvious.

If the Chinese are more comfortable with guides conversant in their language and culture, and if this brings more Chinese tourists,

### Letters to the Editor

then the benefit to the local economy of the increased numbers would far outweigh the loss of a few Thai guide positions.

Additional service jobs from the increased numbers of Chinese visitors would quickly more than offset those losses.

Frustrated  
Gazette forum

### Straight faced news

Re: Gazette online, Patong residents voice support for ‘Special Admin Zone’, July 24

The son of the mayor and head of the taxi federation thinks it's a good idea?

Well, how could we go wrong? Must be hard to report some of this stuff with a straight face.

Topcat\_pkt  
Gazette forum

### Get it while it's fresh

Having lived in Phuket now for about a year, I read the article about food hygiene, “Meat Suppliers Clear Inspection”, in last week's edition with keen interest. I have only been ill once from eating food while living here, and that was soon after landing with an Indian airline flight that routed through Delhi.

I will never eat any such in-flight curries while en-route to here ever again. It might also be worth pointing out I was ill from eating restaurant food twice in the UK in the year before I moved to Phuket.

So well done Thailand, and well done Phuket!

While there may be some issues over violent crime, the hygiene

standards for food services here should in no way discourage tourists from visiting this wonderful isle. In fact, quite the opposite – it's evidently better here than in the UK or India!

Andy Phillips  
Phuket

### Give soap only to the privileged elite

Re: Gazette online, Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease under control in Phuket, July 27

At one school in Phuket, there is no soap in the children's water closet (WC) or in the teachers' WC.

However, if you go to the director's office, which is the room with beautiful oak panels and leather chairs, you will see that there is a special WC, just for the director and his special guests. This toilet is spotlessly clean, and always has soap and toilet paper.

Pete  
Gazette forum

### Thai zebra stripes cause confusion

Re: Gazette online, Project to reverse Patong traffic flow hits a speed bump, July 26

Not sure what difference reversing the traffic flow will make, but one thing is for sure: they could do everyone a favor by not paint crosswalks (pedestrian crossings, also known as zebra crossings) on the roads, as no-body stops for them.

People not stopping is fine, but this does cause a problem for those who are accustomed to driving in other countries where it is compulsory to stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.

Mike  
Gazette forum

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# Call for 'do no harm' journalism: Gov Tri

## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

I AM not too concerned about media outlets that publish their stories in Thai damaging the image of Phuket. However, I am concerned with Thai media outlets that publish in English, which is why I called all the local English-language media teams together for a private meeting [in July].

News stories written in Thai only reach Thai people or those who can read Thai. However, when a story is written in English, it tends to be read by people all over the world.

I didn't call the meeting to stop the media from doing their job. It's important to cover news stories as long as you have your facts straight, but it's also important to weigh the damage that can be done to the reputation of our province when making decisions about what angle to take.

For example, some news outlets covered a story about a tourist fighting a tuk-tuk driver over the price of his fare, which is the type of story that Thai media writing in Thai wouldn't have covered. Though I can't deny that the story happened, was it necessarily the kind of story that needed to be published for the world to see?

If a journalist does feel the need to report on a frivolous story, I would hope that they would choose an angle that isn't going to do cause damage to anyone.

Take the Michelle Smith case as an example. Even though the incident portrayed Phuket in a



**Tri Augkaradacha**, 60, took office as the Governor of Phuket in October 2010. Not appearing on this year's transfer list, he now has until October 2012 to represent the island.

Here, Governor Tri talks about his many reasons for calling all the major English-language news outlets on the island together for a meeting.

negative light, the report could focus on how fast the police arrested the alleged murderer. Taking an angle like that, while still breaking the news of the event, is what I consider positive reporting.

Some news agencies need to make sure their reports are more qualitative and accurate. A reporter can report anything that they think they know, but a good reporter has to check all the facts against reliable sources before presenting that story to the public.

This is a problem that I've noticed with some news agencies. Sometimes, the same story will have completely different facts depending on who has published the report. I understand that each news outlet needs to have its own angle and has its own style of writing, but if some of the basic and important facts are different, that means someone at the agency is being irresponsible and causing damage through neglect.

I understand that it is sometimes difficult to get accurate information from officials. They

also need to confirm that their information is 100 per cent correct before releasing it to the media. So sometimes it might seem like they are withholding information when they are actually just being careful not to release false information.

Reporters can also just contact Phuket Provincial Hall for information about any incident or happening in Phuket. Any news agency that wants to get the most accurate information available is also welcome to contact me or either of the vice governors. I'm available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in the case of emergency.

As I said earlier, I'm not trying to stop anyone from doing their job; I just want everyone to help Phuket, the place we call home. Phuket is an important tourist destination in Thailand. The media is the most important factor in disseminating the image of Phuket, whether for the positive or negative. Accurate and ethical reporting on the island will help Phuket recover its image as a wonderful tourist destination.

## Overzealous lifeguards ruling Nai Thon Beach

WHILE I appreciate the efforts to provide trained lifeguards on Phuket's southern beaches, where rip currents and huge waves occur more often than not in the monsoon season, I am dismayed to see the more northerly Nai Thon Beach being over-guarded.

Over the years, while regularly visiting Nai Thon Beach this time of the year, I've found the waters there to be safe. The waves tend to be small and manageable, even in the roughest winds, and while there is a bit of an undertow, I don't see rip currents there.

Nonetheless, it was comforting to see a small group of lifeguards huddled at the shack halfway along [the beach] on my recent visit.

However, that comfort turned to irritation when it became apparent that the lifeguards were more interested in socializing among themselves than ensuring the safety of swimmers.

While it appeared at least two of the lifeguards were on duty, they chose to remain together chatting with two others, and marked off only a tiny fraction of the beach for about 20 people to swim in. They spent much of their time whistling and making much ado about nothing if swimmers even approached the boundary.

There simply was no rip current that day, or anytime when I've visited in the past.

What is a lifeguard's authority to prevent the enjoyment of the water outside of the constraints of the area they are watching? Can one simply thank them for their concern and venture out at one's own risk?

No one was allowed to go out with surfboards, either. The lifeguards spent about 15 minutes whistling in two young surfers



The lifeguard shack on Nai Thon Beach in Thailand. Photo: Gazette file

## Island View

By Beach Lover

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

who were well out beyond the swimmers [with their boards].

People were also not allowed to play on the rocks at the north end of the beach, although from the stink of excrement in the small river flowing freely into the ocean, that probably is commendable, as it may well be the serious health issue at that beach.

I ended up finding what should have been a lovely day on my favorite beach ruined, my visiting friend unnecessarily harassed and actually forced to dangerously jostle with others in the half-meter waves, all because the lifeguards were more concerned about socializing.

They could have easily kept an eye on a space of 60 meters or more, had they simply cared about the visitors' experience and not their own entertainment.

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

## Just give me a tablet for the pain

My six-year-old daughter keeps asking me, "When is Yingluck going to give me that tablet computer I was promised? I'd like to get two of them and give one to mommy."

I heard that it was "all systems go" several months ago. My daughter is a student at the Ban Bangeaw Municipal School.

Could you please give me the answer so she will stop bugging me about it?

*Somchai Huasaikul  
Phuket*

**Dr Jian Thongnoon, director of the Phuket Educational Service Area office, primary level, replies:**

I have yet to be informed when the free tablets will be released in Phuket. According to government policy, the tablets are being issued geographically in an alphabetical order. The first batch has been distributed. I believe it covered up to "Chor Ching" [the seventh con-



Some kids in Thailand have already received their tablets. Photo: The Nation

sonant in the Thai alphabet].

Phuket is ready to receive the tablets, but I have no idea when it will be.

**The Phuket Gazette notes:**

A second consignment of 730,000 tablet computers has been delivered to Thailand and will be

distributed to schools pending random inspection of specifications by the Information and Communications Technology Ministry, *Phuket Gazette* partner publication *The Nation* has reported.

Phuket starts with *Phor Samphao*, 32<sup>nd</sup> among the 44 consonants in Thai, hence the delay.

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)

## Car for collecting my hotel guests?

My Thai wife and I own a small hotel near the airport. We have owned this business for many years – it complies with all relevant legislation, planning requirements, licenses, taxes and so on. We use our own hotel vehicle to collect and drop off our guests at the airport.

Recently, with the police crack-down on illegal taxis, we have been stopped by the police outside the airport and told that they consider us to be a "black" taxi, and that we cannot use our hotel

car to collect or drop off our guests – we must use public taxis. I do not think the police are correct.

Is it illegal for a registered hotel to use their registered car to collect and drop off their registered guests? I think not. Please advise if we are breaking the law.

*Simon Luttrell  
Phuket Airport*

**Phuket Land Transport Office Academic Officer Tassanee Nopparat replies:**

Although your hotel car is registered, it would be illegal to collect and drop off hotel guests if it isn't registered as a "hotel car" when being used as such.

Hotel cars or airport taxis must have a green license plate with white lettering.

Please check if your car is registered under the correct vehicle category and has the right vehicle registration plate. If it isn't registered under the correct category, contact us to change the car registration category and get the correct license plate.



# India, Vietnam rice exports to surpass Thailand in 2012

A THAI trade researcher has concurred with a recent prediction by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that India and Vietnam will export more rice than Thailand this year.

Thanawan Phonwichai, the Director of the Business and Economics Forecasting Center at the Thai Chamber of Commerce University said that Thailand is expected to lose its reign as the world's top rice exporter due to an increasingly competitive regional market.

"Consistent with the USDA's prediction, India this year is producing a lot of rice at lower prices. This has caused Vietnam to lower its prices to be more competitive.

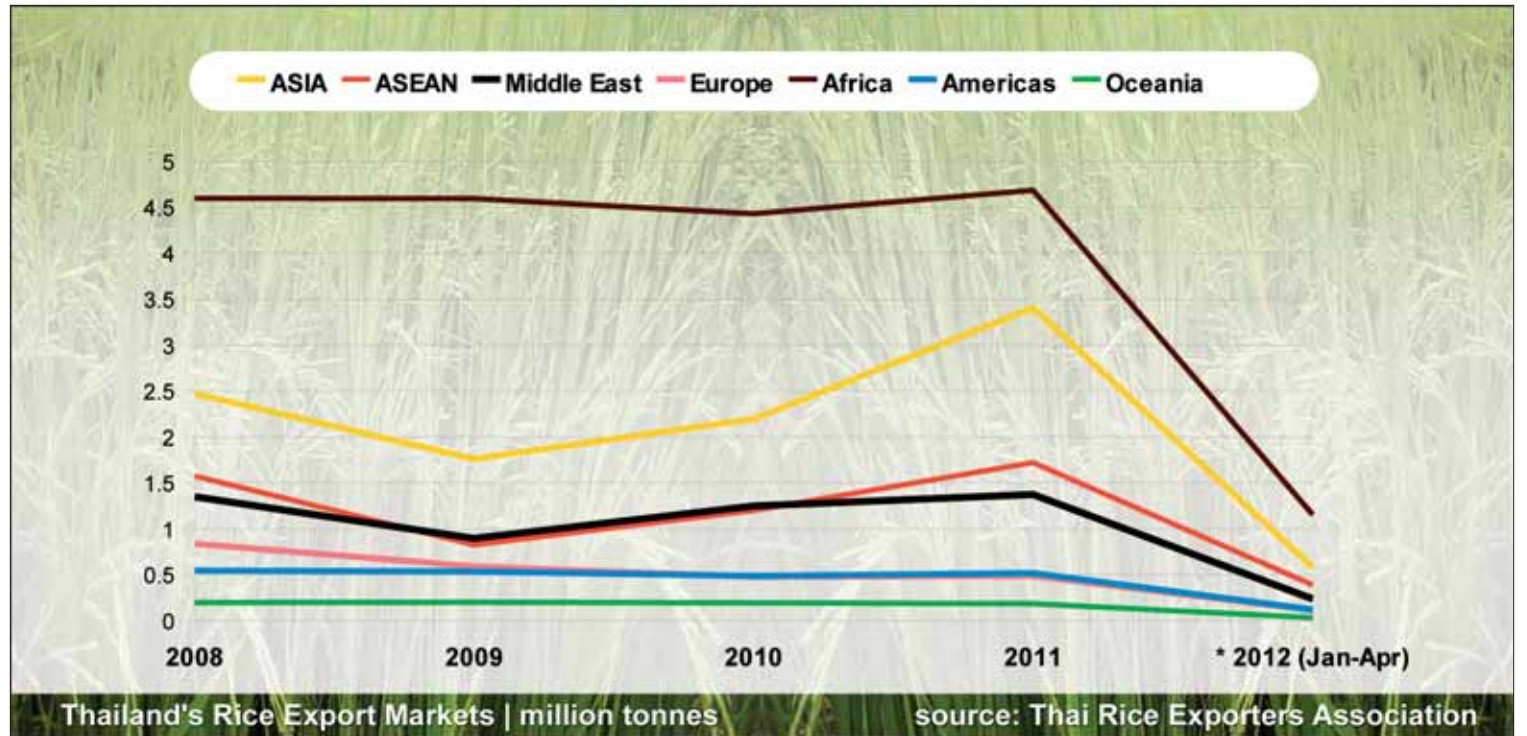
"At the same time Thailand has not lowered its prices due to its base costs being a lot higher. As a result, we expect that India will export 8 million tonnes this year, followed by Vietnam exporting about 7, and Thailand just 6.5 million tonnes," he said.

According to the USDA, the predicted figure will equate to a 39% annual decline in the Kingdom's rice exports.

Mr Thanawan added that he expects Thailand to reclaim its throne in 2013, however, when his department predicts that Thailand will export 8mn tonnes, followed by Vietnam with 7mn tonnes and India at 6mn tonnes.

In a related article by The Nation, it was reported that Thailand only exported 4.7mn tonnes between October, last year and July, 2012, about half when compared to the same period a previous year, when nearly 9mn tonnes were exported.

Export value also dropped from 160 billion baht in the previous year to about 100bn baht this year, according to the Thailand



**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** As competition within the global rice supply network rises, Thailand's export share is declining. Image: Gazette Graphics.

Development Research Institute (TDRI).

The TDRI attributed the drop mainly to the government's rice-mortgage policy.

The rice-pledging policy had destroyed the competitiveness of Thai rice in the world market because the government's mortgage prices were a lot higher, TDRI President Nipon Poapongsakorn said.

Mr Nipon pointed out that Thailand would suffer a loss of 87bn to 100bn baht immediately if the government decided to release 10.2 million tonnes of rice in its

stocks, noting that the pledging price is high while the market price still low.

Thailand will end up losing US\$75 to \$77 (2,364 to 2,427 baht) per ton if it sells at the current market price, and this would not include the cost of pledging – about 260bn baht.

"Thailand is losing huge amounts on subsidies that are helping not just poor farmers but also landlords and rich farmers, because the government is accepting all the rice that is entered in the pledging scheme.

More than 52% of the rice entered in the pledging scheme comes from rich farmers," Nipon explained.

He added that if the government changed its pledging measure to providing direct subsidies to a particular group of small farmers, then it would only spend about 30bn to 40bn baht a year.

According to TDRI, about 80% of Thai farmers are small, producing only about 10 tonnes of rice per harvest.

– MoC, The Nation and Phuket Gazette

## Japanese tourist market impressed

By Chutharat Plerin

JUST back from a week-long tourism fact-finding tour in Japan, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha told the media that the "Amazing Thailand in Japan" roadshow had impressed the Japanese tour operators in the three cities they had visited.

Organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and coordinated by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) and the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), the roadshow visited Fukuoka, Osaka and Tokyo during July 21-28.

Gov Tri said that 21 tourism representatives from Phuket together with others from Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Lampang and Mae Hong Son went on the trip.

"Phuket tourism received a lot of attention and positive feedback from tourism representatives in all the cities we visited, especially Tokyo. More than 212 representatives attended the Phuket

roadshow in Tokyo, 100 attended Osaka and 57 in Fukuoka."

"Following a decrease in tourists after the tsunami of March last year, it's good that more Japanese are now traveling," said Gov Tri.

OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising said "The roadshow

PTA Vice Chairman Phurit Maswongsa said "Before the tsunami last year, 200,000 Japanese tourists came to Thailand [annually]. Of that number 60,000 came to Phuket."

"After the tsunami the number of Japanese tourists decreased.

"This roadshow will convince more Japanese tourists to visit Phuket. I expect the Japanese will soon be back in the top five visitor group to Phuket."

"With more flights to Phuket and special promotions on regular flights, such as the Fukuoka-Tai Pei-Phuket and Fukuoka-Bangkok-Phuket flight routes, plus a strong Yen, we expect more Japanese tourists to Phuket."

A lot depends on how tour operators manage their promotions to support the new market.

Some already have business partners and roadshows can allow them access to new partners in Japan," Mr Phurit added.



Tour agents exchange travel information at a recent tourism exhibition in Fukuoka, Japan.

visitors I've spoken to were impressed, especially in Tokyo."

"We can now look forward to the next roadshow which will be in October at the International Board of Travel (IBT) Asia fair in Singapore," he added.

### LaGuna

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# Football Club sales steady

## Ticketing & Merchandising

By Steven Layne

BUSINESS was steady for Phuket FC during the first half of the 2012 season, with the island's professional club's accounts revealing nearly a million baht in revenue.

Accounts for the 18-team Thai Yamaha One soccer league (Division 1), recently released by league's mother company, Sponsor Thai Premiere League, show that Phuket FC generated a gross revenue of 976,830 baht from March through July.

This sum took into account revenue from ticketing and merchandising; 84% or 820,930 baht alone came from ticket sales, tallied from a total of 17,275 tickets sold.

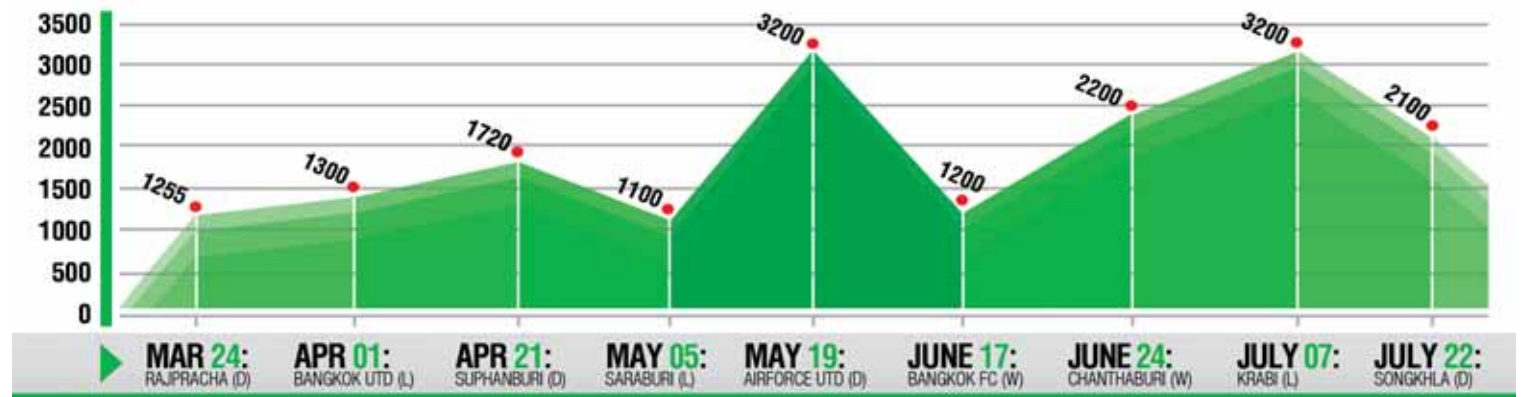
Overall, in the league tally for the highest number of spectators and ticket revenue, Phuket finished mid-table, 9<sup>th</sup>.

The team's remaining revenue of 155,900 baht (16%) came from merchandising – the sale of team paraphernalia including polos, t-shirts, jerseys, scarfs, key chains and bumper stickers – finishing a lowly 12<sup>th</sup> in the league.

Although there were a total of 17 fixtures in the season's first half, the figures only account for revenue generated at the club's nine home matches, played at Phuket's Surakul Stadium.

These include matches against Rajpracha FC (1,255 spectators on March 24), Bangkok United (1,300 on April 1), Suphanburi FC (1,720 on April 21), Gulf Saraburi (1,100 on May 5), Airforce United (3,200 on May 19), Bangkok FC (1,200 on June 17), Chanthaburi FC (2,200 on June 24), Krabi FC (3,200 on July 7) and Songkhla FC (2,100 on July 22).

The statistics do not account for other sources of revenue such as advertising nor food and drink sales and revenue generated



**CATCHING UP:** The graph above shows Phuket FC home match turnout figures during the first half of the season. Image: Gazette Graphics.

at away matches.

Moreover, they do not take into account salaries, facility rental, travel, training and other operational related expenses accrued during the period.

Topping the league in revenue turnover and spectator turnout, four of the top five teams – Nakhon Ratchasima FC, Krabi FC, Ratchaburi Mitrphol and Phatthalung FC – were division newcomers, having just been promoted this season.

The largest league turnout for a single match so far this season was on July 18, when Nakhon Ratchasima hosted Saraburi to a 1-1 draw at Korat's 25,000-seat Chalerm Phrakiet 80 Pansa Stadium.

The Nakhon Ratchasima "Swat Cats" topped the league in ticketing and merchandising, generating some 3.8mn baht from 1.5mn baht sales in merchandise and 2.3mn baht in tickets for nearly 50,000 spectators.

Since the figures were released, Phuket FC has played one more home game, against PTT Rayong on July 28, which had a turn out of 2,200 spectators.

A large turnout is expected at this Sunday's derby match between Phuket and Krabi FC. For more information, see Thai Yamaha One scores and fixtures in Sports, on page 46.



New Phuket kit, coming soon

2012 DIVISION I SEASON TURNOUT & TURNOVER				
Club	Spectators	Tickets (baht)	Merchandise	Total revenue
Nakhon Ratchasima	49254	2332500	1521074	3853574
Suphanburi FC	37690	1918530	820873	2739403
Krabi FC	32060	2109530	607900	2717430
Ratchaburi Mitrphol	24602	1377080	857160	2234240
Phatthalung	23715	1319290	422510	1741800
Songkhla FC	22498	1225050	831577	2056627
PTT Rayong	19284	544364	696674	1241038
Khon Kaen FC	17815	1012500	222600	1235100
<b>Phuket FC</b>	<b>17275</b>	<b>820930</b>	<b>155900</b>	<b>976830</b>
Gulf Saraburi	12922	678880	132050	810930
Bangkok FC	11516	425565	151472	577037
Sriracha Suzuki FC	10597	905951	264000	1169951
Airforce Utd	10339	718140	539758	1257898
Royal Navy	9131	576428	79165	655593
Bangkok Utd	6972	416700	282342	699042
Chanthaburi FC	5962	274560	76788	351348
Rajpracha	5200	371930	53410	425340
JW Rangsit FC	4028	94180	29462	123642
<b>Total</b>	<b>320,860</b>	<b>17,122,108</b>	<b>7,744,715</b>	<b>24,866,823</b>

# HIV prevention pill patent opposed

A COALITION of Thai social welfare groups are standing in opposition to the patenting of a ground-breaking anti-retroviral drug, Truvada, claiming that a patent would be illegitimate and result in a pharmaceutical monopoly.

Initially reported in the Thai media, the coalition, which includes HIV/AIDS patient representatives, submitted a letter in mid July to the Commerce Ministry's Department of Intellectual Property, the Kingdom's patent issuing authority.

The letter requested that the patent application for Truvada, submitted by US-based pharmaceutical firm, Gilead Sciences Inc., not be approved.

They argue that the drug does not meet criteria under the Kingdom's patent laws to qualify as an authentic innovation or invention, on the basis that it is simply a mixture of two existing drugs.

The letter stated that "the combination does not require high

## Pharmaceuticals

technology to prove significant inventive steps."

A combination of Tenofovir and Emtricitabine, Truvada recently received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be prescribed as a first-line defense amongst high-risk candidates such as sex workers.

The drug is preventative, which means that you take it in order to stop the contraction of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The FDA's approval follows a series of trials over the past three years conducted in at least 16 countries, including Thailand, which showed that the drug reduced contraction by as much as 42%.

Opposition figures argue that a patent would make the drug, which up to this point has been prescribed in Thailand to existing HIV/AIDS



Truvada is made from Tenofovir and Emtricitabine. Image: PopSci.com

patients, more expensive and thus inaccessible to many patients.

Chalerm Sak Kittitkul, Campaign Officer for the HIV/AIDS Patients Network Foundation said: "Tenofovir is available in Thailand now for about 810 baht for 30 pills. If the [Gilead Sciences Inc.] company gets a patent for it [Truvada], then the

price [of Tenofovir] will jump to 10,000 baht for 30 pills."

Chalerm Sak added, "The Director-General of the Department of Intellectual Property has received the letter and assured us that the department will consider the matter in its entirety to ensure that patients will have access to the drug in the future."

– Phuket Gazette

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# Don't get mugged by your mates



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

I HAVE been holding off on writing about more email scams, waiting so I can write about nailing somebody and getting them thrown in jail. So far, no luck. But in the past week I've received two messages from people I know, here in Phuket, who have had their email accounts hijacked.

That's quite a coincidence – if it is a coincidence – so I figured I better warn you about the “mugging” scams.

Like the ‘419 scams’ I wrote about in April, these are also considered “Nigerian” scams, even if the perpetrator is living in Los Angeles or London. It's been estimated that email scams are the third largest industry in Nigeria – no, that's not a joke – with an estimated take of US\$100,000 a day just from American victims.

Sorry I didn't inform you about my trip to Spain for a Program, Unfortunately for me all my money along with my bag where my passport and valuable things were got stolen at gun point on my way to the hotel where I lodged, since then I have been without any money, I am even owing the hotel here, so I will like you to assist me with a loan of 2950 Euro to sort-out my hotel bills and to get myself back home. I have reported the incident to the police here but they are not responding to the matter effectively, I will appreciate whatever and any amount you can afford to assist me with, I'll Refund the money back to you as soon as i return, let me know if you can be of any help. I don't have a phone where i can be reached, i only have access to internet here. Please let me know immediately if you can be of any help to my situation.

Thanks,

This came in from a French Yahoo account (@yahoo.fr).

Sorry I had to contact you this way. I left on a trip to United Kingdom for an urgent business. unfortunately i was robbed at the park of the hotel where i stayed all cash/mobile phone and credit cards were stolen. but luckily i still have my passport.

I've been to the Embassy and the Police here but they're not helping issues at all. I urgently need your financial assistance. Could you please loan me £1,650 or any amount you can lend me to sort-out the bills, so i can make arrangements and return back. I will refund you as soon as i get back. Please let me know if you can help. i don't have a phone where i can be reach. so please email me.

I await your response.

Best regards

This came in from a US Yahoo account (@yahoo.com).



Siam International  
38/54 Nanai Road,  
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Siam  
International

❖ Legal consultation      Contact: K. Joy  
❖ Company formations      Tel: 076 346 149  
❖ Notarial                      Fax: 076 346 150  
    certifications              Email:  
❖ Contracts                    siamint@loxinfo.co.th  
❖ Work permits  
❖ Bookkeeping  
❖ Visa service  
❖ Translations



WHO WANTS YOUR MONEY?: The email may seem to be from a friend, but... Photo: Steven DePolo

Here (below left) are the two messages I received, supposedly from Phuket residents, last week.

Both messages were signed with the purported sender's full name, telephone number and address, and both were sent to the email address I use in Thailand. They are absolutely, completely, utterly fake. I couldn't trace the second message, but the first one was sent from Lagos, Nigeria.

Here's how the scam works.

The thief recruits and develops a network of mules, in multiple countries. Frequently the mules are in the countries on visitor or educational visas, or with no visa at all. Good mules must be able to follow directions exactly, and have reasonably good IDs.

There are lots of stories about how the mules get recruited, but in some cases they're local residents who respond to advertisements looking for “mail forwarders” or to “fulfill orders at home.”

The mules are told that they need to collect money sent to them, and forward it to someone else. In payment, they get to keep 10 per cent of the amount of the “order.” A good network of mules is worth its weight in gold. Literally. I've seen evidence that the mules are shared among scammers.

The thief then figures out how to break into your Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo mail account. There are lots of ways to do that. Consider that, in the past year, Steve Thomas has amassed a list of more than 28,000,000 user IDs (many of which are email addresses) and passwords (some encrypted, some plain text), which have been publicly posted on the internet. You can check your email address at his site: W: pwnedlist.com

That isn't the only source of email addresses and passwords. Botnets (which are primarily based on Windows XP computers) collect passwords. Some phishing emails have you “log in”, click a link that supposedly goes to your email account. You type in your email address and password, and the bad guys harvest it. There are many collections of swiped passwords sold in bulk on underground sites.

If the thief can log in to your email account, he (it's usually a “he”) immediately changes the password. That keeps you out of your email account, makes it harder to figure out what happened, and even harder to fix it

Frequently using automated tools (and increasingly using sophisticated CRM methods), the thief sends out the same message to all of the people in your address book. Then the scammer waits for responses. They rarely sit on an account for more than a day. In the interim, you can't get into your account, and may not know why.

If the scammer's smart they use an internet connection that's basically untraceable, such as a Nigerian 3G wireless account, or use a VPN. The fact that they're using Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo mail makes it difficult to trace without a court order, and if you can ever get a court order through, they'll be long gone.

The thief follows a well defined script, possibly adding a twist in the plot along the way. The goal is to get you to send money to one of his mules, via Western Union, Moneygram, or postal money order – all of which are very hard to trace. It's in the scammer's interests to get you to transfer money out of your home country. That makes it virtually impossible to track.

After a day or so the scammer just walks away. You're left with an email account you can't log in to, a bunch of friends who are worried that you got mugged – some of whom may be embarrassed because either (a) they fell for the story and threw away their money to support some scammer, or (b) they fell for the story but were too cheap to help.

How to clean up

afterwards? Each mail provider has their own steps for recovering hacked accounts. For specific information, Google “mail account hacked” and then the name of the service – Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions every other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3 pm. On August 8, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, Seth's going to demonstrate how to make a WiFi parabolic dish – to greatly improve WiFi reception – from a potato chip can. Seriously, it works. 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.



PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN 2015:  
THE BLOGOSPHERE HAS PUBLISHED THE GOOGLE  
WEB HISTORY OF THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE



# Look out for the 'boiler room'

## Retirement Years

By David Mayes

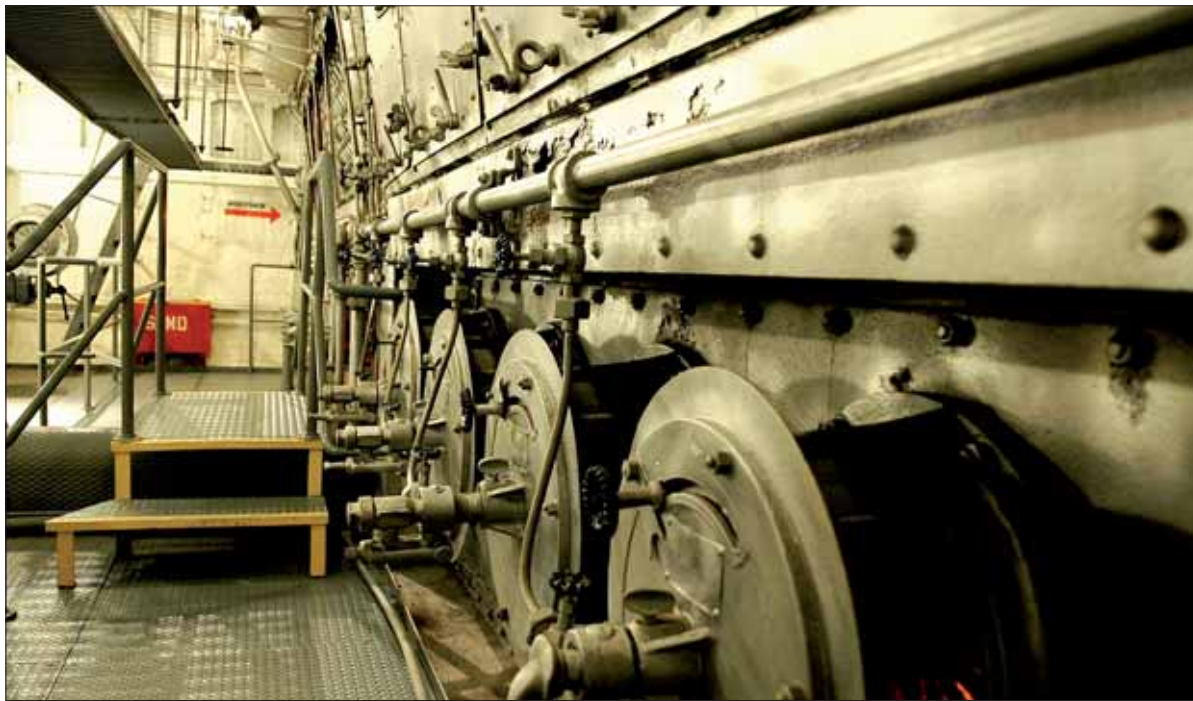
THAILAND occasionally draws the worst from Western society. This week we will deal with some of the worst of the worst and two simple rules, which can ensure that you do not fall prey to their tricks.

In the last month Bangkok police have raided three separate boiler rooms, one alone had scammed a reported US\$ 10million away from their trusting victims. These types of criminals absolutely sicken me, but unfortunately these busts usually do not affect the boss. Within a short period of time they have set up a new operation and lured in a new batch of victims with promises of a quick buck.

A boiler room, for those of you who aren't big Vin Diesel fans, is a room staffed with telemarketers who use illegal or high-pressure sales tactics to sell bogus stock, commodities, or land investments.

These scams have grown increasingly complex over the years and often involve real companies or exchanges. The original scam involved private equity shares of companies, which ultimately end up worthless. Most recently, the flavor of the month has been gold or other commodities.

Great effort is undertaken to



**BOILING POINT:** Don't be fooled by brokerages selling "penny stocks" or committing outright fraud. Photo: Jeff Kubina

make these opportunities look legitimate, but a common thread that runs through them all is almost always the promise of very large returns. I believe the most recent scam I read about involved a bogus gold fund where the victims wired money to an account in Switzerland after being promised 65% returns in a very short time frame.

My first golden rule, to avoid being caught in one of these scams, is to only trust multi-national companies. Of course, I don't trust them either, in the real

sense of the word, but I do trust that they are not boiler rooms. There are many legitimate and honest international financial advisors in the country, but they will always recommend using a very well recognized investment platform, most often run out of somewhere like the Isle of Man. Many of these platforms are run by FTSE 100 or Fortune 500 companies.

Even though most advisors here work for small boutique brokerages, they should never ask you to wire funds directly to them or make a direct placement with some

small asset management company or private equity start-up.

Most legitimate brokerages are independent and have agencies, with a large number of multinational firms located in regulated jurisdictions. Keep in mind that just because they aren't crooks doesn't mean these advisors are worth their salt and their advice could still lose you some money, but at least you are not being scammed out of it.

The second golden rule is to independently verify the account number of the big institution prior

to transferring any funds through. Go on their website and make sure you haven't been given bogus contact information or account details. This verification takes probably five minutes worth of time but ensures that you are really transferring your money where you think you are. Once the funds are transferred, it is too late.

If you follow these two simple rules you may miss out on the occasional "opportunity of a lifetime", but you will dramatically reduce your chances of getting caught in a boiler room scam. Keep in mind that if something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

While there are in fact legitimate investments with the potential to provide extremely high returns, the risk involved in achieving these returns means it needs to be money you can afford to lose (I know of one fund which leverages commodity positions to the hilt and very often cranks out 100% and more. Of course I am sure it will eventually go bust someday and I would never recommend it to a client. When it comes to your life savings it is always better to be safe than sorry.

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

# Eurozone makes Thai markets cautious



**MOODY MARKETS:** As uncertainty over stimulus measures in the West abounds, foreign fund inflows have taken a dive. Photo: Bev Sykes

THE market's mood is likely to remain cautious in the near term, with the worsening Eurozone crisis dampening foreign fund inflows and trading volumes.

Other negative factors for Thai equities are: disappointing export numbers for June (-4.2% vs +4.5% market consensus), a 9.6% year-on-year decline in the Manufacturing Production Index (MPI) in June (vs -2.5% consensus), and the overhang from PTTEP's US\$ 3.1 billion (97.73 billion baht) recapitalisation.

Meanwhile, second quarter (Q2) results are unlikely to lift investor sentiment. Bank earnings

were 6% better than market consensus, but most other sectors should report lackluster results in the second quarter.

However, the telecom sector is expected to report strong year-on-year earnings growth due to lower corporate tax rates, an increase in voice and data revenue and the absence of extra loss items.

Tisco's Economic Strategy team now expects the Bank of Thailand (BOT) to postpone its policy rate normalisation until early 2013 (instead of fourth quarter of 2012 as it previously forecast). This follows the statement by the BOT's Monetary

Policy Committee last Wednesday that rising external uncertainties pose substantial risks to Thailand's export growth and GDP.

Ironically, continued negative news flow from the US and Europe is helping support global stock markets by raising investors' hopes of further policy action from central banks to kick-start economies. Speculation on stimulus measures may increase ahead of the meetings ahead of meetings by the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank.

— The Nation

## Asean Link starts tax exemption

THAILAND'S Revenue Department has agreed to waive intra-regional stock transactions from capital gain tax, to draw investment to Asean stock exchanges, which are being integrated under the Asean Link (that links the stock exchanges of Asean members). At present, investors in the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) are waived from such tax. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the SET praised the Revenue Department's decision, saying that that it would put the investment tax base in the Thai exchange and those in the Asean Link on par.

"The Finance Ministry has issued a ministerial regulation on the capital gain tax waiver. This will erase tax discrepancy and inspire individual investors to invest in Asean-listed stocks," said SEC Secretary General Vorapol Sotiyanurak.

For dividends paid out by overseas incorporated companies listed on the SET, Thai individual investors will be exempted from including the dividend into their annual taxable income. However, such dividends remain subject to a 10 per cent withholding tax. "The SEC, the SET and the Revenue Department have been discussing how to overcome local tax hurdles in order to strengthen the region's linkage and attractiveness," concluded Mr Vorapol.

— The Nation

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# The light locked up amid the darkness

THE year 1785 was a dark time in the history of Phuket. The Burmese had launched a massive invasion against The Kingdom of Siam.

With an army of more than 140,000 soldiers, the Burmese divided themselves into nine main battalions to spearhead the different regions of Siam.

One of those nine armies had marched south, sacking small towns and settlements along the way. With little resistance from local towns and villages, the Burmese invaders soon reached Pak Phra, the narrow strait that separates Phuket from the mainland. It was the only natural obstacle that kept the Burmese army at bay.

Phraya Thammatrailok was tasked with defending the island against the invaders. He recruited many able men from the town of

Thalang and prepared for war.

The locals of Thalang built fortifications on the narrow strait in order to stop the Burmese from landing their men on the shores of Phuket.

When the Burmese launched their attack and tried to cross the narrow sea, Phraya Thammatrailok led his men in an attempt to fend them off. In the battle that followed, Phraya Thammatrailok was killed. The locals of Thalang had lost their commander and they started to flee back to Thalang town. It was a disastrous start to the war and the Burmese had managed to gain a foothold on the island.

To make matters worse, the Governor of

Thalang, Phraya Surintraja Phimon-aya, who had been ill prior to the invasion, died just before the Burmese arrived on the island. He left his wife, Lady

The people of Thalang respected Lady Chan for her courage and nobility. In this hour of need, they were willing to rally behind her leadership.



**HEROINES CELEBRATED:** The statue in Thalang was constructed in honor of the famous sisters. Photo: Sry85

Chan with many unpaid debts owed to the King of Siam. Lady Chan, unable to repay her husband's debts immediately, was arrested and locked up at the fortified camp at Pak Phra.

With Phraya Thammatrailok dead on the field of battle, Thalang had no more skilled or experienced officers left. When news started to spread of the dire situation, the leaderless townspeople of Thalang began to flee with their belongings, deserting their homes.

It was during this time that Lady Chan managed to escape her detainment at Pak Phra and ride back to Thalang. On the way, Lady Chan and her sister, Lady Mook, managed to rally the remaining villagers from Baan Saku, Baan Nai Yang, Baan Mai Khao and a few other villages in the north of the island, back to Thalang town.

Although she was a woman, the people of Thalang respected Lady Chan for her courage and nobility. In this hour of need, they were willing to rally behind her leadership. With her sister, Lady Mook by her side, Lady Chan assumed command of the soldiers of Thalang.

Meanwhile the Burmese had built a military camp at Khok Chana Pama and were preparing to attack Thalang town. The people of Thalang, outnumbered badly, were just waiting for the imminent assault on their town walls.

Lady Chan ordered the men of Thalang to set up their own defenses at Wat Pranang Sang. The Siamese quickly converted the ancient temple into a military camp. In the days that followed, weapons were stored and soldiers were trained within the temple ground.

The monks of Wat Pranang Sang also helped to raise the morale of the men by chanting spells and blessing them.

But in reality, hope was running out for the men of Thalang. They were badly outnumbered and their supplies were running dangerously low.

Meeting the enemy on the open field would be suicidal. Lady Chan knew that the only way to repel the invaders would be to trick them into leaving on their own.

In a move that would make this one of the most often told stories in Phuket history, Lady Chan devised a clever strategy to get rid of the Burmese. She ordered 500 of the Siamese women in Thalang to dress up as male soldiers.

The women cut their hair short like soldiers and wore military uniforms. They then found long pieces of wood, coated them with tin to make them look like swords and carried smoked coconut leaves, which looked like weapons from a distance.

The idea was to fool the Burmese scouts, giving the impression that Thalang had more fighting men defending it than it actually did.

Every day, Lady Chan would order the men and women of Thalang to march into the town and out through the back, making loud noises and cheers to boost morale and intimidate the enemy. They even managed to harass and chase away Bur-

mese soldiers who were scouting too close to the town walls.

Her plan worked. Burmese scouts reported that Thalang had many more troops defending it than they had earlier expected. As a result, the Burmese commander did not dare to directly assault the town, so all he could do was wait.

After a month, supplies were running low for the Burmese. Their commander still did not dare to assault Thalang for fear that he may be outnumbered by the locals.

In addition to that, the locals of Thalang were becoming more aggressive and their counterattacks were becoming more and more frequent.

Finally on March 13<sup>th</sup> 1785, a month after they managed to land on Phuket, the Burmese army decided to retreat back to the mainland and began their long march back to their home.

Thus Thalang was saved by this clever tactic. When King Rama I heard of the bravery and wisdom of the two sisters, he bestowed upon them the title of "Thao", the highest noble rank for a Siamese woman.

Henceforth, Lady Chan and Lady Mook became known as Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn, respectively.

Today the two sisters are still celebrated and deeply respected by Phuket locals. They are remembered fondly as the "Heroines" who saved Thalang during its darkest hour in history.

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

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# Builders' expo brings it home

The Architect and Engineering Exhibition returned to Phuket last weekend for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year

HELD on the second floor of Royal Phuket City Hotel in Phuket Town, from July 26 to 29, the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Architect and Engineering Exhibition gave designers, builders and property owners in Phuket and the greater Andaman coastal region a chance to peruse some of the latest, cutting-edge construction technologies, materials, concepts and products. Here, the *Phuket Gazette's* Andrew Scott speaks with the event's president and organizer, Managing Director of PIC Phuket Co, Thanet Triwut.

**Phuket Gazette: Throughout the 12 years, has the event always been held at Royal Phuket City Hotel?**

Thanet Triwut: One year we were at Jungceylon in Patong and last year at Rajabhat University. We came back to Royal Phuket City Hotel as most of people associate the event with this venue.

**PG: Why was Phuket chosen to host this event?**

TT: Phuket is the heart of the Andaman coastal region, which makes it a center, or hub if you will, for people travelling to and through neighboring destinations such as Ranong, Krabi, Trang, Lanta Island, Phi Phi Island and all the various other islands nearby. Business people tend to come to Phuket once a month to buy items. Phuket offers business owners a wider variety of supplies when compared to other places in the Andaman region. People from Phuket are always building and they like to visit building conventions. Every year there is a big show in Bangkok called the 'Architect Exhibition', which is organized by the Association of Architects of Thailand. However, only business owners and a limited number of people can go to this event. The traveling expenses of going to Bangkok are a lot to ask for people who only plan to spend 50,000 baht. Phuket and the Andaman region has enough business interest to justify holding an exhibition here.

**PG: Why choose to hold the event in July – the middle of tourism low season?**

TT: If you try and talk to hotel owners in the high season [October through March] they are so busy that they won't talk to you. In the high season businesses are selling not buying. When the low season comes they start to plan for the next high season, particularly around April, May and June. By July, they know what they need to buy. The work they do on their business needs to be finished by October, before the high season begins again.



**SHOWCASE:** Organizer Thanet Triwut, left, and Tanan Thanpaibul, center, takes a tour of the exhibition hall last week. Photos: Steven Layne



Wireless security systems (left) and electrical switches were a highlight.



**PG: How do you attract construction material manufacturers, dealers and suppliers to the exhibition?**

TT: The potential to sell in Phuket is high, which is why manufacturers like to come. We try to choose new inventions for the show that you don't find in Home Pro. Manufacturers release new things every year and if you go to Home Pro you might miss a new product as there is so much in that shop. We try to select the best items to come to Phuket. There are 104 booths because Phuket does not have a big convention center, but the exhibition here is more intimate. The show in Bangkok has around 3,000 booths, which some people find to be a little intimidating, as there is so much on display.

**PG: How will this exhibition help to educate people or improve their home or business?**

TT: When you visit the show, you see a

lot of things and obtain new ideas. You get to see things that should be included in a million dollar house. For example, we have an internet phone that costs 800 baht and allows the user to call all over the world.

**PG: Do you have an exhibition up north?**

TT: We do plan to have one in the north, but not yet. I visited Chiang Mai to do some research on hosting an exhibition there and found that the buying power is half that of Phuket.

**PG: What businesses are attracted to the exhibition?**

TT: Hotels from the island and big developers from Bangkok building in Phuket are the main visitors to the show.

*The Phuket Gazette was a proud sponsor of the Architect and Engineering Exhibition.*

**A model shows off a German-made PVC panel by Porpoise, designed for the construction of doors and windows.**




**CUTTING EDGE:** This year's expo included many eye-catching products such as a synthetic roofing material and building panels.



An exhibitor unveils the layers of a synthetic thatched roof.



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# Ron Artis II visits Phuket

By Marc Mulloy

RON Artis II has a lot to be happy about. On May 19 he got married and is currently in Phuket as part of a six month around-the-world 'honeymoon' while the paperwork gets organized to take his German bride back to his home in Hawaii. While waiting for US immigration to digest his dossier he has already visited Austria, Italy, Turkey and was in Phuket last Sunday night.

Although friends and family have dubbed it a 'honeymoon' Ronnie (as he's known by them) spends little time idle as he is a professional musician. Ronnie is the second eldest child of eleven and at 25 is the eldest of the six sons in the "Ron Artis family". Ron Artis II grew up with both music and art, and together with all his siblings was home-schooled by his parents. His father Ron Artis was a well known musician and artist until he passed away in 2010, but his children continue the family tradition and are all involved in music and art.

While in Phuket, Ronnie played a free acoustic session at the Hard Rock Cafe, Patong, to the delight of local music fans. His vocal and guitar talents covered and transcended all genres of music from soulful ballads to frenetic Span-

ish guitar. His self-penned songs were beautiful and timeless and the audience would not let him leave the stage. Accomplished in so many styles of music, he asked the audience to choose a style. Given that Ronnie's grandfather played with BB King I shouted out "blues" and was rewarded with two fantastic blues songs. The concert was also streamed live from his computer back to his fans and family in Hawaii despite it being 2am there.

After the concert we sat down to talk about his talent. Although his father believed in "letting kids be kids", surrounded as he was by so much creativity, Ronnie began learning to play the piano, bass, percussion, saxophone and then the guitar. He only started singing about seven years ago.

"My late father always used to tell us that talent is like water and can be poured from one thing into another whether it's a piano, guitar or just plumbing. You can be a talented musician and an artist and be good at many other things if you put your mind to it," enthused Ronnie.

"We would listen to every style of music and used to paint murals together. On the way



ART IS... ARTIS: Ronnie on stage at the Hard Rock Cafe in Patong. Photos: fotocom agency

we'd listen to the radio and if ever one of us didn't like what we heard dad would say 'Prove to me you are qualified to comment - learn that style and show me how you have improved upon it and then you can talk'. That's why I used to play old jazz and classical [piano] but can play anything now," he added.

Born in California, Ronnie moved to Hawaii at the age of four and believes the island of Oahu, where he lives, is conducive to playing music. "The place is a real 'melting pot' - the number one rule is: respect! One thing I miss, now that I'm away, is Hawaiian music," he said.

Given that he lives with a 'crazy family' of artists aged 7 to 27-years-old we talked about family values.

"My family is really old fashioned. We're all home schooled and keep God at the center of all that we do. Business is good

even though we don't market it as a business.

My brothers and sister keep the spirit of the Ron Artis Family Band flying in Hawaii and they will be performing without me on the first weekend of August at the Pure-Heaven Free Festival." Surrounded as he is by electronic gadgetry, streaming live using his trusty Macbook, the final question I asked him was what he thought about today's music industry and downloading music.

"The music business, as we know it, is gone. My dad was there from the 70s through to the 90s when these two entities came in: young guys from Silicone Valley and young guys making Rap music. The music industry back then did not want either the funny technology nor the angry, yelling music.

So the rap guys went off to remix other people's stuff and

sell it out of the trunks of cars and the young guys from Silicone Valley created a device and said 'we'll buy'.

Nowadays if you invest a million bucks on an artist to release an album, an eight-year-old can take that music off the web and it's gone. So the music business now is all about the independent artist. We are independent artists. We do everything ourselves and if people like us, they support us. We don't get any negative impact from illegal downloads because we attract people who support us. It's a family business and we all help each other."

Ronnie is looking forward to being back with that family in Hawaii at the end of 2012. But before then he plans to continue travelling and playing in Laos, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, India, Germany, Texas and then finally back home with his new wife.

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## Onto the final 'Gig'

PHUKET-based singer Warunee 'Gig' Suwannurak, has made it to the finals of the syndicated Thailand's Got Talent contest.

At the semi-finals last week the small singer with a big voice wowed the judges with her rendition of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*.

Phuket fans were able to get a preview of this song when she sang it on stage at the Cape Panwa Raceweek last month.

Originally from Yala, Gig has been singing since the age of 18 and now at 32 may finally get a chance to win a coveted recording contract with Sony records.

And even if she does not win in the final round, bear in mind that she beat nearly 20,000 people who auditioned to become one of the 12 acts in the finals. Gig has proved that Phuket's got talent too. Try to catch Gig at one of her local gigs soon.

- Phuket Gazette



Gig performs at Raceweek 2012. Photo: Marc Mulloy



# Nothing horsey about Mare

## On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

IT was Mark Twain who remarked that "Climate is what we expect; weather is what we get" – very fitting words after weeks of unsettled weather when visiting an absolute beach hotel such as Centara Grand Beach Resort. I have long since reconciled myself to the downward sides of living in a monsoonal region, but I do draw the line at digging out the pickup's back axle from slimy mud at 6:30 in the morning in order to be on time for work.

Regardless, the weather was delectable the evening we discovered that one doesn't actually have to drive around to the service entrance of Centara and negotiate an almost 45-degree slope down into the property. Doh! No, there's an immediately accessible entrance to the beachside parking on the hill coming out of Karon Beach.

We were there to sample Executive Chef Matteo Verini's cuisine. He, and equally talented Executive Chef, Sandro Aguilera (nope, no relation to Christina) have been cooking up a storm at the resort's signature restaurant Mare. Puzzled, looking around, I saw no female horse and then the Lira dropped with a resounding clang. Mare means "sea" in Italian. For a dizzying moment I had been envisaging steaming peppered horse steaks on wooden plates.

The colonial lines of Mare's design are enhanced by its pink and turquoise marble floors, Romanesque columns and arch-

ways – all of which have a grandiose effect outside while inside, both air con and overhead fans keep diners cool. Still, my request to a passing waitress to turn on the ceiling fans in our alfresco section was instantly and mysteriously dropped into her out tray. Good thing we weren't eating curry, then.

It's definitely an impressive place to take a date (I'd recommend outdoors over the open-kitchen interior, once you get the fans working) and the cuisine is outstanding. For starters we sample a slab of grilled tommino Italian cheese on a bed of fresh tomato with arugula salad and a hint of pesto. This dish is outstanding and reminds me of melted *camembert*, and it's true that Tom is a distant cousin of Bert, only Tom has a longer-lasting after flavor.

From the 50-plus happy juice list we choose a hearty and full-bodied *Rosso di Montepulciano* whose bouquet reminds Stephan the cameraman of "burnt breadcrumbs" proving that French appreciation of Italian fine wine can sometimes border on the poetic.

Following this, a dish of *tagliatelle* with *ragout de canard* and a hint of Parmesan as well, pretty damn good and would have been enough for the evening except that the mains were still to follow. We had filet of *loup de mer* – sea bass to you and me – with herbs, and a zucchini and mushroom accompaniment. Buttery, well presented and fresh as a daisy, it crowns the evening so well that we forego dessert in favor of a decaffeinated Irish coffee and an espresso.

For once, I had done my homework well and had emailed



**FRUITS OF THE SEA:** Mare is most famous for its delicious seafood such as grilled shrimp with fresh vegetables.

other food reviewers to ask them their opinion of this beachside extravaganza and subsequently received replies enthusing about Mare's Sunday lunch. Sandro explains that, after having checked out the main players in the Sunday brunch/lunch scenario here on Phuket, Mare is the only outlet that offers *a-la-minute* meat dishes, rather than the *mis-en-place* platters available in other resorts that have latched onto this cash cow.

Go figure: hundreds of guests, each paying up to 1,700 baht adds up to millions. Admirably, Mare draws the line at 100 diners, though, and the next Sunday lunch,

usually presented on the first Sunday of each month, has been deferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> of August, to mark the Queen's birthday.

To honestly sum up the Mare experience I'd say that both Matteo and Sandro do a sterling job when it comes to fresh, genuine dishes but that the service needs a bit of improving: Maybe Mare is understaffed but since when does a food critic/diner have to go begging for a wine list and then pour his own glasses?

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**Chef Matteo Verini** at work.



**THAT'S AMORE:** The outside seating area can be warm but is a great place to take someone on a date.

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Ministry of Education Inspector General Sutthasri Wongsaman.



ALL FOR ONE: Banners from each of the eleven countries represented by ASEAN were on display at the seminar.

# AEC means education reform

By Chutharat Plerin and Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

A TOP official at the Ministry of Education has called for a boost in literacy rates and raising the minimum age before students can leave school as just two measures to be taken to ensure that Thai students remain competitive in the Southeast Asia job market.

Ministry of Education Inspector General Sutthasri Wongsaman delivered her comments to more than 500 education personnel, teachers and students from all 14 provinces in Southern Thailand gathered at a seminar at The Metropole hotel in Phuket Town on July 26.

The seminar aimed to highlight the role of education in maintaining Thailand's competitiveness among the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) after the ASEAN Economic

Community (AEC) trade agreements come into effect in 2015.

"Thailand is one great nation. We have outstanding identity, culture and resources. All we have to do now is use an appropriate strategy to develop our country in preparation for AEC 2015," said Inspector General Sutthasri.

Ms Sutthasri also highlighted language skills, computer skills and management skills as key areas that needed focusing on. "When children graduate, they should have enough knowledge and skills to be able work anywhere in the 11 ASEAN countries," she said.

"We also need to develop the quality [of education] of our citizens, by starting with education. We need to develop the educational system from the primary level right through to higher education. Our children need to be as skilled as children of other nations, at an academic level as well as in voca-

tional skills," she said.

Improving basic literacy was a fundamental issue that must be tackled, Ms Sutthasri said. "Throughout Thailand, 5.9 per cent of the population are still illiterate. We will have to solve that problem – and soon, before we join the AEC. Therefore, we have launched our 'Ed for All' project to help bring the illiteracy rate down to zero," she explained.

Another key issue was encouraging students to stay at school longer: "Thai law requires children to receive at least nine years of schooling, and our statistics show that most Thais aged from 15 to 60 have received 9.1 years of education.

"Our goal is to set the minimum required education to 12 years. This would enhance the ability of our citizens to be as competitive as people from other ASEAN countries," she said.

Ms Sutthasri also warned that joining the AEC will demand greater skills in communicating in a foreign language. "Two languages that will be important for [being within] the AEC are English and Mandarin. After leaving school, students should be able to communicate in a foreign language in order to do business with foreigners or go to work in other countries," she explained.

"Therefore, the Ministry of Education has launched a project to provide special teachers to teach English and Chinese. It is also important that the education staff who teach subjects in a foreign language are well educated in the subject that they are teaching, so we are also providing special training for teachers in order to achieve that goal," Ms Sutthasri said.

The Inspector General called on parents to take an active role in developing their children's education. "Whether or not children become good students all depends

on the home environment. School is where children enhance their knowledge, but everything else starts at home.

Building a good, strong foundation through the family is the best way to inspire children do well at school. Parents should always give advice and pay attention to their children's education. Homework and assignments from school are something parents can get involved with," she advised.

"If parents communicate with their children and their teachers on a regular basis, I believe this will make learning much easier for children. It will also make the student has high quality to be an important force of society in the future," she added.

Somsri Sakesuwan, Assistant Marketing Director of the Nation Multimedia Group, described the importance of joining the AEC in terms of global competitiveness: "The AEC enables ASEAN to actively compete with other regions in terms of economics by having a mutual manufacturing base, including goods transportation, business completion, and particularly investment and independent labor."

Ms Somsri explained that 10 ASEAN member nations had signed a "Mutual Recognition Arrangement" so that qualifications in skills and education in

seven fields of work are now understood as equally comparable among the 10 signatory countries.

The seven fields of work were: engineering services, architectural services, nursing services, surveying qualifications, dental practitioners, medical practitioners and accountancy services.

"In the future, ASEAN will add tourism qualifications and skills certificates to the list," she said.

"We see that getting ready for the AEC is very important. That's why the Nation has joined this ASEAN 'mobile event' – so we could be a part of the development stage and urge Thailand to be ready for the AEC," she added.

The seminar at The Metropole hotel was the third edition of a "mobile expo" organized by the Ministry of Education, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce and the Nation Multimedia Group.

The first "ASEAN Expo" was held in Bangkok, and the second in Chiang Mai. Next stop will be Nakhon Ratchasima and the series will conclude with a final edition in Bangkok.

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# Not the only show in town

## Don Mueang set to re-open for low-cost carriers



### Aviation

By Alastair Carthew

THE re-opening of Bangkok's almost 100-year-old Don Mueang airport for low cost and charter carriers has been criticised by aviation authorities who favor a one airport policy for the capital – but for travellers to and from Phuket, Don Mueang could in fact, be a boon.

The airport, closed by last year's floods, will open with only one terminal and has a golf course running through the middle of it. It will also require a fifty-minute dash across Bangkok's notoriously clogged streets to Suvarnabhumi Airport to make any connection.

But fear not, there is good news too.

Firstly, the floods may recur, but the likelihood of them closing Don Mueang again are low. Secondly, a red light halts golfers when an aircraft is landing so a golf ball getting into an engine is extremely unlikely. Lastly, the number of airlines connecting to domestic and international destinations through Don Mueang is about to grow dramatically, affording travellers more options than before.

Sure, passengers to Phuket on full-service airlines would need to make the mad fifty-minute dash if they were booked on a low cost carrier to Phuket on a full service carrier landing at Suvarnabhumi, or vice versa. But most travel agents – and travellers who plan their own itineraries – would avoid this type of arrangement and book a connecting flight, in transit, through Suvarnabhumi.

But from October of this year, if you are travelling on any of the following low cost carriers



**SUVARNABHUMI:** Designed to handle only 45 million passengers each year, Bangkok's main airport is already over capacity. Photo: David McKelvey.

out of Bangkok to domestic and international hubs you can choose from: Air Asia, Indonesia AirAsia, Nok Air, Nok Mini (operated by Siam General Aviation) Orient Thai Airlines, P.C. Air, Thai AirAsia, T'way Airlines, Blue Panorama Airlines, Business Air, Cebu Pacific, Happy Air, Indigo, Jetairfly, Jetstar Airways, Jetstar Asia Airways, Jin Air, Scoot, South East Asian Airlines, Spring Airlines, Sunny Airways, Thai Regional Airlines and Tiger Airways.

These airlines fly to areas such as Phuket (Business Air, Orient Thai Airlines, Thai AirAsia – Happy Air flies out of Phuket to Roi Et and Ranong) and many other domestic destinations, as well as Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Milan, Singapore, Manila, Delhi, Brussels, Melbourne, Shanghai

and Frankfurt.

So, if you are booked on a low cost carrier from Phuket to Bangkok, there will be a multitude of ongoing destinations you can take out of Don Mueang that were not there before. Just remember low cost carriers are point to point, so you would need to make separate bookings for each airline.

Don Mueang's last official flight was on September 27-28, 2006 with only Nok Air and Orient Thai Airlines left operating there. Thai AirAsia moved to Suvarnabhumi.

If you are stopping off in Bangkok, Don Mueang offers some attractive advantages over Suvarnabhumi. While it doesn't have a rapid rail service (which has its critics anyway) it does have direct access to the expressway and tollway and is a



**DON MUEANG:** Nearing its centennial anniversary, the 'Grand Old Dame' of Bangkok will see new life after last year's floods. Photo: Neajjean

lot closer than the other airport. Don Mueang is considerably smaller and will operate only one of its two original terminals, so the long walks associated with Suvarnabhumi are reduced.

Out on the airstrip, Don Mueang's runway has not experienced the considerable problems Suvarnabhumi's runways have, with repairs causing huge delays, diversions and loss of income for airlines and importers. It doesn't have a radar problem making the control tower inoperative from time to time and inside the single terminal, an immigration counter congestion with queues up to two hours long. Suvarnabhumi's list of problems since opening, many would say prematurely, in 2006, are now legend and reflect badly on Thailand's image.

It remains to be seen if the Don Mueang solution will help improve the situation. It has basically been forced upon the Airports Authority of Thailand since Suvarnabhumi, designed to take 45 million passengers a year, is already expected to reach 51 mn this year with no hope of new facilities being available in the near future.

Don Mueang could soon be at its designed capacity of 14.5 mn passengers a year, such is the growth in low cost carriers servicing Thailand. Thai AirAsia is projected to reach 8 million passengers this year and Nok Air handles about 4 million. With a total of 21 airlines expected to be operating out of Don Mueang by October this year, the old airport will also be pushed to capacity fairly quickly.

## Record numbers travel through Thai Airports

THAILAND'S airport operator is hopeful that its business will still be expanding well in spite of the impact of last year's severe flooding. Airports of Thailand (AOT) President Flying Officer Anirut Thanomkulbutra said that AOT celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on July 1. Mr Anirut said that, during the first eight months of the current fiscal year, 47.74 million travelers flew in or out of all six AOT-operated airports, on 319,765 flights. Moreover, the company's performance in the first half of fiscal 2012 posted a nett profit of 4.25 billion baht, which is 1.54 bn baht or 57.19% higher than the same period of last year.

The AOT President went on to say that the flood crisis in late 2011 and the ongoing Eurozone debt crisis have not had serious impacts on the company's operations. For the current fiscal year, AOT forecasts that 52.2 mn passengers will fly through Suvarnabhumi Airport, with 9.1 mn traveling through Phuket Airport. Overall, AOT is looking to achieve record passenger traffic of 70.9 mn on a total of 476,159 flights flying through all of its six airports. When compared with 2011, this year's target represents a 7% increase in passenger numbers and a 7.9% rise in the number of flights.

– Public Relations Department

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**NEW BRANCH 'SAMUI'**



# A last grab for the golden ring

JOHN Irving wrote three small competent novels before stumbling upon mega-pay dirt with his fourth.

In 1978, *The World According to Garp* was, like *Love Story* and *Fear of Flying*, the novel that people who don't read novels read. It won the National Book Award and was made into a hit movie with Robin Williams.

The novel struck a nerve in the American public because it took on the Women's Liberation Movement from the positive perspective of an avidly heterosexual writer and wrestler. Its moral was: be nice to women.

I enjoyed his next two novels, *The Hotel New Hampshire* and *The Cider House Rules*, which again were made into movies. But, since then, this star has steadily waned.

Where formerly a new John Irving novel was announced on the front page of the New York Times Review of Books, this time around he is consigned to Page 11 and the reviewer is not a Big Gun but a woman who wrote a minor lesbian memoir and whose review is decidedly lame.

The novel in question, John Irving's thirteenth, is *In One Person* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2012, 425pp). Like all of his post-*Garp* novels, it is too long. Irving would call his novels Dickensian. I would call them fat.

*In One Person* seems another grasp at the golden ring of outrageous fame. The similarities to *Garp* are legion. The bulk of the action takes place at an all-boys

## Books

By James Eckardt

boarding school in rural New England. Like *Garp*, the hero, Billy Abbott, is missing a father. There is a great focus on wrestling, involving both the villain of the novel and the heroine.

The book also takes a long side trip to Vienna.

As in *Garp*, just about everybody... (we'll let you find out). The moral this time around is: be nice to gays – and lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals. *In One*

True sentiment only makes its arrival late in the novel with harrowing descriptions of the AIDS plague that cuts down a number of the novel's characters.

*Person* plunges into a market roiled by the question of gay marriage.

The novel lacks, first, the quirkiness and humor of Irving's best seller of 34 years ago. But still in place, and more exaggerated than ever, are Irving's trademark literary tics.

He is overly fond of the misuse of italics (and chunks of sentences

squared off by parentheses).

Billy Abbott's large and eccentric family is headed by a cross-dressing lumber magnate. The town librarian, Miss Frost, is six foot two with suspiciously broad shoulders and large hands. Billy's father turns out to have been an exceptionally beautiful player of Shakespeare's female roles. Two of Billy's classmates turn to drag in adulthood.

You can see where this is heading. Billy becomes a famous bisexual novelist. He has affairs with men and women and transsexuals. But all these encounters lack passion.

Even Billy's first lovemaking session with Miss Frost is described mechanically.

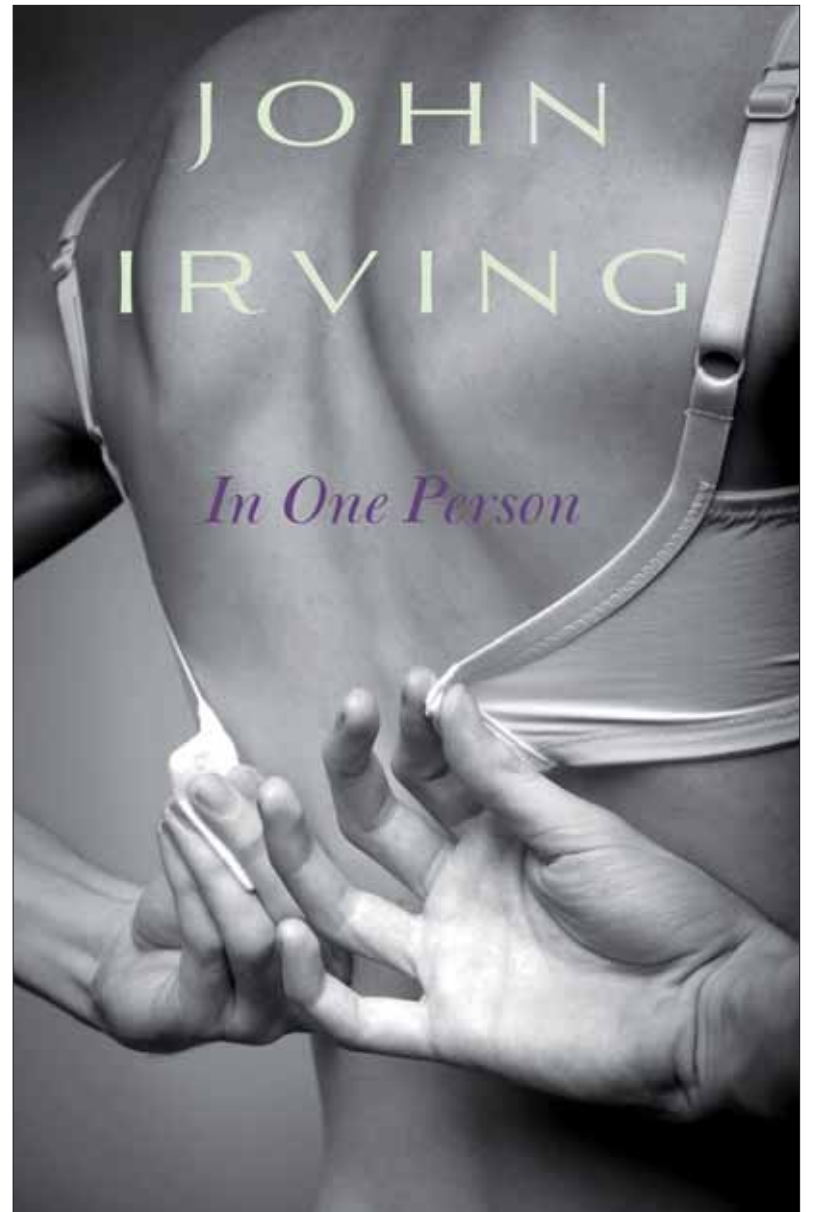
In Vienna he has his first romance with a woman, an American opera soprano named Esmeralda. This is how he describes it:

"If I had hesitated to have my first actual girlfriend experience, a part of the reason was that I'd discovered that I liked anal intercourse. (I liked it a lot!). No doubt there was a part of me that feared what vaginal intercourse might be like."

And three pages later:

"Thus I was introduced to a vagina... For someone who had long viewed that part with trepidation, I was introduced to a vagina in ways I found most intriguing and appealing. I truly loved sex with Esmeralda, and I loved her, too."

Billy gives us report cards



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO IRVING: John Irving's latest novel makes a relatively unexciting bisexual writer's life seem mediocre.

rather than feeling. True sentiment only makes its arrival late in the novel with harrowing descriptions of the AIDS plague that cuts down a number of the novel's characters. These are powerful passages, heartbreaking, and only rarely tinged with sentimentality.

The novel runs right up to 2010 when Billy Abbott is pushing 70. He has returned to his

old boarding school to put on Shakespeare's plays. The school has long gone co-ed and even has an LGBT club.

His lead actress in *Romeo and Juliet* is a budding 17-year-old aspiring transsexual named Georgia, described as "a knockout".

This is progress.

But over all *In One Person* remains a cumbersome and mediocre novel.

# Total rip-off

## Film

### Total Recall

**Starring:** Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel, Bryan Cranston

**Director:** Len Wiseman

**Phuket Release Date:** August 2

PHILIP K Dick wrote provocative and dark science fiction stories that played upon the paranoia of the readers. Arguably the best movie adaptation of his work is *Blade Runner*, but even that magnificent piece of celluloid sci-fi was more an evocation of the idea behind Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* than it was a faithful retelling of the tale.

1990's Schwarzenegger blockbuster *Total Recall* was Paul Verhoeven's attempt to bring *We Can Remember It for You Wholesale* to the screen. For all its ham

and cheese, it's a pretty nifty sci-fi action movie, although its Dickian premise was glossed over to stop the kiddies having nightmares. The protagonists name was even changed – from Douglas Quail to Douglas Quaid to suit Arnie's action hero persona.

Twenty-two years later and you would hope that the movie industry has grown up enough to trust the viewer with a serious and accurate retelling of the Dickian dystopias. But No.

The new *Total Recall* is an uneven remake of the Arnie flick and has even less to do with the Dick story. Even Quail/Quaid's first name gets mangled down to Doug. Does Hollywood believe that attention spans have shrunk so much people can't handle full names anymore?

The Mars aspect of *Total Recall* – mentioned as a halcyon ideal in the Dick story and mercilessly exploited in the Arnie flick – has been totally forgotten in this remake.



Perhaps man achieving something as noble as colonizing another planet did not fit with the thoroughly bleak future director Len Wiseman has envisioned for us. Instead he gives us everything else that was in the Arnie version, without Arnie, some stuff about politics and lots and lots of *Blade Runner* sets.

Colonizing Mars may seem ridiculous to Mr Wiseman, but extraneous mammary glands still somehow make the cut.

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# Adisak Pitakrojananont

ADISAK Pitakrojananont is a self-professed introvert, a trait he admits sits at odds with a job in the hospitality business.

However, as general manager of Mom Tri's Villa Royale, Adisak is committed to making guests feel welcome and their stay special. His dedication to work speaks for itself: Under his charge, this boutique hotel has bagged Trip Advisor's award of excellence for two years running, in 2011 and 2012. Adisak believes that it's all about service.

"I constantly remind my staff that a memorable experience is not just a pretty view or a smart décor, but more to do with the human factor. I urge them to deliver their best and be super friendly," he explains.

In turn, Adisak treats his employees like family members. They have nicknamed him "brother Dan", and he says the staff turnover is low.

Part of the success is also because he likes his job and is proud to be working for "this extraordinary place," and "a very special boss", referring to the resort's owner and legendary Thai architect Mom Luang Tridhoshuyuth Devakul, with whom he has been working for the past 22 years.

A veteran of the hospitality business, Adisak, 49, started his career working for the Phuket Yacht Club. When Mom Tri opened the famed Boathouse on



Kata Beach, Adisak became the head of staff. Sheer hard work has seen him move quickly through the ranks. He became Villa Royale's general manager nine years ago. Adisak explains that the resort has its origin as Mom Tri's summer house.

It has since been redesigned by the architect into a boutique hotel that retains the warmth and coziness of a family home. As a result, Mom Tri's Villa Royale remains one of the most exclusive hotels on Phuket's west coast.

Adisak, who hails from Rajburi Province in central Thailand, reveals that his childhood was uneventful. But one key moment stays in his mind, an experience that has become a guiding principle in his life.

Adisak recalls trying to swim across the nearby Rajburi River as a young teenager, oblivious to its expansiveness. Struggling to keep afloat, he remembers a passing rice barge on whose stern he managed to cling on.

The near-death experience, he says, taught him to appreciate life and what it has to offer. "What keeps me going is my optimism

and a strong belief in mankind. It must have been the merit I made in my last life that saved me. This realization makes me appreciate the world even more. I love my job and the people I work with and always find happiness in small things," says Adisak.

To keep a work-life balance, Adisak works out at a gym every day after work. He really enjoys going to bookstores, in which he can be seen potting about during weekends, buying his favorite magazines and familiarizing himself with the latest best-sellers. He is, he says, nurturing a secret desire to be a writer. "My friends think I write well and encourage me to take up writing seriously."

On the future of Phuket, Adisak adds that: "Phuket has changed almost beyond recognition. It's now up to all of us to help save it."

Adisak is doing his bit. Together with Kata Thani Hotel next door, the hotel staff cleans up Kata Noi Beach once a month. Mom Tri's Villa Royale, he says, manages its waste water and diverts it away from the sea.

"We don't let the dirty water go anywhere near the sea. I would myself hate to swim in it otherwise. This is just common sense. To be environmentally friendly, you don't have to be too ambitious. Start small, and do whatever you can but do it," says the soft-spoken manager.



## 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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**SEA AND BE SEEN:** Prestigious skincare brand 'La Mer' was launched at the Sri Panwa Hotel recently. At the event was the new La Mer ambassador, Thai pop musician and actor Mr. Jetrin Wattanasin (below left).



**STELLAR PERFORMANCE:** Malaysia Airlines has been awarded 5-star status in the SKYTRAX World Airline Awards. Collecting the award at the recent ceremony was Malaysia Airlines' Group CEO, Mr. Ahmad Jauhari Yahya.



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# YOUR Phuket



**FLAMIN' 'ECK :** The British Business Association of Phuket (BBAP) recently held their own 'Alternative Olympics' at the Island Lager bar. From left are gold medalists Paul Norris, Byron Jones and David Brook.



**HAIL TO THE CHIEF:** Larry Amsden was recently sworn in as the new president of Rotary Club of Patong Beach. Photo: Willy Youdaman



**BUILDING RELATIONS:** Phuket Gazette publisher John Magee and GM Natthira Susangrat offer flowers to PIC Phuket MD Thanet Triwut at the opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Architect and Engineering Exhibition, while former president of the Phuket Real Estate Association Tanan Tanphaibul looks on.



**AMUSING:** Phuket's kids (above and below) enjoyed the recent arrival of the 'Muse mobile', a mobile museum project created by The National Discovery Museum Institute, which is in Saphan Hin until the end of October.



**SHOWING OFF:** OpusOne Phuket recently presented a 'Glamour Escape' fashion show featuring 13 supermodels on the catwalk.



**POOL YOUR RESOURCES:** Centara Karon Resort held its first of a series of 'Pool Parties' designed to enhance the guests' experience during their stay.



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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 16 - Aug 15, 10am to 6pm: Chanintr Imported Furniture Outlet up to 75% off

A Chanintr Living Special Event is coming to Phuket from Bangkok. Be the first to shop for hundreds of modern and traditional pieces of imported brand name furniture at up to 75 per cent off on selected brands. July 16 - August 15, from 10am to 6pm at Häfele Design Center on Chalerm Prakit (Bypass) Road, opposite Big C.

### August 3 and 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 Angeles

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 Sat- urday 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 our fish and meats and in the bakery we bake all our own bread. With

## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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: Centara Grand Sunday Family Lunch

Celebrate National Mother's Day on HM the Queen's birthday. Especially for Mother's Day at Mare Restaurant. We are offering a family get together lunch with special promotions and lots of surprises for moms. Savor 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 baht, guests 650 baht. For more information or to register please contact info@phuketiwcc.com. The club is a social network providing educational opportunities for needy children in Phuket.

### 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 today. Booking ends on August 16.

### August 24, 4:30 to 6pm: AMCHAM Seminar

The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Greater Phuket Chapter is co-ordinating with local welfare groups to hold a seminar on Best Green Tourism Practices in Phuket. Registration starts at 4pm with the session



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running from 4:30 to 6pm. Attendance is open to the public for 100 baht, and includes drinks. To register visit W:amchamthailand.com or contact Sheree Tanpensuk at 02-254-1041, ext 212.

### August – September: Por Tor, “Hungry Ghost” Festival

Por Tor Festival starts the first week of August and runs through the last week of September. The festival originated in ancient Chinese folklore. Every 7<sup>th</sup> lunar month of the Chinese calendar, the gates of hell open and hungry ghosts roam around the Earth in search of gratification. It all started with a monk named “Mahayana”, who, after his

transcendence, searched for the souls of his deceased parents.

### August (date to be announced): Phuket Fireworks Festival

The Phuket Fireworks Festival sees 4,000 spectacular explosions light up the night sky in one of Phuket's most popular events. The scale of the display means that, not only are the fireworks visible from their origin at Saphan Hin, but they can easily be enjoyed from vantage points on Rang Hill, restaurants and bars in Phuket Town, and all around Phuket. The organizers are hoping the festival will develop into a major international event.

## Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

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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. A mere part defines the criterion (9)  
10. Or never a possibility to be too close for comfort (8)  
12. Morning, I'd get amongst it (4)  
13. Riven apart, taken to show reverse position (6)  
14. Liar, e'er exposed aforetime! (7)  
15. Ode, by very arrangement, for humankind (9)  
17. Hint at pay causing hostility (9)  
18. Passage of time right, isn't a change (7)  
20. Go, following note, come back (6)  
21. Mean badly, so be it (4)  
24. Suggest sharing a relationship (8)

26. Like a close female relative can be in style, Sir! (8)

28. Move carefully in each direction (4)

29. Hip, relaxed, quiet hotel I find in an island off Phuket (3,3)

31. Hot in an unregulated Phuket place (3,4)

34. Broken wrist, I sue, publish legal document (9)

36. These days, attempt an exciting experience (9)

38. The smallest could be married in one, Mother (7)

39. Fled on breaking embrace (6)

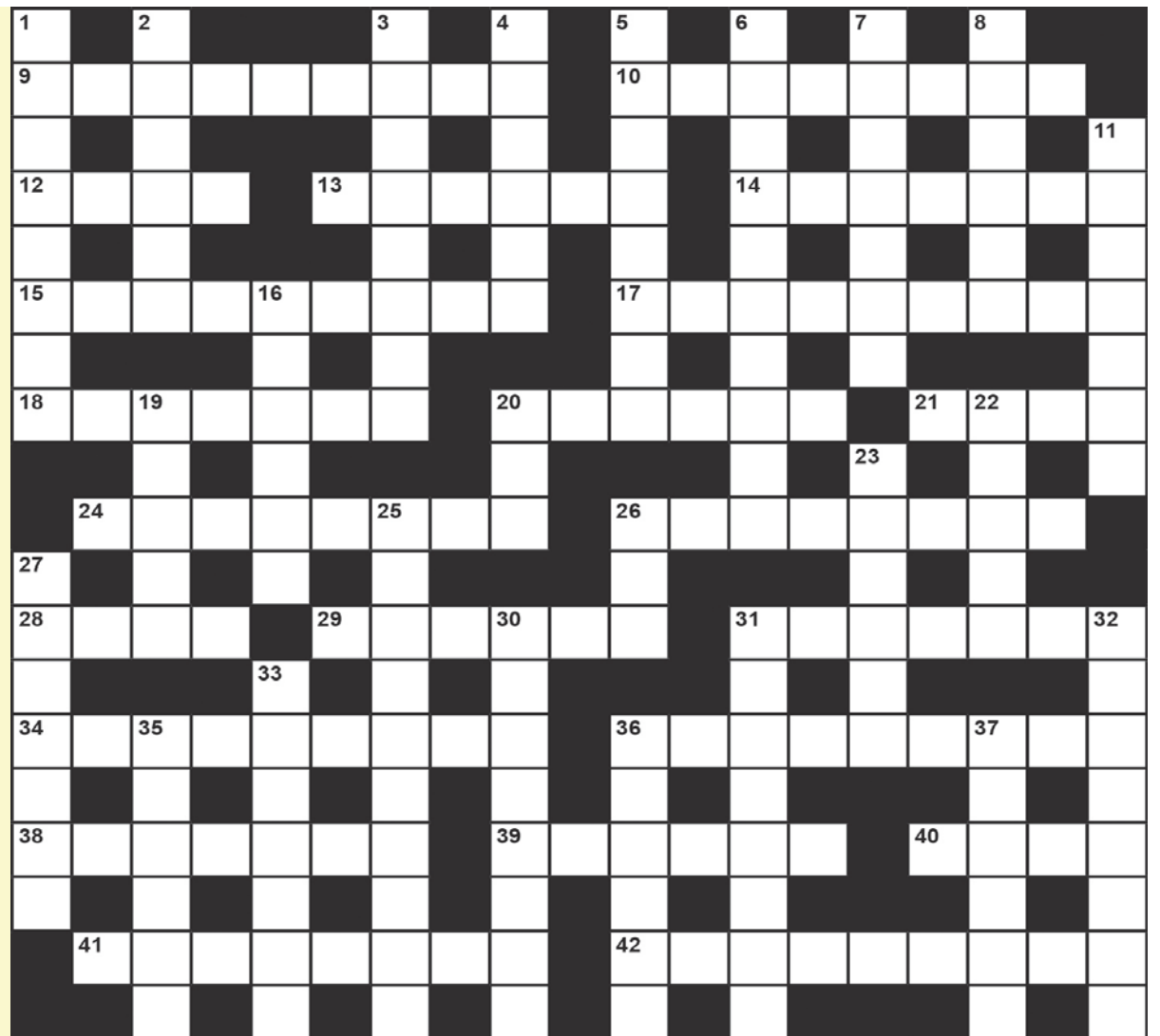
40. Or a liberal type of examination (4)

41. Ten creep about in deception (8)

42. Coin taxes, contains exorbitant demands (9)

### Down:

1. Easy to see parapet could be



about new (8)

2. Commend penny increase (6)

3. Be obvious, astound, about time! (5,3)

4. No charge left unknown without reservation (6)

5. Shorten the agreement (7)

6. French of note see turn around in unsecured loans (10)

7. Unavailable energy for prey not disturbed (7)

8. Unhappy finding it's one who inflicts pain (6)

11. As no cry results, colors (7)

16. Unknown Sires possibly got obsequious affirmative (3,3)

19. Maybe stun a number of female relatives (5)

20. Evergreen regret! (3)

22. Producing milk in very small measure by church (5)

23. Maybe begin new kind (6)

25. Rigidly following these times, at this place men, on time! (10)

26. Thus I find a Thai side-street (3)

27. Spiritualists' agencies (7)

30. Pete trod around, went without hurrying (8)

31. No slave may be left in short prose works (8)

32. Unnecessary requirement, not so much (8)

33. Allows documents of authorization (7)

35. Guard the South gate (6)

36. Name a liberal fellow-communist (6)

37. To pour out, remove from usual location (6)

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

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



A lot of hot air is forecast to be circulating this week and Leos should stick to the facts. The stars advise that decisions should be delayed until you are more certain of what is going on. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming week have good chance of enjoying fame and fortune in the year ahead. Auspicious days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Your lucky color is seashell pink.

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



Good news at work should motivate Virgoans to put more concentrated effort in as August commences. Your tendency to pay attention to detail will be an advantage, as others are forecast to be careless. A family issue falls under the spotlight this weekend – the stars suggest that you may have been ignoring signals sent by a fire sign relative. Where romance is concerned, another earth sign can't get you out of their mind.

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



Travel is well-starred for those born under the sign of Libra during the first half of August. An invitation from overseas could provide opportunity to take a last minute summer vaca-

tion. There are hints that this might involve opportunity for those ready for romance. Closer to home, you will be on the same wavelength as an air sign this weekend. Wear the color bronze to encourage better luck with money.

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



Scorpios could be concerned that others are having more success in the world of work, but the stars suggest time is on your side. A slow moving situation is predicted to be stirred by another water sign midweek and this should lead to action being taken. Your luck in loves improves towards the middle of the month – attention from an air sign will be welcomed by those who are single.

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



A shot in the dark pays off for Sagittarians trying to alter the direction of their working life. The stars indicate that an earth sign will respond well to a spontaneous approach. Your romantic outlook is mixed until the middle of the month – those who want to become involved with an air sign could find that their intentions are misinterpreted this weekend. Love with a water sign looks a likely prospect.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

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



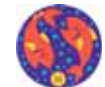
An offer of help from an air sign could come with a hidden price early next week. Capricorns are advised to ask tactful questions before accepting support from this person; Thursday is the most auspicious day to get honest answers. Your luck with money gradually increases, but the stars advise that financial transactions could be subject to mistakes midweek. Romance with another earth sign blossoms, but a fire sign's attitude starts to get your goat.

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



Your energy is high this week and much can be achieved during the first half of August. This is an auspicious time for Aquarians who have been stuck in a rut to find inspiration. The stars suggest that a fire sign's suggestion could prompt you to set your sights higher. Listening to other air signs is not recommended as jealousy may affect their advice. Your lucky color this week is cinnamon brown.

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



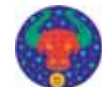
Keeping your cool in the world of work could be a challenge this week. The stars indicate that many Pisceans will be faced with a situation involving a hot headed colleague. The best approach is to walk away and allow others with better communication skills to sort this matter out. Money matters are well starred until the middle of the month, with signs of a payment coming out of the blue.

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



This is an ideal time to take the initiative. As August progresses, those born under the sign of Aries are forecast to see opportunities to prove their worth, both in the world of work and on a personal level. Property matters are well starred, with focus on home improvement or relocation. Those whose partner has been less than keen on moving to fresh pastures will appreciate a change of heart.

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



Those born under the sign of Taurus who have been drifting with the tide are forecast to be enlightened during the first half of August. The stars suggest that a work related dream has good chance of com-

ing true, although this will probably mean dropping some current commitments. Love is in the air this weekend – a fire sign's interest will be hard to miss. Your lucky color this week is mango orange.

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



Your stubborn streak could prevent relationships being smooth this week, whether this means working ones or the personal kind. Geminis are advised to respect others' points of view, even if they don't agree with them. The stars advise that another air sign will not appreciate being challenged midweek and this could affect your luck in business. Fortunate days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday. Wear the color lemon to encourage a mellower mood.

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



It could be easy for Cancerians to be distracted by other people's problems this week. There are hints that an earth sign who you helped earlier this year has hopes for a big return of favor. Monday is the most auspicious day to make your position clear. Love with a fire sign burns brightly, but a casual relationship with another water sign could wash up due to lack of mutual interest.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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

## Living a pure life

By Andrew Scott

THE scenic drive through a quiet village, zig-zagging past children walking back from school, glancing briefly at a laid back Thai way of life in a quiet corner on this hectic island, is a joy that should be savored.

Pura Vida Villas are nestled between Nai Thon and Nai Yang and if it wasn't for the numerous signs showing you the way, you wouldn't even know the four villas were there.

They were conceived and designed by Oliver Hartwig with the help of Swiss investors. The project was built with the aim of selling for 21.9 million baht to

23.9mn baht. Oliver was so happy with his design, he made one of them his home.

When the villas failed to sell, because of the financial crash, a change of tact was needed and they were opened up to the rental market, but if guests really enjoy their stay, the villas are still on the market.

The surrounding areas are full of well established hotels like Indigo Pearl, Adamas Resort and



**POOLING RESOURCES:** The infinity pool help guests relax after a hard day on Phuket.

Spa and Malaiwana. Competition from the hotels makes attracting customers a tough proposition but the market for

visitors who want to stay in 'a home away from home' is starting to grow

in Phuket. The privacy, luxury and feel of home attracts families and couples alike.

The villas are popular with Europeans and recently more and more Middle-Eastern fami-

lies. Asian guests tend to come from Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

The villas offer guests luxury boutique living in natural surroundings on plots from 1,200 square meters to 1400sqm. The well maintained gardens have a 12x4 meter infinity swimming pool and a sala.

For guests who enjoy outdoor eating the villas come with a BBQ. If indoor eating is your thing, then the fully equipped kitchen with microwave, oven and dishwasher will keep the chef in the family happy.

If cooking is not something you want to do on holiday, the villas offer an in-villa breakfast service for an extra fee and there

are many restaurants in the area.

Blue Canyon Country Club is a ten minute drive away and this helps the villas attract couples and families on golfing holidays, who don't want to spend the entire trip on the golf course.

With modern amenities you would expect from a high-end villa, a steam room to help guests unwind and free airport transfer, Pura Vida offers the same services as a hotel but with the added bonus of not having to share the facilities with other guests.

For more information on Pura Vida Villas, visit W: [puravidaphuket.com](http://puravidaphuket.com), E: [puravida@bluewin.ch](mailto:puravida@bluewin.ch) or call T: 0836376237.



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# Oh yes, that is your job



**Property Watch**

**By Bill Barnett**

THERE are few insults, phrases or innuendos that can drive me into such a blind and hateful rage as the utterly blank stare of a hotel employee putting down the roller blind because I asked them to go one step beyond their assigned responsibilities.

No, not even a baby step, or dropping down on my hands and knees in a wailing cry out to the great god of management for help.

Despite all the glitter, posh posing and air of sophistication of hotels, in many cases service ethics remain in the dark ages. An arcane witch's brew of standard operating procedures, voluminous job descriptions and a multitude of employee titles have sucked out the ability of these glam squads to think for themselves.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: hotel management is not rocket science.

Perhaps what's needed is the hero-type-mentality of Die Hard's Bruce Willis who makes it up as he goes along.

It wasn't always like that. Hospitality can be traced back to the birth of Jesus; sure it was just a barn, but the welcome mat was out. Even late check-ins like those three wise guys could be looked after.

Country inns and boarding houses in the old days were run by proprietors who made up the

beds, served meals and took care of all those little requests from strangers looking for a home for the night.

We've got pub culture and roadside motels where multi-tasking wasn't an innovation, but a matter of survival for the business. And yes, at the end of the day, we have the beloved and maligned Basil from Fawlty Towers, who is constantly on the run from one mishap to another.

A few days ago while sitting in a café watching the service staff pick up garbage out of the garden and hoist up umbrellas, I silently mused how this would never happen in a hotel. Of course, anyone who has ever worked in one would know that departmental lines are drawn. Gardeners, grounds keepers and of course the engineers for the complicated task of winding up the mechanical umbrella.

Of course it could be a luxury hotel where staff assimilate to Noah's Ark syndrome and multiply into sets of helpers, all under the watchful eye of supervision. Throw in management on top and what took two hardworking staff in the outlet I was eating at, would most likely be compounded into a dozen.

Of course the uniforms would be nicer, name tags sparkling and tool case nicely presented, but at the end of the day, most hotel processes are more cumbersome than the bureaucracy of say the US government – well any government anywhere across the globe



**SEEING RED:** Employee laziness makes some people angry, very angry. Photo: Gwyneth Anne Bronwynne Jones

is more likely the case.

This chain-of-command mentality unfortunately does not end with hotels, but extends to other service establishments. One dining and drinking outlet I know provides t-shirts that essentially are a mark of the beast, indicating that these lower level employees may clear your tables, but cannot take orders or entertain any guest requests.

Let the circle remain unbroken. Know your position in life and don't step outside the lines continues to be the constant chant of labor inefficiency.

At the end of the day guests don't really care what title some-

one has, or what their job description is. They are parting with their money and expect some level of service or assistance from employees who work in said establishment.

For staff, it's nonsense to think that gardeners, maids and restaurant bus staff don't want to do more, learn more and grow in their jobs. Of course, there are exceptions, but an industry can't be measured or improved by a clerk-like mentality.

Asia is for the first time coming to grips with skyrocketing labor costs. It's no longer a matter of just throwing more

staff at the task or creating more red tape and substructures.

Hospitality is simple. I remember working in a hotel in the post war Vietnam, where the industry was just restarting after a prolonged hiatus. We'd sit down and explain to the new employees: you welcome guests like they are someone you take into your own home, caring for them, assisting and sending them on their way happy. It's as simple as that. And yes, that is your job.

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

## Real estate Gaga

IN THE age of Hollywood rehashed superhero sequels, I can't help but ponder the lack of a truly memorable face in today's current state of real property. Bright shiny technology has the omnipresent image of Brand Jobs.

But let's face it, if I have to sit through one more corporate PowerPoint presentation and see one of Steve's framed quotes, just take me out back and put two bullets in the back of my head like a Mexican drug cartel deal gone bad. That given, I have tasted the Kool-Aid and am writing this epic on a MacBook Air.

This bizarrely brings us back to real estate. Where are the real characters and captains of enterprise? Rockefeller and his ilk have seemingly gone out of fashion. Donald "having a bad hair day" Trump, meanwhile, is entrenched in a gritty battle over a golf course in Scotland. I saw Braveheart, and I'm not sure about Don's chances with that unruly lot. Yes, the age of high profile property developers

with a public image the size of Marina Bay Sands seems to be out of pace with modern trends.

Sure we all secretly admire the Goldman Sachs guys, but it's a subject only discussed behind closed doors.

In effect, the global financial crisis has pushed capitalism into a dirty little closet space, where you put your old running shoes. We've become wimps, with egos that assimilate wet towels or leaves blowing in the wind. Over the last three or four years, real estate has skyrocketed all over Asia. A rising middle class means that not only can everyone afford to fly, but they now have a condo when they arrive. What we really need is a Lady Gaga of real estate. Now there's a girl who has it going on. Forget Jobs and those innocuous black t-shirts, the G brand bucks the trend in her fashion frills and funky face paints. She's no stranger to putting together a management team, tagging a brat pack full of under achievers called "the little monsters" into a formidable wild bunch. A string of big promotions



**A Lady Gaga style costume.**  
Photo: Kathrin-Thuy OTTO

– she has become a one-woman-brand that stretches well beyond her mind wrenching tunes to encompass every aspect of media and on-line social networking power to create a billion dollar business. Steve Jobs' brand was his vision, Gaga's is herself. Perhaps what real estate needs is a visionary that can fill the space in between. There's a vacancy on the top floor. Any takers?

– **Bill Barnett**

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# Phuket's hotels to break records

A recent report by property analysts Jones Lang LaSalle predicts a record amount of investment for Phuket's hotels this coming year.

JONES Lang LaSalle Hotels is predicting that Phuket will be one of Asia Pacific's hotel investment hot spots in 2012, following record sales in the first half of this year. Investment in the hotel property sector in Phuket is expected to exceed 10 billion baht (US\$315million) for the full year for the first time ever in 2012.

Mike Batchelor, Managing Director of Investment Sales at Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels said: "Phuket has seen record investment in the first half of 2012 and the market looks on track to enter a renewed period of growth as savvy international investors strategically secure landmark properties in Asia's premier resort destination."

Since the start of the year, Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels has advised on and managed the sale of three prominent properties in Phuket this year, including the acquisition of the 368 room Mövenpick Resort and Spa by



Mike Batchelor, Managing Director of Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels

Malaysian-based TA Global in April; the 260 room Evason Phuket and Bon Island at Rawai by Singaporean-based Lum Chang in May; and 254 room Laguna Beach Resort by Hawaiian-based Outrigger Hotels and Resorts announced on July 24.

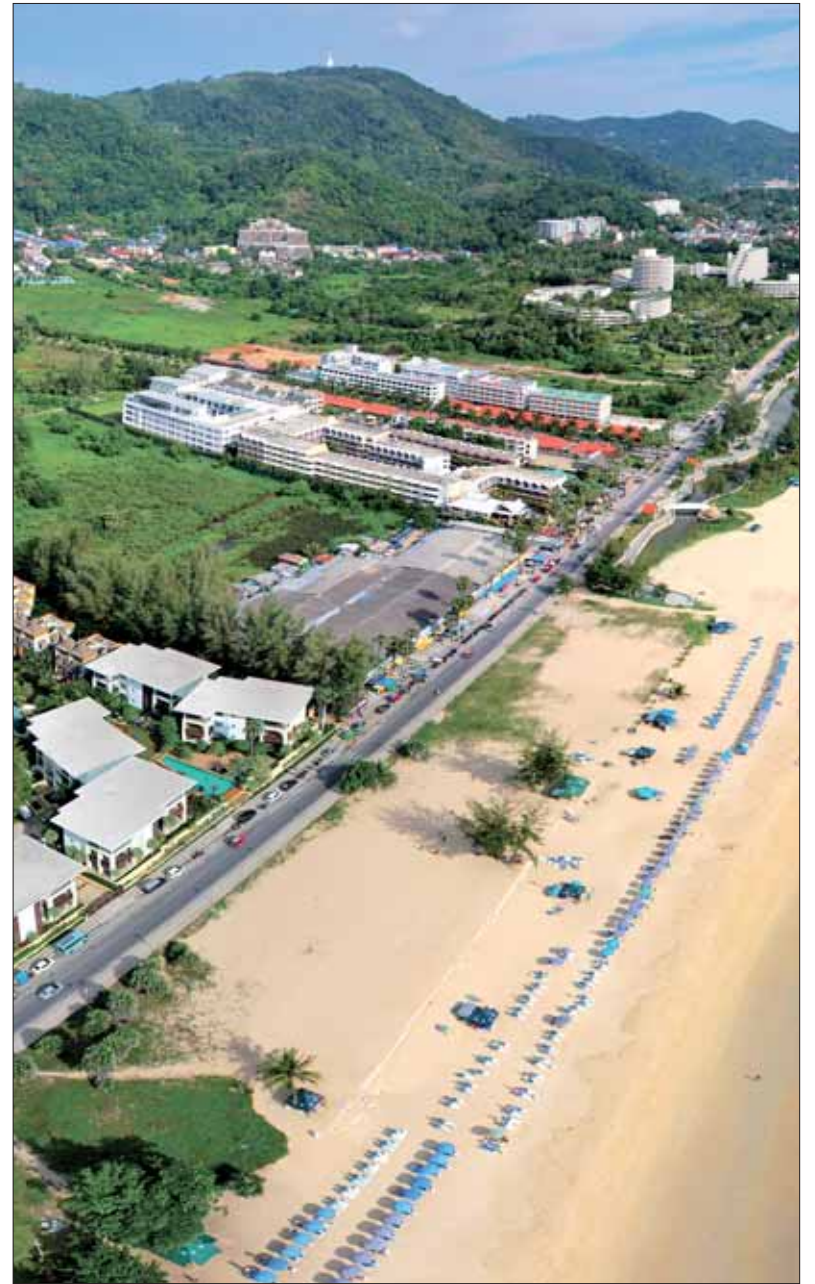
"With international passenger volumes surging 30 per cent in

2011, the island's international appeal remains strong. In fact, international visitors to Phuket exceeded domestic arrivals for the first time. This growth has been fuelled by excellent air links and the expansion of low cost carriers across the region," Batchelor added.

Other factors driving growth to the region include a US\$180m planned airport upgrade slated to commence later this year, which will double the existing capacity to 12.5m passengers per annum. In addition, political stability in Thailand since the 2011 elections has seen international confidence return to the region as evidenced in the spate of recent sales.

Further activity is expected in the second half of 2012 with Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels launching a five star asset on Phuket's west coast this week, which is scheduled to open ahead of the peak season this year.

— The Nation



MALAYSIAN: Mövenpick Resort and Spa was acquired by TA Global.

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## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

SHUTTERED under cloud, and dank and damp from the drizzling rain for which English summers are notorious, London wears a bedraggled air.

But with the Olympics in town, the place is defiantly patriotic. And not just strutting its stuff with union flags everywhere, but also saying it with flowers. All the window boxes in my street are sporting red, white and blue blooms: red geraniums, roses and *salvias*, masses of cobalt blue *lobelia*, and a mix of

white daisies, geraniums and even white valerian.

Despite the inclement weather and their tissue-paper-thin petals, petunias are everywhere.

The most popular flower for hanging baskets, the local council has suspended petunias from the Victorian lampposts, and local residents have balconies ablaze with cultivars that vary from burgundy and deep violet to cream.

Some of them are striped red and white; perhaps the next new hybrid will sport all the national colors. That particular combination would create a patriotic flower for Thailand too, though the heat in Phuket is a bit overpowering for petunias.

Apparently, the latest culprit responsible for this semipermanent English greyness is a rogue jet-stream, a fast moving, high altitude band of air that has, because of the melting polar ice cap, decided to move south, to skirt southern Britain, and bottle up low pressure systems that inevitably produce soggy summers.

A few plants here in London are not bothered by the climate. I note that privet and *choisyia* hedges are thriving; behind these defenses, hydrangeas are sporting huge bosses of pinkish blooms. This is a cool temperature shrub, and although available in a few Phuket plant nurseries, it needs shade, acid

soil and plenty of nutrients. I know of only one gardener in Phuket who has conditions just right for his row of container-based hydrangeas.

In general, water-loving trees are having a fine time of it in the metropolis: alders and planes that line my street look lush and healthy, grass – where it has not been trampled underfoot – is lush and long, and weeping willows in the parks are drooping in grateful thanks.

But overall, neither this persistent British cloud cover nor the prolonged drought currently being experienced in the USA amounts to a healthy scenario.

Think photosynthesis for a moment. Without this key process, we would all be dead in a very short space of time. The source of most life on earth is a procedure whereby plants convert light energy captured from the sun into chemical energy, producing starch (carbohydrate/carbon), and releasing enriched oxygen as a waste product into the atmosphere.

Photosynthesis both aids carbon fixation and, in the case of plants, is crucial to their well-being. Indeed, in most cases, their ability to photosynthesize depends on the frequency and intensity of light sources available to them. For us, it means cleaner air, since green leaves absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, reduce greenhouse gases, and thus help delay the inevitable impact of global warming.

But here's the catch. You can have too much of a good thing. A surfeit of waterlogged or arid conditions means that trees and shrubs become stressed. Thus, in periods of drought, even the har-



**PETUNIA POWER:** A petunia in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo: Muhmad Farooque  
**Top of Page: Hydrangeas.** Photos: Takayuki Suzuki, Yoko Nekonomania, Jan Smith, titanium22

diest plants close their *stomata* (leaf pores), and release less life enhancing oxygen. More crucially, and this is currently happening in North America's worst drought for 25 years, key food crops such as corn and soy beans fail to produce yields at all.

On the other hand, excessive rainfall can lead to a buildup of sap pressure in plant cells, a condition that inhibits normal growth. The result – root-rot, leggy seedlings or swollen fruit. The lesson? In the world of plants, whether it's in the US or the UK – or even Phuket – you can easily have too much of a good thing.



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## Tip of the week

### Plant more trees

STRATEGICALLY placed next to house walls and windows, trees can reduce overheating, limit noise levels from traffic, curb soil erosion and provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, which in turn feed on destructive and disease-spreading insects.

Attractive landscaping with established, well-placed trees will increase the sales appeal and monetary value of a home.

If you need shade, choose an evergreen tree with a wide canopy. If you want to block views into your home or garden choose relatively tall, dense trees. For a specimen tree



**Weeping Willow.** Photo: Kim Haddon  
intended to serve as a visual focal point – say in the middle of a lawn – look for an ornamental variety (bauhinia, plumeria, lagerstroemia, cassia) with striking foliage or blossoms. Do not choose a tree with dense foliage if you want grass to grow directly underneath.



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25	26	27	28	29	30	1

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For more details of all events, see page 15- every issue of your weekly Phuket Gazette!



# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Sale

### HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER



2 bedrooms, living room, salon, kitchen, garden. Land: 210sqm (11m by 20m). Corner of 2 streets. 2,500-litre water tank, pump and lava filter. Aircon, telephone, Internet, satellite TV with dish. Asking price: 3 million baht. Tel: 076-278121, 083-182 5037 (English), 089-970 8227 (Thai). Fax: 076-278121. Email: mellaerts9@hotmail.com

### COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR SALE



3-storey building, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, granite floor, marble wall, 54sqm, close to main road, 200m to the Heroins Monument. Price: 9 million baht. Contact Sompis. Tel: 088-765 6756 (English), 082-418 3928 (Thai).

### VILLA FOR SALE, PHANG NGA

Khok Kloy area. House of 400+ sqm on 4 rai of land. Large 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Laundry, storeroom, garage. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 076-494166, 087-284 9679 (English & Thai). Email: g\_lovece@hotmail.com

### CHEAP DCONDO

8th floor, only 1.23 million baht, lowest price on market. Email: dcondosale@gmail.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE, KATHU



Near Kathu waterfall, 48sqm, 2-storey single house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 office room, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, garden, parking. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 085-861 4087, 084-443 5503. Email: nongchoorat@gmail.com

### RAWAI QUICK SALE



2-storey villa on 620sqm, quiet area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, office, carpark, nice garden, swimming pool, jacuzzi, partly furnished. Price from 12.5 million baht. Now at 9.9 million baht. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

### KAMALA 3-BED POOL VILLA

3bed, 3 bath villa with private pool and sea view. Quiet location on hill behind Phuket Fantasea. 7.5 million baht. Tel: +34-63-918 8773, +66-81-7005451 (English). Email: imconnac@aol.com For further details, please see our website at <http://villakamala.com>

### LAND FOR QUICK SALE

4 million baht, bypass road, 9m x 27m. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

### LAND INSIDE GOLF COUNTRY CLUB

Land for sale inside Phuket Golf Country Club, 336sq wah + membership. Good house, 100m from clubhouse. Price: 10 million baht. Contact Prasert. Tel: 081-676 6214.

### HOUSE IN GARDEN PLACE



Project at Thalung, opposite to Thalung school, 92sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 4 aircons, wardrobes, beds, kitchen. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 086-476 9612.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Kata Hill, 2-storey home. 240sqm house in a 1090sqm garden. Ocean view, only 2km to Kata Beach. Fully furnished, 4 sleeping rooms, 2 large living rooms, 2 American style kitchens, 4 baths. Garage, lumber room, spacious terrace, and all comforts such as cable TV, fast internet, Wifi, 4 aircon units. Built 1998. Chanote land title deed. Fenced in with concrete perimeter wall. Available immediately. Tel: 076-284159, 081-788 2424 (English & Thai). Email: taenkerdpan@yahoo.com

### MAI KHAO LAND

Chanote title, walled and ready to build. Close to beach. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 089-874 3004. Email: oggaphobia@yahoo.com

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

### 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.

### THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



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### LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

### D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.  
-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.

### KARON TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, ADSL, car parking. Price: 5.3 million baht. Tel: 089-594 0423.

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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Gene: 083-520 0020 (Eng)  
Nui: 080-467 7770 (Thai)  
[www.jindarin.com](http://www.jindarin.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).

### 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

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

### BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



Fully landscaped, 3 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards Pa Khlok. Land size is 53sq wah. 3 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9 designs@gmail.com

### 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

### NEW CONDO FOR SALE

At Patong Center, deluxe apartment: pool, gym, sauna. 42sqm. Price: 3.5 million baht, freehold. Tel: 083-596 0960. Email: nhøj 0512@hotmail.com

### 3-BED POOL VILLA

On secure estate between Kata & Kata Noi beaches. Very Private. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

### KATA APARTMENT

Building for sale with penthouse, pool, restaurant. 16.5 million baht. Tel: 081-949 0171. Email: kata\_residence@hotmail.com

### KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

### NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

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## Properties For Rent

### PRIVATE POOL VILLA FOR RENT, RAWAI



3 bedrooms, fully furnished, located in secure area. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchai but@gmail.com

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Price: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### LERSUANG HOUSE, SURIN BEACH

3 beds, 5 baths, pool, jacuzzi, sauna, fully furnished, land of 700sqm. Tel: 081-737 1678 (English & Thai). Email: supotpac@phuket.ksc.co.th

### SUPER POOL VILLA

Designed for comfort and security, has all. Laguna. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Bargain. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### CONDO KATHU

58sqm, fully furnished, aircon, TV, internet. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-891 3740.

### LOVELY APARTMENTS



Phuket Town and also available close to central, cable TV, internet, security, swimming pool, gym. 15,000 baht to 20,000 baht PCM. Can also supply motorcycle and truck. Tel: 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrisspalmer56@gmail.com

### PATONG 1+2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

WiFi, maid, pool, security, cable TV. Close to town. From 22,000 baht per month. Email: phvcondo@aol.com

### BRAND NEW STORE FOR RENT

25sqm at New Circle Market Chalong, key money, long term rent for 3 years: 150,000 baht. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-187 9627 (English & Thai). Email: Yoying73@yahoo.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.

### KATA BEACH APARTMENT

1 bedroom, wifi, kitchens, aircon, cable TV. Rent: 6,000 - 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana 2000@yahoo.com

### LONG-TERM RENT

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

### 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

### 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).

### 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

### PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated. Internet and washing machine. Available from Aug 12, 2012. Tel: (86) 138 1634 4147. Email: Patong TowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

### BEACHFRONT HOUSE



Long term rent, 200sq wah, 3 bedrooms with aircons, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, cable TV, 1 phone line, fully furnished, 10x4.75m pool, big garden, fence around, 2 minutes from Chalong circle. Tel: 081-747 1515. Email: gotgot10@hotmail.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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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).

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### 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.

### 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

### KATA BEACH CTR APTS, REST.

Rent apts, restaurant. Starting from 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-828 0972 (English). Email: kata\_residence@hotmail.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.

### HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### 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.

### 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 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

### 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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Tel: +66 (0) 2654 0300  
Email: andersl@pacific2000.com

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Kvik is part of the Swedish Ballingslöv Int. AB Group - one of the leading names in kitchens and bathrooms in Scandinavia. In 2010, Kvik Reached a turnover of € 97 million selling their kitchens, bathrooms and wardrobe through a franchising route to market. With over 125 stores across the world, Kvik sells modern products at surprisingly low prices and live by the motto of "Kvik...Smart in Danish"

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**The Racha** is Thailand's leading 5 Star beach resort located on the beautiful island of Koh Racha Yai, just 30 minutes by boat from Phuket.

We are growing and looking for the following talented individuals to join our dynamic team:

<p><b>Human Resources Manager</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor's Degree or higher in Human Resources Management or other related field</li> <li>• Previous experience in similar position in a 5 star hotel</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills</li> <li>• Good command of spoken and written English</li> <li>• Strong problem solving and decision making skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Purchasing Officer</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diploma or higher</li> <li>• Previous experience preferred</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accounting Manager</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor's degree or higher in Accountancy</li> <li>• Solid background in hotel accounting</li> <li>• Excellent computer skills and results-driven</li> <li>• Good attention to detail, strong leadership and highly organized</li> <li>• Good command of spoken and written English</li> </ul>	<p><b>Spa Receptionist</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female with pleasant personality</li> <li>• Diploma or higher with previous experience</li> <li>• Good command of spoken and written English</li> </ul>
<p><b>Human Resources Officer</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor's Degree, good computer skills</li> <li>• Good command of spoken and written English</li> <li>• Previous experience preferred</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sports and Beach Attendant</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male with previous experience</li> <li>• Able to communicate in English</li> <li>• Customer oriented</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guest Service Officer</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor's Degree, fresh graduates are welcome</li> <li>• Customer oriented, motivated</li> <li>• Good command of spoken and written English</li> </ul>	<p><b>General / Operation Technician</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male with previous experience</li> <li>• Committed to work</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Waiter &amp; Barman</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic knowledge in F&amp;B</li> <li>• Customer oriented with pleasant personality</li> <li>• Able to communicate in English</li> </ul>

If you have what it takes and wish to join a people-oriented company that prides itself in excellence and the belief that people are our most important assets, then please submit your resume and a recent photo to our Human Resources Department as follows:

**The Racha**  
Human Resource Manager  
Email: [hr@theracha.com](mailto:hr@theracha.com)  
[www.theracha.com](http://www.theracha.com)

42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (76) 355455  
Fax: +66 (76) 355637

**A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND ONE IN KARON AND HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:**

<p><b>FRONT OFFICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Guest Relation Manager 1 Position</li> <li>■ Guest Relation Officer 1 Position</li> <li>■ Duty Manager 1 Position</li> <li>■ Night Manager 1 Position</li> </ul> <p><b>ACCOUNTING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Purchasing Officer 1 Position</li> </ul> <p><b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assistant HR Manager 1 Position</li> </ul>	<p><b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ FB Manager 1 Position</li> <li>■ Restaurant Supervisor 1 Position</li> </ul> <p><b>HOUSEKEEPING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Assistant Housekeeper 1 Position</li> </ul>
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**Welfare:** salary, service charge, life insurance, staff apartment, transportation, uniform, meals, social security, birthday party, staff party, staff picnic etc.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to email: [hr@horizonbeach.com](mailto:hr@horizonbeach.com),  
Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

**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)

**LIVE-IN HOUSEMAID**  
Thai housemaid needed. Cherng Talay area, must live in. Tel: 085-790 2241.

# Phuket Gazette

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

**GRAPHIC ARTIST 1 POSITION**

- Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Photoshop required
- Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Good communication skills, team player
- Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email, fax or post to:

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240 Email: [anna@phuketgazette.net](mailto:anna@phuketgazette.net)

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## VACANT POSITIONS



### Zeavola 5 star Resort and Spa

A member of the SLH Hotels and Resort invites candidates to apply for the following positions:

- Human Resources Manager
- Financial Controller (Phuket Based)
- Activity Manager (Thai or Expat)

#### Profile:

- ▶ At least Vocational certificate or Bachelor degree
- ▶ At least 3-5 years experience in the field
- ▶ Strong result oriented, people management, and leadership skills
- ▶ Strong in English communication skills, and computer literate
- ▶ Strong in analytical, problem solving skills, and execution of work

#### Fringe Benefits:

- ▶ Good Salary + Sharing Service Charge
- ▶ Group Insurance, Social Security, Workmen Compensation
- ▶ Duty meals at staff canteen / Officer Check at hotel restaurant as per position category
- ▶ Private dress / Uniform Laundry
- ▶ Round trip from Phuket to the Krabi Resort via ferry
- ▶ Accommodation as per your position category at resort

An exciting career awaits creative professionals along with a competitive benefits package. Please send application together with a detailed resume, transcripts, current and expected salaries to:

#### Human Resources Department

Resort: 11 Moo 8 Laem Tong, Koh Phi Phi, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand  
Tel. 075-627000 ext. 1400 or 1401 Fax. 075-627025 E-mail: [hr@zeavola.com](mailto:hr@zeavola.com) & [pa@zeavola.com](mailto:pa@zeavola.com)

### NEW ESTATE OFFICE PHUKET

Require 2 persons: 1 experienced and 1 keen to learn. Tel: 081-958 3830.

### SWEDISH STAFF

Swedish speaking female 20-30 years old staff wanted. Tel: 089-874 8929. Please send your CV and photo to Email: [rainforestjob@gmail.com](mailto:rainforestjob@gmail.com)

### ACCOUNTANTS AND BOOKKEEPERS

Office located in Phuket requires the services of several experienced accountants/bookkeepers.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Cashflow
- Payroll & Superannuation
- Monthly IAS & Quarterly BAS
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Bank Reconciliation
- Monthly Reporting

The successful candidates will have:

- Tertiary qualification in accounting & finance preferred
- Strong background in a similar role with proven experience managing several accounts simultaneously.
- Advance working knowledge of Excel
- Intermediate to advance knowledge of MYOB preferred
- Excellent English, written & verbal, skills are essential
- High level attention to detail
- Ability to meet strict deadlines
- Strong work ethic
- Willingness to be part of a team environment

Remuneration will be based on experience and qualifications with salary ranging between 260 THB – 456 THB per annum. Only short listed applicants will be notified and must be available for a Skype interview on or around 31st July. Start date will be on Wednesday 15th August 2012. Please email CV and references to Email: [hr@nomadsdworld.com](mailto:hr@nomadsdworld.com)

### RUSSIAN RESTAURANT MANAGER

Looking for Russian speaking manager with good English knowledge and experienced in restaurant. Kathu waterfall wake park opened 12.00-5.00 pm. Tel: 082-415 4546.

### WEB DEVELOPER WANTED

Siam Real Estate require a web design and developer competent with PHP, MySQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, XML. Must be capable of quality work and be able to meet deadlines. Can be company or individual. Tel: 076-288 908. Apply to [jobs@siamrealestate.com](mailto:jobs@siamrealestate.com). For further details, Please see our website at [www.siamvillarentals.com](http://www.siamvillarentals.com)

### Career Opportunity



VS Asia Co., Ltd. over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

### Text & Layout Editor

#### Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Work with text-editing program
- Art or imagination in design
- Teamwork and cooperating with related departments

#### Qualifications:

- Male/female, Thai national only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh)
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

#### Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
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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)

## British International School, Phuket

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

### • Chef

#### Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in food related degree and/or culinary training and/or related experiences to ensure quality dishes are served
- Two or more years in food industry or business with management skills and food safety
- Modify and create new menus as needed, Thai food & European food
- English competency
- Computer literate
- Leadership in food related training
- Team player with service mind

### • IT Coordinator

#### Qualifications

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's Degree
- Computer skills including using Microsoft Word and Excel
- Ability to communicate in and write in English
- Good organization skills and the ability to multitask

#### Key Tasks

- Coordinate daily work schedules for technicians
- Coordinate IT related tasks with other departments
- Contact person for students, staff and parents on IT related issues, particularly computer maintenance
- Secretarial work for the IT department

### • Science Technician

#### Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Science
- A background in chemistry and experience in preparing solutions
- Fluent in English
- Be hardworking, willing, enthusiastic, flexible and motivated to develop own skills
- Experience working in a Science Technician role is desirable

### • Teacher's Assistant

#### Qualifications

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care / teaching preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Loves to take care of children

Benefits: group insurance, provident fund, meal etc.



**British International School, Phuket (BIS)**  
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573  
E-mail: [patcharakornt@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:patcharakornt@bisphuket.ac.th) or [sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th)

### PRIMARY TEACHER

International School in Chalong is looking for a native English speaking primary teacher to join our dynamic team. Tel: 082-323 1188. Please send your CV to Email: [phuketinternational@asia.com](mailto:phuketinternational@asia.com)

### SECRETARY WANTED

Basic accounting. Speak English. Tel: 089-652 5664.

### EXPERIENCED YACHT CAPTAINS

Applicants must hold valid license or permit. Duties include repositioning of corporate & private yachts within the SEA region. Attractive salary package for those with the necessary qualifications & experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please send your resume to [blackwall88@gmail.com](mailto:blackwall88@gmail.com) or contact Shaun for further information.

### ACCOUNTING (1)

Tax compliance, WHT, VAT, Financial statement, Rev.& Exp. (Excel), Update receivables, WHT (1,3,53), SSO, Payroll. Tel: 076-314345, 080-1472468 (English & Thai). Email: [manager@phuketadventureminigolf.com](mailto:manager@phuketadventureminigolf.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

#### MAINKITCHEN

- Steward Supervisor 1 Position

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## Articles For Sale

## SONY PS3

Used for only 2 months, 2 remote controls, English manual, 1 HD World Cup football & 1 HD action game; 12,000 baht or best offer. Call or email for appointment. Contact Eric or Fon. Tel: 076-219061, Fax: 076-214803. Email: jairak@phuket.ksc.co.th

## 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

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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

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## 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, 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

## BAR IN BANGLA, SOI GONZO

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## KARON GYM FOR SALE

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## PATONG BAR FOR SALE

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## KATA BEACH CTR APTS &amp; MGMT

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## 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: masamedia@hotmail.com

## 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

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## GUESTHOUSE, KARON

5 quality rooms with stylish cafe sports bar. Building refurbished, all new furnishings etc. Rent: 6 years contract, paid in full, very low rent rate. Must view! Tel: 081-891 9461 (Thai), 082-815 8458 (English).

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## HANA BEAUTY SALON FOR SALE

Address: 120/5 (34) Srisoonthorn road, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110. Close to Lady Pie shop, near gas station. Tel: 083-968 6714.

## BAR FOR SALE

At Patong, new Tiger pub. Price: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081 448 7631, 082-805 7931.

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## KATA RESTAURANT

For sale or lease. Tel: 081-949 0171. Email: kata\_residence@hotmail.com

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Blue Canyon individual lifetime membership. 900,000 baht, includes transfer. Tel: 086-029 0563. Email: stenm555@yahoo.com

## BLUE CANYON FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Full life time. 900,000 baht or best offer. Transfer fees included. Tel: 081-893 3462. Email: voute.a@gmail.com

## LAGUNA PHUKET

Laguna Phuket regular family membership, valid until 2026. Transfer fee to be paid by buyer. 400,000 baht. Tel: +61-4-278 7588 (English). Email: hkarbons@yahoo.com

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12 years. Price: 495,000 baht, includes transfer. Email: chanchira.panpaen@gmail.com

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550,000 baht, not including transfer fee. Tel: 081-270 2045. Email: nongnut100@hotmail.com

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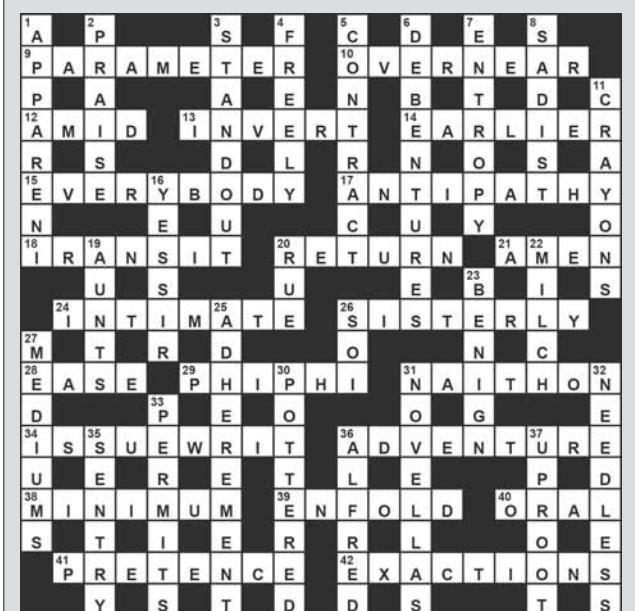
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### SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

### CrypticCrossword

### COFFEE break



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**Contact Tony Scragg** at 081-906 3250, or email [tony\\_scragg@hotmail.com](mailto:tony_scragg@hotmail.com)



**Notice from Thai Flying Club:** There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email [tom@thaiflyingclub](mailto:tom@thaiflyingclub), Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

*Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.*

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# Midseason report card



## Formula 1

By The Digby

THE season is half way through, everyone is taking the half-term holiday and it's time to look at where the teams and drivers are.

Red Bull gets a B. They have had many solid performances, but there are suspicions of cheating in tests in a car that is now off the pace. They have certainly pushed the regulations to the limit, and are in a constant firefight with the other teams.

At Hockenheim they used an engine mapping system that stayed within the letter of the FIA Regulations but broke its spirit. The law was changed, and Red Bull was slower at Hungaroring.

Now they have a button that can change the car's ride height. It is illegal to use such a button under *Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile* (FIA) regulations. Red Bull says it has never used the but-

ton, but the FIA has no way of knowing if this is true. But why install the button if you are never going to use it?

Vettel and Webber both get a B, reflecting the car more than the drivers. Webber is less exciting but Vettel seems so immature that he is sometimes an embarrassment. But Vettel is the only one that Red Bull desperately wants to win. There is a rumor that Daniel Ricciardo of Toro Rosso was prevented from taking his final run in Q1 at Hungaroring because he could have knocked Vettel out of Q2.

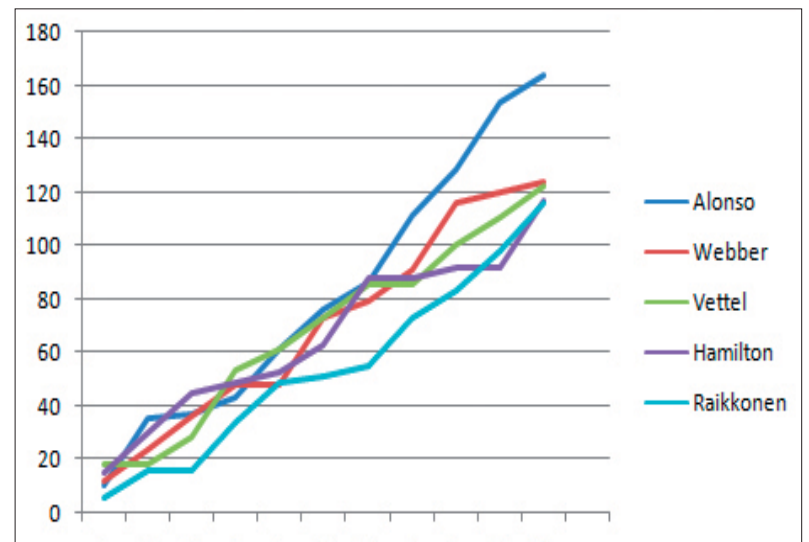
Team Ferrari gets a C+. It's an unexceptional car with unexceptional strategies. But Alonso with an A+ is the boy most likely to succeed. He makes a second rate Ferrari look first rate. Massa gets an F. It is a pity, but he has failed. There is surely no way he will stay on the team, and no other big team will want him, so I think it's rustication for Felipe. Why on earth would Ferrari want to keep him?

Heikki Kovalainen of Caterham is the man attracting a lot of attention, as is Perez.

McLaren gets a C+. The car started well, and there have been enough upgrades to make it competitive again. The pit crew has been dreadful but now looks much better. Lewis Hamilton scores a B+. Even with dreadful luck and inadequate technical support he still has the chance to come top of the class. But he has to take 5 points off Alonso each race. Jensen Button scores a D+ and is now out of contention for the championship.

Lotus gets a C+. It is now racing McLaren on equal terms. If it had not been impossible to overtake at the Hungaroring, they might have done even better there. Kimi Räikkönen gets a B+, and like Hamilton could yet end up top of the class if he can gain 5 points a race on Alonso. Grosjean gets a D+, not bad for a rookie, but he will not win the championship.

Mercedes scores only a D+ but Rosberg gets a C+ and



Graph showing number of races against points scored.

Schumacher gets an F+. It's starting to look like Schumie should hang up his gloves. Sauber scores a D, with Perez scoring the same, and Kobayashi scoring an F+.

Williams and Force India and their drivers all score an E. Everyone else gets an F.

Williams's Pastor Maldonado

is getting the reputation of being the naughty boy of the class, and is getting punished for it. He will need some nice non-aggressive races to get a decent reputation with the prefects again.

So Spa is going to be a great test, but more on that nearer the time. We are set for a great second half.

# Olympic round up and look ahead

MICHAEL Phelps became the greatest Olympian ever on Tuesday helping the United States 4x200 meter freestyle relay team claim gold. It was Phelps's 19<sup>th</sup> medal and his 15<sup>th</sup> gold. He has now eclipsed the career medal haul of Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina. Earlier the same day he drew level with Latynina claiming silver in the 200 meter butterfly.

Phelps has 15 golds – six more than anyone else – two silvers and two bronzes. Latynina won nine golds, five silvers and four bronzes from 1956-64. Phelps started collecting medals in Athens, six golds and two bronze, followed by eight gold medals in Beijing.

With three events left before he retires after the London Olympics, the chances of Phelps winning a few more medals to put in his cabinet are pretty high.

Tournament officials are looking into irregularities during the women's badminton doubles match between China's Xiaoli Wang and Yang Yu and South Korea's Kim Moon Soo and Kim Jiyhun. Both pairs had already qualified for the quarter finals and were trying to lose the game to ensure an

easier route in the knockout stages.

The Badminton World Federation is charging them with "not using one's best efforts to win a match". Fans watching the match booed the players and the match referee warned them numerous times about missing shots deliberately.

Pimsiri Sirikaew gave Thais hope when she lifted 236kg in the women's 58kg class of weightlifting to hand the country its first Olympic medal – silver. It is the 22nd medal won by Thais in all Olympics and her hard work will be rewarded with 10 million baht



EVERY CLOUD: Weightlifter Pimsiri Sirikaew

in cash from generous sponsors.

The mixed doubles badminton team of Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thongthongkham followed compatriots Bodin Issata and Manepong Jongjit into the quarter finals. Sudket and Saralee also reached the last eight at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

China's Ye Shiwen, who caused controversy after she smashed the world record winning gold in the 400-meter individual medley, won the 200-meter individual medley to claim her second gold medal. The 16-year-old passed a drug test after her 400-meter victory, but she is still dogged by snide remarks and vicious comments.

A US coach, John Leonard, publicly alleged the performance of the swimming prodigy was unbelievable and if she cheated she will be caught.

"If there is something unusual going on in terms of genetic manipulation or something else, I would suspect over eight years science will move fast enough to catch it," Leonard said. "I have every faith that eventually if there is something there to be caught it will be caught. Right now, all we can say is Olympic champion, world record holder,

and watch out for history."

The men's 100-meter sprint, the most prestigious Olympic event, starts on August 4. Current world and Olympic record holder Usain Bolt has confessed that he is only 95 per cent fit but he still hopes to retain his title. His main challenge is expected to come from fellow Jamaican Yohan Blake.

Other events to look out for during the next few days include:

Saturday: men's 100-meter first round, men's football quarterfinals, women's 50m freestyle final, women's triathlon final and women's doubles badminton bronze and gold medal matches.

Sunday: men's 100-meter semifinals and men's final, men's floor exercise final and men's doubles badminton bronze and gold medal matches.

Monday: men's rings final in gymnastics, cycling track men's sprint semifinals and women's football semifinals.

Tuesday: women's beach volleyball semi final, mens fly (52kg) quarterfinals in boxing, men's three meter spring board diving semifinal, mens football semifinal and women's semifinal of water polo.

## SPORTS briefs...

CRICKET: England's second test against South Africa started on Thursday at Headingley and finishes on Monday. England suffered a miserable first test at the Oval losing by an innings and 12 runs. The biggest change from the first game is the inclusion of James Taylor making his test debut, who replaces Ravi Bopara. If South Africa win the second test they will not only wrap up the series but replace England at the top of the world rankings. England's squad for second test remains the same apart from the inclusion of Taylor

FOOTBALL: Out of favor Roy Carroll could be off to West Ham after Liverpool accepted a 2 million pound fee for a season long loan with the option of a permanent transfer if West Ham stay up. Rio Ferdinand has been charged with improper conduct by the FA after he called Ashley Cole a "choc ice" on Twitter. Arsenal's Jack Wilshere, who missed all of last season, has been ruled out until October with a knee injury and Steven Piennar finally completed his move from Tottenham Hotspur to Everton for 4.5 million pounds.

RUGBY UNION: The draw for the European Challenge Cup was made earlier this week with London Welsh facing a baptism of fire with a home match against Stade Francais. Picks from the first round pool games include: Gloucester vs Mont-de-Marsan, London Irish traveling to Bordeaux, Wasps hosting Newport Gwent Dragons and Worcester traveling to Bizkaia Gernika of Spain. In other news, Toulon flanker Steffon Armitage is provisionally suspended after an abnormal doping test result.

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# Islanders unable to douse Fire Power

ONE goal was all that PTT Rayong FC needed to prevail over Phuket FC last Saturday night at Surakul Stadium in Phuket Town.

It was the second time the two sides met this season; exactly two weeks earlier Phuket endured a 6-0 thrashing at Rayong; that result was the last straw for former coach Milos Jovic of Serbia, who resigned after the match.

Freshly reinforced with a new coach, new players and home field advantage, the Islanders came into the rematch more confident and better prepared; five of their seven recent new signings were in the starting 11. These included defenders Wanmai Setthanan and Nonthaphon Jiensathawong, midfielders Roland Vargas and Yutthana Jongnok as well as Thai keeper Kampol Pathomattakul, making his debut with Phuket and giving star Brazilian keeper Alonso Goleiro a break.

Phuket's other starters included team captain Watcharpong Jun-ngam, Thawin Butsombat, Marcio Santos, Nenebi Sylvestre, Watcharakorn Klaithin and Kitithat Krathong.

As expected, PTT started with sustained attacking football, but there was a noticeable difference on the Phuket side compared to the first meeting; the defense marked attackers and closed spaces more efficiently. Indeed, the Islanders' midfield game appeared to have improved dramatically.

However, the PTT "Fire Power" were clearly the stronger team, with Slovenian midfielder Jozef Tirer and Cameroonian defender Ebako Merlin providing little opportunity for the home side to gain any advantage, commanding possession and marking their opposition closely.

The evening's only goal came from Rayong's leading scorer, Naret Kabkriekaw, who in the final minute of the first half drove in his ninth of the season.

The play was set up from a piercing drive by speedy Ivorian Amadou Ouattara, who

## Football Thai Yamaha One

stretched Phuket's final defenses thin by diverting his drive and sending the ball to Decha Sangdi, unmarked on the deep left wing.

Decha's subsequent switch cross hit its mark near the far post, where Naret was perfectly positioned to send the shot home and silence most of the crowd of 2,200, apart from a small but highly-vocal group of PTT Rayong supporters.

The second half saw some strategic changes for Phuket. Kampol, who suffered a minor injury during play, was replaced by reserve keeper Pirachat Yimthong.

Meanwhile, Santos and Klaithin were replaced by Ivorian Ibrahim Kanoute and Korean Seongwon Byeon as Phuket diligently tried to score an equalizer. But even through five minutes of injury time, PTT's defenses remained impenetrable.

The result sees Rayong move up into 4<sup>th</sup> place, while Phuket fell into 15<sup>th</sup> place – right back into the dreaded five-team relegation zone.

Phuket's next match will be an away fixture on Sunday against 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Krabi FC, who beat Phuket 1-0 at Surakul Stadium on July 7. Kickoff for the match at Krabi Central Stadium will be at 6pm.

– Steven W. Layne

### Week 19 Results

Phuket 0 - 1 PTT Rayong  
Bangkok FC 0 - 2 Royal Navy  
Chanthaburi 1 - 3 Krabi FC  
Ratchaburi Mitrphol 3 - 0 Songkhla  
Airforce Utd 4 - 1 JW Rangsit  
Phatthalung 1 - 1 Rajpracha  
Gulf Saraburi 1 - 0 Korat  
Bangkok Utd 0 - 0 Sriracha Suzuki  
Suphanburi FC 2 - 1 Khon Kaen FC



**SUPER SAVE:** Keeper, Kampol Pathomattakul dives to deflect a shot. Photos: Mum Voice PTT Rayong



**SPEED KILLS:** Ivorian Amadou Ouattara (in red) proved a nuisance to Phuket's defenses.



## KRABI FC VS PHUKET FC



Sunday August 5, 18:00 @ Krabi Stadium

# Second Phuket Health Marathon a smooth run

KENYAN runner Sammy Ridrond won the open division of The Phuket Health International Marathon in a time of just over 2 hours 35 minutes this morning.

The 42-kilometer event, which got underway at 4am at the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization offices, finished at Phuket Provincial Hall in Phuket Town.

Two other events, a 13km mini-marathon and a 4.5km fun run, started at Provincial Hall and finished in the same location.

The runner-up in the open 42-kilometer event was Suwat Paiboon, a sergeant in the Royal Thai Army Fourth Area.

Suwat was the top finisher in the Thai mens' category, followed by Mr Udom Thongsamoon of Gym Running Club and Thanachot Suvarnarat of Thepa Songkhla Club.

As for the top three finishers in the Womens' category were Siraphat Butchin of the Bang Wad

Dam club, followed by Prakaiwan Theptat of the Mueang Phuket Police and Supharn Dok-khem of Mueang Thai Rachada group.

Another top finisher was John Propsam, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the international category, behind Sammy and Suwat.

Other notable finishers were Nareeya Phonprasop, who crossed the finish line in just over five hours 15 minutes to win the women's 50+ category, and fifth overall among the women in the 42km race.

One of the most colorful contestants was 55-year-old Surachat Pakdeepheth of Khon Kaen,



**WINNER:** Sammy Ridrond nears the finish line.

who had a multi-colored mohawk and carried Thai and Royal flags over the entire distance, which he covered in under six hours.

Nattakorn Yamburung, an



**Sucrachat Pakdeepheth** was a spectacle at this year's marathon.

officer at the Public Public Health Office, said some 1,200 runners took part in the three events, with running enthusiasts coming in from all over Thailand to take part.

This is in stark contrast to some official and unofficial predictions that over 5,000 runners would take part.

– Stephen Michael Fein





BACK FOOT: The second match of the Outrigger T20 league between Patong and ICC at ACG on July 29.

## Second week of T20

THE second week of the Outrigger T20 League saw Patong take on ICC at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) last Sunday.

ICC won the toss and decided to send Patong into bat in a move that seemed to be working early on, as ICC dismissed opener Richard Folds for zero. Richard Desmond (27) and Rishi Sadarangani (30) took control of the game after a nervy start, with Sadarangani hitting the ball out the ground and into a nearby rubber plantation for six.

Sadarangani's brothers Manesh (13) and Kishor (14) had a respectable day. Towards the end of the innings Anil Rawat chalked up (23) runs. The ICC didn't do themselves any favors conceding 37 wides to help Patong finish on 160-9 after 20 overs.

Pick of the bowlers were Anand Chand (2 for 15) and Kumar (3 for 9), who came on in the final over and bagged a treble.

ICC knew they had it all to do but they didn't get off to a great start, suffering an early set back when Darshan Vaigankar was clean bowled in the second over. Patong nabbed another scalp the very next over with Seemant Raju knocking over the stumps of Naeem Ul Haq.

Imtiyaz Mushtaq (17) and Virender Kumar (23) put on a 40 run partnership but this ended with the first of Richard Desmond's catches in what would be a fielding masterclass after Kumar skied a high ball out to mid-wicket.

ICC captain, Anand Chand scored the most runs, (35). How-

ever, he did not receive any support from his fellow team-mates with no other batsmen reaching double figures. The ICC's innings finally came to an end with the score on 101 in the 16 over, with Richard Desmond diving full-stretch at mid-wicket.

Pick of the bowlers for Patong were Anil Rawat (2 for 14), Manesh Sadarangani (2 for 6) and Kishor Jhagta (1 for 12).

Next weekend at the ACG on Sunday, August 5 at 9am, sees current T20 champions, Laguna, take on the Village who will be looking to avenge their defeat in the Island Furniture League final and get amongst the points.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Thai Open

PROM Meesawat believes this year could be the year he steps out of the shadow of his father and claims his own Thailand Open victory. Prom's father, Suthep, was the first Thai winner of the Thailand Open back in 1991 and today father and son share a friendly rivalry.

"His victory makes the tournament extra special for me. I want to play the tournament every year. It means a lot to all Thai players as only two Thais have won their national Open (my dad and Boonchu Ruangkit). It would mean so much to me to win the same title as my dad," he said adding: "We still talk about his win. I was back home a few weeks ago and my dad said he wanted to play in this year's tournament. Then he added with a laugh that it was okay 'as I don't want to win it again'."

An elite field, including defending champion Andre Stolz of Australia and strong contingents from the Japan and European Tours, will contest the Thailand Open at Suwan Golf & Country Club from August 9-12.

Big things were expected of Prom, who the Thai media affec-



BIG DOLPHIN: Prom Meesawat in action at an earlier tournament.

tionately refer to as the 'Big Dolphin', after he achieved his breakthrough win at the SK Telecom Open in 2006, but a slump in form and a rash of niggling injuries curtailed his progress.

He ended a lengthy period without a win with victory at last year's Singha Pattaya Open and retained the ASEAN PGA Tour title this year.

Other golfers expected at the event include: Thaworn Wiratchant, Kiradech Aphibarnrat along with Ireland's Paul McGinley and Englishmen David Howell (joint fourth in the French Open recently), David Horsey and Richard Finch, who are all multiple winners on the European Tour.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Power Plate premiers at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

HAVE you ever wondered if fitness experts could take the most dreaded exercises of team sports and make them more grueling? Yes, they can. It's called the Power Plate and it has arrived at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club.

When I played American football, and again during Muay Thai, we did exercises such as wall sits (sounds like what it is), squats and the infamous "burpee" – a combi-

nation squat, jump and push up.

Well, imagine these exercises on a vibrating plate that automatically contracts your muscles. This isn't to scare you, it was a heck of a workout. One which, if stuck to, could yield significant results at an accelerated pace.

"Originally it was a rehab tool for hospitals and they found that it helped people move, gain balance and stability. Thereafter it

became a performance tool for athletic teams such as Manchester United, American football teams, baseball teams – they used it for warm ups," says Thanyapura trainer George Grecia, who runs the class.

It's all booked up at the moment but Thanyapura holds regular studio classes using the power plate and will begin a new course soon. Powerplate

is a 500,000 baht machine and the only one certified for medical use as well.

"What we've created here basically is a studio feel. We like to keep it a small group class so it's still personable. You can have three or four people come here and we can still give personal attention to everyone because it's not a very big class. At the same time you're in a group setting which makes it

more fun, more motivating and you can come here to work out with your friends," finished Grecia.

The Power Plate gives you what traditional weightlifting cannot, because ordinary weightlifting can't achieve this many muscle contractions per second.

For more information or to register visit W: [thanyapura.com/tslc/sports](http://thanyapura.com/tslc/sports)

— *Phuket Gazette*



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# Putting Phuket on the map



HOPE: Maneepong and Bodin win their third straight match. Photo: SiamSports

By Andrew Scott

PHUKET athlete, Maneepong Jongjit and his badminton partner, Bodin Issara have taken the Olympic badminton world by storm, topping their group with three wins out of three. The duo are through to the quarter finals of the men's doubles after beating the world number 4 pairing from South Korea. The pair also had victories over the world number 6 pairing from Indonesia and the Polish pair, who were forced to retire in the third game of their match. Cwalina twisted his right ankle chasing a drop shot from Maneepong.

The Vice President of the Phuket Badminton Club, Punya Kanchanamethakul gave the *Phuket Gazette* a little insight into Maneepong Jongjit and how he started out.

Maneepong, 21, like a lot of talented sports stars, began playing badminton from a young age. His mother, Pranee Jongjit, worked next to a badminton club in Phuket and Maneepong started playing badminton as something to do while his mother worked.

His natural ability was soon spotted by the ex-President of the Phuket Badminton Club, who subsequently found him a trainer.

The 17-year-old was spotted by

the Siam Cement Group (SCG) Badminton Academy, who asked the Phuket Badminton Club to support him and help nurture his talent.

SCG launched their badminton academy in 2008 with the aim to develop Thai badminton players' skills and capability under the international standard. Athletes are trained intensively in specific skills and taught detailed knowledge of sports science in the hope that they will achieve excellence in badminton. SCG spends about 30 million baht each year on the program.

Maneepong moved out of the small house he shared with his mom close to Saphan Hin and now lives in Bangkok. SCG has taken on the role of supporting his badminton training, finding him accommodation and assisting with his studies.

He is currently at Rattana Bundit University and he spent the year before the Olympics training at the Thailand Badminton Club in Lumpini.

Throughout his short career he has competed abroad in various tournaments and won competitions at national and international levels.

In 2009, Maneepong and his partner Rodjana Chuthabunditkul won the first ever Thai mixed double's gold medal at the BWF World Junior Championships in Kedah, Malaysia.

In other Olympic news,

ex-Phuket teacher Sophie Cox's Olympic dream came to an abrupt end over the weekend as she was eliminated in the first round of the 52kg by eventual gold medal winner Ae An Kum of North Korea.

Sophie quit Judo in 2004 and moved to Phuket in 2005 to work as a teacher. She worked at a number of schools including the British International School and Phuket International Academy, but the longing to compete at the highest level in a sport she truly loves never went away.

In 2010 she left Phuket and headed back to England hoping to get the chance to train and make the British Judo team. After two years of hard work she was selected to represent her country at the London Olympics and the chance to achieve gold – until a yuko score with just under two minutes remaining – ended the dream.

At the time of going to press Maneepong and Bodin were playing their quarter final match against world number 8 pairing Koo Kien Keat and Tan Boon Heong from Malaysia. If they progressed from that match their semi final and final matches are on Saturday.

To find out how the duo fared check [W:PhuketGazette.net](http://W:PhuketGazette.net)

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